

**NEXT SERVICE PROJECTS:**

Dimple Dell April 24

**NEXT RIDE (& CLEANUP):**

Mile Mrkr10, April 17

**NEXT MEETING:**

Thur April 8 at 7 pm,  
[Cottonwood Retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road \[4752 South\]](#)

**THANK YOU!**

J. W. Hats

Steve Johnson  
(Puddle Valley Ride)

Expo Volunteers!  
(p.3)

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

The Creak of Leather 2

March Minutes On the Fringe 3

Puddle Valley Ride 4

Trail First Aid 5

Ride & Meeting Schedule 6-7



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



sharing the day together with good and companionable horses. Nothing but a good old western experience that we sometimes take for granted – and something many western aficionados living elsewhere would die for. It's the simple things we too often take for granted that create the memories we cherish through the rest of our lives - the lunchtime chatter, the rhythm of the trail, the smell of horse sweat, the soft creaking of saddle leather, the feeling of sat-

isfaction after a good ride and that feeling we get from helping out when we are needed.

There was something special in the air that early March morning as we gathered to ride through Puddle Valley one more time. The sun was out in all it's splendor as we had the good fortune to be riding on a day between late winter storms. Now, it may be said that Puddle Valley is just another place out in the desert with nothing there and not much to do – just wide open spaces as far as the eye can see. Nothing but stretches wide and brown. Nothing to stop your vision except a few railroad cars if you happen to look in that direction. Nothing but tumbleweeds and cedars, gopher holes and a small herd of cattle grazing nearby. Nothing but western soil – pretty much the way it has been since the days the Donner party passed nearby on their way to their fateful end west of Reno. Nothing but good friends and new acquaintances

isfaction after a good ride and that feeling we get from helping out when we are needed.

This past month we have had great support at the BCHU booth during the Horse Expo. The booth traffic was great and well attended to. The horse packing demo in the small arena was a lot of fun with a good audience. We enjoyed a terrific evening at our monthly meeting with JW Hats – who happen to be the inheritors of the hat maker tradition (together with forms and fixtures) from the pioneer era. And then there was the monthly ride at Puddle Valley. All good experiences. This month's poem is an old classic by Bruce Kiskaddon – *The Creak of the Leather*. It's all about the memories we make a horseback. Let's keep it going. Be seein' ya.

— Paul Kern

## The Creak of the Leather

by Bruce Kiskaddon

It's likely that you can remember  
A corral at the foot of a hill  
Some mornin' along in December  
When the air was so cold and so still.  
When the frost lay as light as a feather  
And the stars had jest blinked out and gone.  
Remember the creak of the leather  
As you saddled your hoss in the dawn.

When the glow of the sunset had faded  
And you reached the corral after night  
On a hoss that was weary and jaded  
And so hungry yore belt wasn't tight.  
You felt about ready to weaken  
You knowed you had been a long way  
But the old saddle still kep a creakin'  
Like it did at the start of the day.

Perhaps you can mind when yore saddle  
Was standin' up high at the back  
And you started a whale of a battle  
When you got the old pony untracked.  
How you and the hoss stuck together  
Is a thing you caint hardly explain  
And the rattle and creak of the leather  
As it met with the jar and the strain.

You have been on a stand in the cedars  
When the air was so quiet and dead  
Not even some flies and mosquitoes  
To buzz and make noise 'round yore head.  
You watched for wild hosses or cattle  
When the place was as silent as death  
But you heard the soft creak of the saddle  
Every time the hoss took a breath.

And when the round up was workin'  
All day you had been ridin' hard  
There wasn't a chance of your shirkin'  
You was pulled for the second guard  
A sad homesick feelin' come sneakin'  
As you sung to the cows and the moon  
And you heard the old saddle a creakin'  
Along to the sound of the tune.

There was times when the sun was shore blazin'  
On a perishin' hot summer day  
Mirages would keep you a gazin'  
And the dust devils danced far away  
You cursed at the thirst and the weather  
You rode at a slow joggin' trot  
And you noticed somehow that the leather  
Creaks different when once it gets hot.

When yore old and yore eyes have grown hollow  
And your hair has a tinge of the snow  
But there's always the memories that follow  
From the trails of the dim long ago.  
There are things that will haunt you forever  
You notice that strange as it seems  
One sound, the soft creak of the leather,  
Weaves into your memories and dreams.

THANK YOU TO  
THOSE WHO HELPED  
AT THE EXPO!

