

NEXT MEETING:

April 12 at 7pm
Equine Preventative Care — Dr. Lyle Barbour DVM
[Cottonwood Retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road \[4752 South\]](#)

NEXT RIDE:

NEW April 28
Obstacle Course Ride (See p2)

NEXT SERVICE PROJECT:

NEW May 5 **Dimple Dell Service Project and Burger Burn** (See p2)

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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



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Horse Expo Booth! We appreciate your help and dedication!

Hello Everyone,

April? What comes to mind...April Fools and fooling around in the saddle? This spring however there is 'no fooling' around with our equine friend's health. Last year many Utah horse owners had cause for concern as the equine herpes virus-1 outbreak found its way into many Utah counties, surrounding states, and the cancellation of several horse events. This month let's start the riding season

off on the right foot by welcoming Lyle Barbour DVM of South Mountain Equine Services at our April 12th meeting. Dr. Barbour will speak about equine preventative health care, trailside emergencies, first aide, and barn injuries. Come prepared with your questions for Dr. Barbour and a very informative and interesting meeting. See you there!

—Paul Deputy

MOUNTAIN RIDGE BCHU 2012 SCHEDULE

*Obstacle Course 2011*

April 12 Monthly Meeting 7pm
Equine Preventative Care — Dr.
 Lyle Barbour DVM
[Cottonwood Retirement Center](#)
[1245 East Murray-Holladay Road](#)
[\[4752 South\]](#)

NEW **April 21 Obstacle Course Ride** (contact Ray Smith 801-969-0758) Pegasus Stable 291 Race Street, Grantsville, which is on the south side of Main Street just past Rey's Mexican restaurant. Obstacles will be open for play from 10-5. BBQ lunch 12-1. Contest for those interested starts about 130. Cost \$10 per single rider and \$20 for a family. This should be a really interesting course with lots of unusual and entertaining trail challenges. Come have a good time!

NEW (Posted for Doris Richards ohioaninutah@gmail.com (801) 694-4273) **April 28 ASHAU Spring Fun Day Horse Show:** \$7 per class. 9 am at South Hills Stables 14469 South 3200 West.

NEW **May 5 Dimple Dell Service Project and Burger Burn**

Many MRBCHU members and their horses enjoy year round riding in Salt Lake County's Dimple Dell Park. We have all noticed work that needs to be done to enhance the experience for all users. Sandy City and the county have identified some high priority volunteer projects for us to tackle. This is a really important project that is accessible to most of us. We will be replacing the fence around the wildlife pond with a sturdier rail fence, covering graffiti throughout much of the park, repairing the brick retaining wall at the amphitheatre, and completing several other trail improvement projects. **It is a great opportunity to make a visible equestrian presence in the Salt Lake Valley multi-use trails while enjoying one another's companionship.**

Meet at the Monument parking lot (approximately 2900 East on Dimple Dell Road, near the amphitheater) at **8:30 am Saturday, May 5.** Bring gloves and water; dress for the weather. We will work until noon, and then meet at the amphitheatre for our (in)famous Burger Burn.

theatre for our (in)famous Burger Burn.

If you want to, bring your horses to complete the day with a post-lunch ride! Early May is a great time to see wildlife and vegetation throughout the park and maybe even practice some water crossings.

We will need 20-30 people for a successful service project. Please email Doris Richards: ohioaninutah@gmail.com or call (801-694-4273) so that we can have a headcount for lunch.

Here is a chance to kick off the 2012 service and riding season doing what we do best close by in Dimple Dell: volunteering to make an impact on trails, eating **and** riding!

May 10 Monthly Meeting
May 12 Sheep Creek Ride (contact Steve Johnson)

May 19 Dimple Dell Project for Sandy Trails Day (contact Diana vanUitert)

June 14 Monthly Meeting
June 23 Bruce's Book Ride! North Willow (contact Bruce Kartchner)
June 29-July 1 Blackhawk (contact Cindy Furse)

July 12 Monthly Meeting
July 14 Woodland / Bench Creek Service Project (Larry Newton)
July 19-22 Island Park (contact Paul Kern) Please RSVP.

