

NEXT RIDES:

September 12:
Strawberry (p. 6)

September 18-19
State BCHU Meeting and ride Kamas

September 26-27:
Hemagog Trail Project (& Pack-in)



NEXT MEETING:

September 10
Monthly meeting, 7 pm, NEW LOCATION! Cottonwood retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road [4752 South]

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Mountain Ridge

Back Country Horsemen of Utah

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

We had a rather small group at our last meeting where we voted on moving our monthly meeting from the Race track office at the Equestrian Center to the Cottonwood retirement Center located at 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road [4752 South]. We will be meeting at our usual time of 7:00 pm and on our normal day, the second Thursday of September the 10th.

Just come in the main entrance and the meeting room which they have reserved for us is immediately across from the front desk. This should be a very nice place to hold our meetings.

We are looking for dedicated people who will be willing to fill some of the positions in the club for the coming year, we a number of people who have served in their positions for quite awhile and are hoping to do other kinds of service in the coming year. THIS IS A SERVICE ORGANIZATION and we all have ways that we can contribute. During the coming months be thinking of favorite rides that you have been on over the past year and would like to guide a

group of friends on. We will be looking for some new and different rides for the coming year and want to spread the trail boss job around. Steve and Keith have done a terrific job of taking charge on each ride and I would like to see them get a chance to just come and enjoy the rides without the responsibility.



Back a few weeks ago the four wheel organizations along with a couple of other groups held a demonstration at the Capitol building to protest the closing of trails around the state with no notice or reasons given. These groups rode their four wheelers up to the Capitol and made their voice heard. If you hear of any rallies or gatherings where we express or voice I would like to know about them so we could determine if we

should get involved and maybe even ride our horses up State Street to let people know that we are passionate about making sure our backcountry stays open. Let's be active members of Back Country Horsemen and publish to others the by-laws that we accepted when we joined this club.

May you trails be clear and your vistas captivating. Ray

BENCH CREEK PACK TRIP



Keith Christensen, Stephanie Yeager, Steve Johnson.

Below: Cindy Furse & Stephanie Yeager

We had quite a pack trip at Bench Creek. Four people came despite threatening weather. Steve and Keith packed with pack animals, and Cindy and Stephanie packed in

with single horses. The weather ended up being great, and we only got the tiniest of sprinkles. It was cool and pleasant.

The trail up Bench Creek was

badly covered in deadfall, and we were not able to make it to the camping spot we normally stay in. But the alternative spot was excellent, particularly for the view of the elk in the meadow.

We had a couple of incidents, which you have probably heard about via email. While navigating some tough deadfall, Keith's horse got the rope under his tail the first day, panicked, and dumped him. The second day it jumped a deadfall log, and took off down hill (probably goosed by Keith's spurs when he lost balance over the jump). Keith held on the required 8 seconds, before hitting the ground. He was knocked out and we later found out he broke 9 ribs. OUCH. He rode back to camp, stayed the night, and rode out the next day. Helen and Dottie had come up to bring watermelon and cookies to the trailhead, and Helen helped drive the rig home.

Helen tells us that Keith is healing and doing better, for which we are all truly grateful. We hope he will be able to join us on the trail again soon.



Would you like to try packing, but don't know where to start? Want to enjoy a night under the stars with your trusty horse nearby? Cindy and Stephanie have volunteered to help anyone else who has only one horse and wants to get set up to pack. If there is enough interest, we will do a little pack clinic demo at an upcoming ride.

Contact Cindy Furse cfurse@ece.utah.edu (801) 581-9225

More photos on the snapfish site, email cfurse@ece.utah.edu for an invite

GOOD OL' PACK STUFF

Here are a few of the tips and tricks from the Bench Creek Pack Trip. Keith and Steve packed in with two horses each. The trick here is to be sure you train your riding horse to lift his tail if the lead rope gets under it.

Cindy and Stephanie packed with one horse each. They have updated the information on One Horse Packing on the BCHU website (bchu.com, see [education section](#)) to include tricks on how to do this with a Western Saddle, and how to use front packs to help distribute the load with an English Saddle (See Cindy's picture on previous page).



Don't forget to use a swivel on either your lead rope or the high line (a must). These are from True Value hardware.