Pat Wilson, Maureen McDonald, Kevin &  
Debbie Peterson, Denise Kirby, Jim Spreiter,  
Matt Cardon, Bev Hefernan, Fran Wilby,  
Diana vanUitert, Paul Kern Stephanie  
Yeager, Doris Richards, Becky Rock and  
Bruce Kartchner.



## MOUNTAIN RIDGE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

**Present:** Paul Kern, Pat Wilson, Tom Smith, Sandra Williams, Stephanie Yeager, Fred Leslie, Marcia Barton, Steve Johnson, Dot Johnson, Lisa Baker, Ray Smith, Bob Baker, Jim Spreiter, Bev Heffernan, Diana vanUitert, Perry white, Doris Richins. The meeting was called to order at 1910 by Paul Kern. Paul Kern motioned and Pat Wilson seconded that the minutes from February meeting be accepted. This motion passed.

**Fred Leslie** handed out the schedule for manning the Back Country Horsemen booth. He states that this schedule also went out on e-mail.

**Paul Kern** reported that the Uintas trail service in Bench Creek is still on target for June 19<sup>th</sup>. Millcreek Parks and Rec are in need of a Back Country Horsemen packing demonstration on June 19<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is available to help that one day please talk to Paul Kern.

**Bob Baker** reported that "Higher Image" will do the Back Country Horsemen logo on your vests for \$5.00 and a larger one on the back of your jacket or shirt etc. for \$10.00. Please talk to Bob if you are interested.

**Ray Smith** reported that he has been meeting with Don Tingey regarding the equestrian trails on the Jordan River. There is a plan to elongate the parking lots at 110<sup>th</sup> and 114<sup>th</sup> south pavilions. Ray reported that Sandy city has been somewhat recalcitrant regarding horse trails along the Jordan River. Ray stated that the overall master plan shows horse trails along the Jordan River through Sandy as well so he will continue to work with Sandy city.

**Pat Wilson** reported on meeting with Wayne Johnson of Salt Lake County Parks and Rec to develop a working relationship with the county on Yellow Fork Canyon. Mr. Johnson stated that the county would be very interested in having the Back Country Horsemen working in there to clear trails, close badly eroded trails and building new ones around eroded sites, trash pick up, removing old barbed wire, and building foot bridges on the riparian areas.

J. W. Hats came and spoke to us regarding hat making and hatters. He passed around felts in various stages of becoming hats. Stage #1 is beaver hair pressed together. Stage #2 is that beaver hair molded and kneaded into a felt. Beaver hair has little hooks on it which makes it ideal for molding into pelts as the hooks hold the hair together. John B. Stetson started the "X" grading system for hats. The lower the X# on a hat the less beaver is in it. For example: 3X would be rabbit, 5X rabbit beaver blend, 10X pure beaver hair. The strength of the hat is in the hat band. All beaver is trapped in the U.S. and Canada. There are only 6 plants in the world that make beaver felting. 3 are in the States: Irvine, Texas, Adamstown, Pa. and Independent, Tn. Belgium Hare is the best hare hair to use for a hat. A

"half breed" is half felt and half straw.

Meeting adjourned: 2040.

Pat Wilson

### ON THE FRINGE...



*Francis Wilby and Sue Hall at the Splendid Heritage Exhibit*

Several of us visited the Utah Museum of Fine Arts 'Splendid Heritage' exhibit and marveled at the fantastic fringe, bodacious beads, and plethora of porcupine quills. If you want to join in on a fringe craft night, email Cindy Furse (cfurse@ece.utah.edu). Options include leather (see [www.tandleatherfactory.com](http://www.tandleatherfactory.com) ... deerskin is \$2.99 / sq ft now) or fringed T shirts (\$2-5 at Michaels, Walmart, JoAnns', etc.) And, if you liked that exhibit, check out the horse stuff in this one (tons of photos online): [Smithsonian Song for the Horse Nation](#)

# PUDDLE VALLEY RIDE

February 20, 2010



## BCHU TRAILS EXTRAVAGANZA: FIRST AID FOR YOUR HORSE

By Cindy Furse

One of the excellent clinics at the BCHU Trails Expo was done by Rebecca Lewis from the USU equine program on Backcountry First Aid. Here are several of the things I learned from that clinic:

**HEAD WOUNDS:** These are often stitched, so take the horse to the vet as quickly as you can. Rinse the wound with saline solution, but don't scrub it. (For backcountry, you are not likely to carry saline with you. You can make saline by adding about 1.5 tsp per liter of water. A liter is slightly more than a quart. So, you could carry salt packets from a fast food restaurant and have low-bulk source of saline).