August 9 Monthly Meeting
August — date TBD: Uintas Pack Trip (ask Fred Leslie / Cindy Furse)
September 13 Monthly Meeting
September 21-23 Logan Canyon Rides (Old Ephraim, White Pine), (contact Bill McEwan)

October 11 Monthly Meeting
October 20 Cattle Drive Grantsville (contact Larry Newton)
October 26 Bison Roundup (contact Cindy Furse)

Nov. 3, Johnson's Pass (contact Keith Christensen)

November 8 Monthly Meeting
December 13 Christmas Party & Auction 6pm (contact Paul Kern)

RIDERS NEEDED FOR DAVIS COUNTY TRAILS

Dear Mountain Ridge Members:

In accordance with the directives from National , Mountain Ridge has been assigned to ride and investigate the numbered Forest Service trails that come under the purview of the Salt Lake Ranger District. This is a large area encompassing the trails in Davis County up to Ogden , south and east to Pleasant Grove and west to and including the Stansbury.

Mountain Ridge is in need of volunteer riders who are familiar with the trails in Davis County. These trails are on Forest Service land and are numbered. They are the following:

- 1605 Buckland Ridge**
- 1606 Tuttle Loop**
- 1608 Parrish Creek**
- 1609 Farmington Canyon**
- 1611 Gold Hill**
- 1612 Deep Creek**

1613 Baer Canyon

1614 Adams Canyon...3 branches, one very short

1621 Sunset

1628 Holbrook Canyon...2

branches, one very short

1629 North Holbrook Route...2 branches, one short

Please help by volunteering to ride these trails and report back on if indeed these trails are suitable for horses. This means the trails would be classified as a **3** — a horse and rider with a pack train could readily negotiate the trails including tight corners, etc.

It's a little early for most of these trails, but we would like to begin riding them in May. If you plan to ride these trails please let Paul Deputy, Fred Leslie, Perry White or Pat Wilson know . Tell s which trail you have/will ride, and

what condition these trails are currently in.

All this counts, both time and mileage, as nonprofit contributions on your BCHU volunteer hours and also (probably) your taxes.

Pat Wilson 801 278 6608
Paul Deputy 801 539 0210
Fred Leslie 801 533 1873

You can find maps to the Forest Service Trails (click on Salt Lake Ranger District) here:

www.fs.usda.gov/main/uwcnf/maps-pubs

Here is information from BCHA on Trail Classification.

www.backcountryhorse.com/Trail_Classification_Assistance_Program.html

TOOELE COUNTY WILD HORSE AND HERITAGE DAYS

Just got this note about Tooele County's Wild Horse and Heritage Days. Sounds like a lot of fun can be had by everyone, riders or not. I am giving you a heads up about this so you can mark the dates on your calendar. The Tooele County Wild Horse and Heritage Days event is planned for this June. The BLM Wild Horse Festival which used to be at the South Jordan complex will now be a part of this. They are planning a lot of neat stuff including a Baxter Black concert. Dates will be June 7, 8, and 9 at the Deseret Peak arena and complex. The Pony Express booth will be set up, and there will be a mochila exchange demonstrations at various times. Thursday, June 7, at 7:00 P.M., there will be a Pony Express Race. 4-Rider teams, doing mochila changes and running a total of twice around the track. Fancy buckles to the winners. Entry fee is \$100 per team. Everyone is invited to enter at team. More details on rules and deadlines will follow.

<http://wildhorseandheritagedays.com/>

I know I'm going to be there!
Diana van Uitert



UPDATES – ADDITIONAL DIMPLE DELL AND FOREST SERVICE PROJECTS

The Dimple Dell Citizens' Advisory Board met on March 14th, 2012. The speaker for the night was Trent Bristol with the DNR. The advisory board agreed to have Mr. Bristol proceed with removal of nearly 400 noxious / invasive trees in the Dimple Dell. Mr. Bristol is in the need of volunteers with Mountain Ride to help with removal of the trees. The DNR will have trained personnel in the Dell to actually cut the trees and a wood chipper. What is wanted is help dragging these trees and tree branches to the wood cutter. Horses would be of a great help here. The date is yet undecided but will be sometime in May. Please consider bringing your horse and helping to pull branches etc to the site of the wood chipper. Watch for more details by email.

On March 27, 2012, there was a meeting with the acting western region director of the Forest Service Cheryl Probert. Sylvia Clarke, the lead ranger of the Pleasant Grove ranger district spoke on upcoming projects for American Fork Canyon this summer.