This little 'Fold-a-Stove' was an experiment, and Cindy ended up really liking it. You fuel it with a single pellet in the middle. It is tiny, folds up compact with the pellets inside, and only cost \$5.99 at Army/Navy Store. It took one pellet to fry potatoes and 2-3 to boil water.



compact, but e sure to bring an extra canister of MSR. Cindy's little folding stove was the low weight winner, and worked great (after she turned it RIGHT side up! The picture on the box was upside

Keith made shrimp stir fry one night (yes, the REAL stuff!) and steak the other with his white gas back packing stove. The COOLERS to support this food were the luxury made possible by the extra pack horse. Stephanie's propane stove worked great but was a little big for one horse packing. Steve used a little MSR stove. It was nice and com-

Stephanie took a variety of canned foods. Cindy took baked potatoes to fry up. Steve ate 'add water and stir' back packing food, and had the least number of dishes to wash. We were all impressed by the beef stroganoff and boil-in-a-bag tasty desserts. It was cold enough to enjoy a



warm hat in the morning, but really Steve didn't need his toasty warm face mask and silk gloves (a very warm way to rob a train). Stephanie enjoys Steve's buckets as a pack stool. They doubled as panier packers and tripled as bear buckets (roping food up in the tree).

EQUESTRIAN / PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK TO DIMPLE DELL

We finally got our much needed and anticipated Equestrian crossing at approximately 1500 East and 10600 South for all those riding from the south to Dimple Dell Regional Park. Access from here puts us on the trail that the Mountain Ridge BCH and neighboring communities built a couple of years ago. It is called a High Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK). There are 2 red indicators above a centered yellow indicator. The signal remains dark until it is activated by an equestrian. This can be done easily from horseback either by reaching down to touch the sensor or gently tapping it with your foot. The sensor had to be at 42" from the ground to be ADA compliant. Wait for the "Walk" indicator and proceed with caution. Look both ways before entering the road to make sure the cars are stopping. The Sandy City Traffic Engineer, Ryan Kump would like all equestrians to dismount before crossing because he feels it is safer. You know your horse, do what is safe. You do have a choice. Once the "Walk" indicator comes on, you have approximately 15 seconds to cross and a timer shows you the countdown.

Those of you who have been involved in getting this to happen will recall that it has not been an easy road. Sandy City has had half the money budgeted for about 15 years. The other half was supposed to come from the developers in Phase 1 of the area that is now called The Villages at Dimple Dell. This development has changed hands 5 times now and no money emerged for the crossing. Thanks to Sandy City mayor, Tom Dolan, and the city council members, the rest of the money was scraped together to get this in as promised. I heard that councilman Chris McCandles also played a big part in finding the extra money.

I am making a plea for MRBCH members to send an email to the Sandy City Council and cc a copy to Mayor Dolan, Scott Earl (Director of Parks and Recreation), and Ryan Kump (Traffic Engineer) thanking them for this much needed crossing. Even if you may never actually use this crosswalk, a short letter would be great to let them know how much that we, as equestrians appreciate this gesture. Maybe other cities will follow suit.

City_council@sandy.utah.gov
Mayor Dolan tdolan@sandy.utah.gov
[Scott Earl](mailto:Scott_Earl@sandy.utah.gov)
Searl@sandy.utah.gov

Ryan Kump
Rkump@sandy.utah.gov

Thank you, Diana van Uitert

OBSTACLE COURSE IN DIMPLE DELL PARK

The American Saddlebred Association of Utah will hold their annual competitive trail ride/obstacle course on Saturday October 3 in Dimple Dell Park, starting at the Wrangler Trailhead on 1300 East. If you have participated in the recent past you will be receiving, or have already, an entry form. If you need one and wish to avoid the post-entry fee of \$5 please contact Doris Richards at ohioaninutah@gmail.com or 801.694.4273.



We want to thank all the people of Back Country Horsemen, for the phone calls, cards, e-mails, visits and offers of help after Keith's horse back riding accident. We are especially grateful to Steve Johnson, Cindy Furse and Stephanie Yeager for their help getting Keith out of the back country with his pack and saddles. We really appreciate all the kindness shown to us.

Keith & Helen Christensen

WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR BOOTS!



Next month we will have an article on HORSE BOOTS. Many of our members are using the barefoot trim method, and boots on the rocky trails, so I thought it would be a good idea to collect everyone's boot knowledge. Please send me (1) What brand/type of boot you are using (2) Your comments on it (what you like, what you don't), and (3) if you have a picture of the boots on or off your horse, send that too.