**MUZZLE & TONGUE:** These areas are dirty like our mouths so almost always get infected. Go to the vet and get antibiotic to help with that.

**BODY & TORSO WOUNDS:** Surprising to most of us, these are not usually an emergency. A horse may be bleeding heavily but be in little danger, because he can lose about 10% of his weight in blood (about 4 gallons for a 1000 # horse). Pressure is about the only way to stop bleeding, so use a Tshirt or similar and press quite hard (about as hard as you can). They are typically not sutured, but are left to heal by 'second intention' (from the inside out). They rarely get proud flesh, because they have too circulation. On the trail, it is important to keep it as clean as you can. Maxipads or dog pee pads or diapers are a good on-the-trail absorbent bandage, that can be taped over the wound with duct tape. With body wounds, you may need something bigger, like a Tshirt. These

areas are extremely hard to bandage, so duct tape is a big help here.

**LOWER LEG WOUNDS:** These wounds are more aggressively treated because of low circulation to the leg. They are sutured when possible, and bandaged until healed. (That is a change from the old ideas of letting the wound get air.) On the trail, always bandage if possible. Put some antibiotic ointment on gauze or similar (the maxipad may come in handy again here), and wrap with vet wrap. Tape edges with duct tape if needed. Particularly if injury is low on the ankle or bulb of the heel, the bandage will always ride up and may chafe or bind too tightly. Tape it to the hoof to keep it down. Make the bandage snug (necessary to keep it on/up), but not too tight. NEVER tourniquet a lower leg. You should be able to put a few fingers between the leg and bandage and feel it snug but not tight. If you have to wrap over the hock, leave some extra looseness at the joint. When the leg bends, it will tighten the bandage there, and virtually all horses will kick out until they break or tear it.

**PUNCTURE WOUNDS:** (Hoof or body) Pull out the sharp item if possible. Cover to keep it clean. Most often best to take to vet for cleaning and antibiotic.

**PULLED SHOE, STONE BRUISE, PUNCTURED SOLE:** Carry a horse boot & shoe pullers (fencing pliers work well for this, plus cutting barbed wire). Alternatively, carry a hoof pad and duct tape. You may have to redo the duct tape, but better than nothing.

**EYE WOUNDS:** Don't mess with the wound on the trail. Cover to keep it clean (duct tape is likely to come in handy here again), and go to the vet as soon as possible. Neosporin

ointment (not lotion) can be used in an eye wound to keep it moist.

**TYING UP:** This is a serious illness that needs to be treated at the vets ASAP. The horse sweats profusely, walks stiff-legged/tight muscles, pees a lot and the pee gets gradually darker (to dark brown and black). Caused by too much carbo loading, typically a 'regular' dose of grain on Sunday with no work, and then back to work on Monday. Reduce your risk by returning the horse to work gradually after a vacation, and reducing the grain you give your horse, particularly when not working. First aid: Get off, remove saddle, etc., cover to keep horse warm, walk horse slowly towards the trailer, get vet help.

**MINIMAL TRAIL KIT:** Duct tape, hoof pick, vet wrap, wound cover material (Tshirt, maxipad, etc.), bute, banamine (for colic), water, salt packets, antibiotic (Neosporin — can be used on you too — or Furazone), knife.

Cindy's Note: I use a plastic jar from powdered antibiotic, put my vet wrap inside (with the starting edge folded over a piece of paper to make it easy to unroll), put Neosporin, salt packets, a maxipad & a small pencil in the middle, and wrapped duct tape around the outside of the jar. Been used plenty. Shots such as Banamine can be carried in a plastic toothbrush container.

## MOUNTAIN RIDGE BCHU 2010 SCHEDULE

*Mile Marker 10, Ride it Again April 17*

**Apr 8 Monthly Meeting, 7pm** Horse photography with Karen Beal (coordinator: Sandy Williams) [Cottonwood Retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road \[4752 South\]](#)

**April 17, Mile Marker 10 Ride and Cleanup.** Cindy Furse (cfurse@ece.utah.edu) 581-9225

We will be riding to the 'cabin' and/or to the 'kitchen', depending on how many people show up. Be ready to ride at 10. The ride will be about 4-5 hours. Terrain is moderate (with some steep hills and gullies). Horses need shoes or boots. Bring lunch and water. There is no horse water, plan accordingly.