The Timpooneke trail head parking lot will be increased in size from 38 spaces to 98 spaces. This expansion is slated to take place in August which means use of this area will be extremely restricted. Plan to park in the Salamander Flat area during this time period.

Silver Lake Dam is now considered to be a medium to high risk dam. It was actually put in by the CCC in the 30's. In September the spillway is slated to be lowered to reduce the pressure on the dam.

Cascade Springs is slated to get a new picnic site in September.

American Fork Canyon gets over one million visitors a year. Due to the Recreational Dredging & Sluicing law passed in Utah in 1872 it is legal to "pan" for gold in Utah at the discretion of the ranger. Recreational gold panners have to notify the rangers where they intend to be and then they cannot disturb wildlife, stream banks, etc etc. This is not being adhered to in American Fork Canyon and much damage has been done with garbage, human waste and changing / fouling stream beds. Of particular concern is an area known as Mary Ellen Gulch. This area will be more intensely supervised and an effort will be made to educate people not to lay waste to the area.

— Pat Wilson



BYU STUDY SHOWS BEAR PEPPER SPRAY A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO GUNS FOR DETERRING BEARS

From *BYU Press*:

Hikers and campers venturing into bear country this spring may be safer armed with 8-ounce cans of bear pepper spray than with guns, according to a new study led by a Brigham Young University bear biologist. Thomas S. Smith, associate professor of wildlife science, has conducted field work among bears for 16 years and has never used bear spray, although he carries it faithfully. "I wish I had more scary stories to share, but I've behaved myself," said Smith, emphasizing that caution and wisdom are the best way to prevent bear attacks.

Concerned about hikers' and campers' persistent doubts that a small can of liquid pepper spray could stop half a ton of claws, muscle and teeth, Smith and colleagues analyzed 20 years of bear spray incidents in Alaska, home to 150,000 bears. He found that the spray effectively halted aggressive bear behavior in 92 percent of the cases, whether that behavior was an attack or merely rummaging for food. Of all 175 people involved in the incidents studied, only three were injured by bears, and none required hospitalization. Smith and his research team report their findings in the April issue of the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. "People working or recreating in bear habitat should feel confident they are safe if carrying bear spray," Smith said.

Smith's previous research found that guns were effective about 67 percent of the time. Shooting accurately during the terrifying split seconds of a grizzly charge is extremely difficult, he pointed out, and his data shows

that it takes an average of four hits to stop a bear. In addition, firearms are prohibited in national parks like Glacier and Denali, popular with hikers and also with bears.



Utah Black Bear. Photo from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

"Working in the bear safety arena, I even found a lot of resistance to bear spray among professionals," Smith said of the product, which retails for \$30-\$40. "There was no good, clean data set that demonstrated definitively that it worked, so that's why we did this research."

"Tom Smith is highly respected among bear biologists, naturalists

and educators. His one-on-one experience with bears in the field is an enormous resource to the bear management community," said Chuck Bartlebaugh, director of the [Center for Wildlife Information](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/), the nonprofit that runs "Be Bear Aware" and other wildlife safety campaigns. "This new study is important information that is needed by hunters, hikers or campers to understand the value of bear spray and how it can protect both people and bears."

The research debunks these common misconceptions about bear spray:

- "Bear spray doesn't work when it's windy." Wind was reported to have interfered with spray accuracy in five of the 71 incidents studied, although the spray reached the bear in all cases. Smith used a wind meter to test the speed of the spray as it streams out of the canister. Repeated tests showed an average of 70 miles per hour. Smith also noted that bears and humans can easily see each other in open, windy spaces. The surprise encounters tend to occur in wooded areas in which vegetation blocks wind.

- "The spray will also disable the person using it." In the 71 incidents documented in the study, 10 times users reported minor irritation and two reported near incapacitation.

- "The can might not work." There were no reports of spray malfunction among the 71 incidents.

Smith believes one of the primary reasons bear spray works is that it gives users a reason to stand their

BEAR STUDY (CONTINUED)

ground. Running is the worst response to an aggressive bear, he said, "but it's hard not to. Just picture the meanest dog in your neighborhood and multiply his size by ten-it's very hard to keep your feet from running, but bear spray gives you an option. When you stop and plant your feet, that makes them stop."

This is because even though humans are much smaller than bears, the animals still view us as risky. "Having seen bears with porcupine quills in their faces, I'm sure that most bears learn at an early age that size is not a good indicator of threat," Smith said. "There's always this fear of retribution that keeps them in line. They could take any person they wanted. But they don't know that."