I need them by: October 20, 2009

Thank you!
Cindy Furse
cfurse@ece.utah.edu

MOUNTAIN RIDGE BCH 2009

FULL MOON



View from the Hemangog Trail — Ride in Again Sept 26-27

Thursday, September 10: Monthly meeting, 7 pm, Cottonwood retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road [4752 South] **NEW LOCATION!**

Saturday, September 12: Monthly ride, Strawberry River Ride, North of Strawberry Reservoir, info Keith Christiansen 571-6129

Friday/Saturday September 18-19 State BCHU Meeting and ride Kamas UT . Info: Fred Leslie, fredleslie101@gmail.com, 553-1873; 484-3253; 450-2905

Saturday/Sunday, September 26-27: Service project, Hemangog Trail Work, Corner Canyon,

Please RSVP to Bob Baker, 801-572-3996/631-8058, bob-bucksnot@q.com

Meet at the Jacob's Ladder Trailhead, top of Corner Canyon Road. To get there, go to the Orson Smith Park (2000E and about 125000 S). Go up the dirt road to the south of the park about a mile.

Parking is limited, so please combine trailers where possible. (There is plenty of parking at the park.) Be ready to ride at 8am .

We will be clearing brush, moving sections of trail, and other basic trail maintenance. Bring pruners, trail saws, portable shovels, gloves, etc. Bring your lunch and plenty of people water. There is horse water along the trail.

The trail has fantastic panoramic vistas but is not for the faint of heart. It is a steady climb, with some technically challenging areas (narrow trails on steep side hills). OK for a trustworthy horse but not recommended for young, excitable, or inexperienced horses. Shoes needed.

Some of the riders may pack in to the Hemangog and stay there Saturday night. Bring your own food and self contained camping gear for that. Others likely to ride out when we are finished, so come one way or the other.

Thursday, October 8: Monthly



Sep. 4, 10:03 p.m. MDT -- Full Corn Moon. Sometimes also called the Fruit Moon; such monikers were used for a full moon that occurs during the first week of September, so as to keep the Harvest Moon from coming too early in the calendar.

meeting, 7 pm, Cottonwood retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road [4752 South]

Saturday, October 10: Monthly ride, Settlement Canyon, Tooele, info Bruce Kartchner

Saturday, November 7: Monthly ride, Look-out Pass, West Side of the Mountain, info Keith Christiansen 571-6129

Thursday, November 12: Monthly meeting, 7 pm, Cottonwood retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road [4752 South]

Thursday, December 10: Annual Christmas Party/Auction, Sheriff's posse building, South Jordan Equestrian Center. Info, Ray Smith, 969-0758

Sunday Rides: There will also be some ad hoc rides scheduled for Sundays. Watch for more information.

Camp Outs: A lot of times people camp informally the night before and/or after BCH rides. Contact the ride leader to see if they know of anyone doing this.

Want even more rides?

Remember, join one BCHU unit and you've joined them all. See bchu.com

NIGHT LATCH – GRAB AND HOLD!



A NightLatch is easier to grab and hold when the going gets rough or bucky. This braided leather one is available from http://www.horsethink.com/grab_strap_western.htm

A night latch is a safety strap attached to a saddle to help the rider hold on and stay on a contrary horse. This contraption was used as part of old-time traditional cowboy bronc gear and can still come in handy.

Here is one method used to rig a traditional night latch:

Use a four foot length of catch rope. Some type of rope is easier to hold than leather, which can be slippery (hence the braiding above).

1. Double the rope.
2. Run the looped end of the rope through the gullet of the saddle from the front.
3. Run both free ends through the loop. Leave enough room to slip your hand between the saddle and the rope.
4. Twist the ends around the loop and back through themselves,

as shown.

Contrary to what you might think, the free ends are **not** the handhold to grab in case of emergency. Your hand could slip off.



You are using the rope to form a loop to grab like a suitcase handle (or bareback rigging.) Maybe you are wondering why use a night latch, when the saddle horn is so handy. With a night latch, you can pull yourself down into the saddle, which gives you greater security than holding the horn. You can try an experiment, next time you are sitting in your saddle. First hold the horn, then grab the rope strap or front saddle strings and pull yourself down, imagining the feeling if your horse were acting up. You should feel more secure. But remember: the rope strap or saddle strings are too light to serve the real purpose.

From : http://www.cowboyshowcase.com/cowboy_night_latch.htm

(This site has lots of other very cool cowboy gear, photos, stories etc.)

Steve Johnson suggests using a piece of hose with the rope through it. It is handy to have the night latch 'stand up' a little away from the saddle so that it is easy to grab in an emergency.