On the rare occasions bears get close enough to warrant a spraying - about three times a year in Alaska, the study showed - the

hissing sound and sight of the expanding cloud are often enough to frighten away the animal. "I have data to show that if you sprayed water, they often would run," Smith said.

Counterintuitively, Smith and his team also documented 11 incidents when the residue of bear

spray applied to objects like tents with the intent to repel curious bears actually backfired and attracted bears instead. Smith cautioned users against this practice and advised hikers to take their practice sprays before entering bear country.

The study did not make any comparisons among various types or

12 feet away

- 35 percent of incidents involved hikers, and 30 percent involved bear management activities
- 60 percent of the incidents occurred between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Nearly 70 percent of the incidents involved brown (grizzly) bears and 28 percent involved

black bears. The study also reports the first two documented uses of bear spray on polar bears in Alaska.

Smith's co-authors on the paper are Stephen Herrero, professor emeritus at the University of Calgary; Terry D. Debruyne of the National Park Service, and James M. Wilder of Minerals Management Service. The paper also relies on an earlier publication of a decade's worth of bear spray data by Herrero and Andrew Higgins. The research was funded by the U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center.



Black Bear in a Tree. Photo from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

manufacturers of bear spray because the sample was too small to draw significant conclusions.

Other findings reported in the paper include:

- On average, the spray was used when the bear was about

THANK YOU! – DR. JORDAN PEDERSON, BIOLOGIST



Thank you to Jordon Pederson for his excellent presentation on the Uintas Bear Study at the last meeting. Here is a copy of one of his studies, available online: Black Ghosts of the Forest: A Utah Black Bear Study 2008

<http://utah.ptfs.com/awweb/main.jsp?flag=browse&smd=1&awdid=1> BCHU assisted with the multi-year bear study. The researchers attracted the bears by soaking rugs with several bear-delights such as congealed cow blood, banana oil, or anise oil (their favorite). They strung barbed wire about 20" high, so the bears would end up leaving some belly hairs on it as they crossed it to reach the bait. The researchers would then return regularly throughout the summer to collect the hairs, identify them (bear, dog, deer, coyote, etc.), and send them for DNA testing. This way they could find out how many bears of what sex were living in and moving around the Uintas. We have a small but growing population of black bears in most of the mountain regions of Utah. There are somewhere near 17 bears in the Uintas, for instance. The females with cubs generally stay in their home territory, but the males (both the larger, older breeding males and the young unattached bachelors) move around a range that extends several miles in all directions. Bears can smell things well over 5 miles away, so you can assume that several Uinta bears have smelled your dinner when you are camping there.

Dr. Pederson said the most important things to do to keep yourself safe in bear country is to keep a clean camp, don't leave food around the camp where bears can get to it (hang it high in a tree), and keep food and toiletries away from your tent.

Here is one of his videos on what to do when confronted by a black bear. Basically, stay calm, do NOT run, raise your arms slowly to make yourself look larger while quietly talking to the bear, and backing slowly way if possible. If you are attacked, fight back, yell, hit, etc. Try to keep the soft parts of your body (your stomach, face, etc.) rolled away from the bear. Usually they will leave when they decide you no longer pose a threat.

http://www.ehow.com/video_2358713_understand-dangers-bear-threat.html

EMAIL OR SNAIL MAIL?

Save a tree! Each month it costs just under \$1 to copy and mail this newsletter to you. If you received this newsletter by snail mail, and if you would be happy to save a dollar and save a tree, email cfurse@ece.utah.edu to receive future newsletters email only.

Each month I email the color newsletter to everyone with an email on file. If you are NOT receiving this by email, please send me your corrected email address. Thank you! Cindy

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Thank you to the BCHU members who helped with the Joseph Bushling search near Dugway. There were 70-80 riders from all over the state, all different disciplines, horse clubs, etc. Between the horses, dogs, and ATVs, we scoured several square miles of flatland, rough mountain terrain, and roads. We didn't find what we were looking for, but we sure looked for what we ere trying to find! Please mail your volunteer hours and miles to Fred Leslie 801-553-1873 fredleslie101@gmail.com . Here are a few pictures of a few of our local BCHU folks. More pictures are on 'facebook'.