September 10, 2009 Thursday 6:30 PM Internal Parasites and Fecal Testing

Animal Research and Teaching Center, Wellsville, Utah

This evening program will discuss internal parasites and best management practices. Participants can bring a manure sample from their horse to be evaluated during this event. Registration is limited. Contact Dr. Pat Evans for more information pat.evans@usu.edu

November 17, 2009 6:30 pm

Davis County, Utah

November 19, 2009 6:30 pm

Utah County, Lindon, Utah

Sept.26, 2009 Getting the Most from Your Horse Feeding Dollar

Farmington, Utah, Legacy Center

This day clinic covers a variety of topics related to equine nutrition including body condition scoring, dental care, hoof related nutritional problems, internal parasites and nutritional considerations for horses at all stages of life and work. Participants can just attend the day clinic or they are encouraged to bring in hay sample and feed tags which will be used to evaluate individual feeding programs. A later date includes 1/2 hour sessions with each person to discuss their feeding program.

October 24, 2009 First Aid For Your Horse, South Jordan, Utah State University

This day clinic gives participants a greater understanding of how to care for a sick or injured horse. Discussion of when to call the veterinarian and when owners can treat the injury. Topics include daily observation methods, vital sign evaluation, colic, wound care for different parts of the body, emergency situations and first aid kits. Hands-on includes wrapping of legs, knees, hocks, taking of vital signs, how to give an IM injection, and care of hooves on the trail.

Also on another note, our undergraduate equine emphasis is in great demand. We are very excited. In 2007 and 2008 the program attracted 30 students each year between fall and spring semesters. This fall there are already 31 equine students coming into the program. It is very exciting!!! Our equine classes have waiting lists this year but in the future will have restrictions on them so that they are restricted to equine students. This increased interest has caught us a bit off guard this year so some students will have to take some classes at another time but this will change as of next year. Also, we have a date set for the ground breaking for our new Equine Educational

Center of October 1. We do not have all of the money we need to build the entire facility but we will put up what we can. It is a start and we could not be happier about it for our program and our students.

Thank you for all of your support in our extension and undergraduate programs.

Patricia A. Evans, EdD
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Flyers and registration for these events: extension.usu.edu/equine/



Cindy's Note:
This First Aid Clinic was one of the BEST clinics I have ever attended. This is a not-to-miss sort of event for everyone who has horses, ESPECIALLY anyone who rides beyond cell phone service (ie. BCHU).

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Help needed! To Volunteer for this position, call Ray Smith.

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Past President:
Beverly Heffernan
572-3304
b.heffernan@att.net

Featured Websites in this Edition:

Back Country Horsemen www.bchu.com
National Extension Service eXtension.org (select Horses)
Bitless Bridle www.bitlessbridle.com
Bear Safety wildlife.utah.gov/bear/bear_safety.php

Mountain Ridge Photo Sharing Site: email cfurse@ece.utah.edu for an invitation.
GPS Sharing Site: http://www.ece.utah.edu/~cfurse/GPS_info/GPS.htm
USU Equine Extension extension.usu.edu/equine

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
BCHU.Com

**MOUNTAIN RIDGE
BACK COUNTRY
HORSEMEN**

**Mountain Ridge Back Country Horsemen
P.O. Box 81
Riverton, UT 84065**

Join M.R.B.C.H. and preserve our heritage!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

HomePhone _____ Work# _____

Cell # _____ e-mail _____

Liability Release: **MUST BE SIGNED**

Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident wherever horse/mule use is involved, which can cause injuries to horse/mules, riders, and spectators and also recognizing the fact that Back Country Horsemen of Utah, including units, officers, directors, or members cannot always know the condition of trails or the experience of riders or horses/mules taking part in trail rides or other BCHU functions, I do hereby release the above named from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children or horses/mules.

By signing this release, I/WE recognize the following Utah State Law, "UCA 78-27b- Limitations on liability for Equine and Livestock Activities." It shall be presumed that participants in equine or livestock activities are aware of and understand that there are inherent risks associated with these activities. "Inherent risk" with regard to equine or livestock activities means those dangers or conditions, which are an integral part of equine or livestock activities. The equine activity sponsor is not liable for those inherent risks. If you are unwilling to assume these risks for yourself or for those under your supervision, you should not participate in these activities.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ Signed _____ Date _____

Make check payable to Mt. Ridge BCH, individual \$30/year, family \$40/year. New _____ Renewal _____

GET MORE MILEAGE OUT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP ! Pass this on to a friend.

**MRBCH Editor
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