Several spots along the trail are full of trash, so bring your largest saddle bags for carrying stuff out, large or small trash bags, leather gloves, perhaps a small shovel for cleaning up broken glass, a hand saw for removing broken wooden posts, anything you might like for a trash pickup. Also bring clippers for low-hanging branches. Fred will bring a pack horse to give us more room for carrying out garbage, so come even if your packs are small.

If you want to get your pack horse going prior to packing season, this might be a good ride, because you won't have anything you value in those packs! Be sure they are accustomed to empty packs, because empty packs make more racket and bounce more than full ones.

Also, it would be a good idea to 'prep' your horse for plastic bags before this ride, since anyone around you may have a flapping plastic bag in tow. If you haven't done this before, contact any of the officers on p.7 and they are likely to have training suggestions for you.

Also, after the ride, a few of us will unhitch our trucks and (with some extra volunteers) drive to several sites near the trailhead that have lots of garbage from target shooting ... so plan on staying a while after the ride to help if possible.

To the trailhead *From the South:* At the Lehi crossroads take state road 73 west through Cedar Fort. Follow past Five Mile Pass. Road will begin to turn north. Follow 5 more miles to mile marker 10. Parking is on the east

side of the road.

*From the North:* From Tooele, follow state road 36 through Stockton. Turn left (south) at state road 73. Follow 73 to mile marker 10. Parking is on the east side of the road.

Approximate [Google Map](#)

**April 24, Dimple Dell Trail Maintenance Project** (Fred Leslie fredleslie101@gmail.com 553-1873; 484-3253; 450-2905)

We will be setting posts and building rail fence, trimming and cleaning.

Bring a post hole digger if you have one, shovel, pruning loppers, clippers, crescent wrench, pliers, gloves and a canteen (all packed on your horse). Bring your horse — the posts that we'll be placing will be at or close to where we'll be setting them but it'd be a long walk to get there without your horse. Also when we are trimming the areas on the trail if we can do so from the back of your horse it will help us trim high enough.

We'll leave the Amphitheater parking lot (approx. 2700 E. Dimple Dell) at 9am ready to work, we'll be through no later than 12pm. This should be nothing but fun working with our horses.

**May 13, Monthly Meeting & Sandy Pride Day Trail Project** (Porter Rockwell Trail (Doris Richards)

**May 15, Corner Canyon Ride** (Bob Baker)

**May 27, Deer Creek Full Moon Ride** (Cindy Furse and Diana van Uitert)

**June 5, Nobletts (Uintas) Ride & 1-Horse Packing Clinic** (Steve Johnson / Cindy Furse)

**June 10, Monthly Meeting, Chapter Business Meeting** (Paul Kern)

( CONTINUED )

**June 12-14, Pony Express 150th Anniversary Celebration** (Diana van Uitert)

**June 19, Bench Creek Trail Dead-fall Cleanup Project** (Fred Leslie)

**June 25-27, Blackhawk Ride & Wildflower photography** (& optional campout) (Paul Kern / Cindy Furse)  
Reserve a campsite in horse loop E at [reservations.gov](http://reservations.gov) or call 1-877-444-6777

**July 8, Monthly Meeting,** Firearms for Backcountry Safety (coordinator: Paul Kern)

**July 9-11, Currant Creek Trail Project** (Paula Hill)

**July 22-24, Island Park Ride** (15 riders max) (Paul Kern) Need Coggins, Health & Travel Permit

**Aug 12, Monthly Meeting,** Backcountry Tents and Tipis (Kirkhams), (coordinator: Ray Smith)

**Aug 13-14, Crystal Lake Corduroy Packing Service Project** (Fred Leslie)

**Aug 19-21, Bryce Area Ride** (Ray Smith)

**Sept 9, Monthly Meeting,** Dutch Oven Cooking (coordinator: Rinda Black)

**Sept 18, Hemangog Trail Maintenance** (Bob & Lisa Baker)

**Sept 25, Soldier Hollow Ride** (Bev Heffernan)

**Oct 14, Monthly Meeting,** Mustangs or First Aid with USU (coordinator: Cindy Furse)

**Oct 23, American Fork Ride** (Pat

## COWBOY LEGENDS POETRY & MUSIC FESTIVAL

May 28-31, 2010

The 5th Annual Cowboy Legends Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival will be celebrating the cowboy ranching history on the Island. You are invited to step back through 135 years of Utah History on the historic Fielding Garr Ranch on Antelope Island just northwest of Salt Lake City, Utah. There you will have available to you trail rides and wagon train rides, affording you the opportunity to observe wild life roaming freely on the Island as they have done for decades. Rides will be operating Friday through Monday, with proceeds from the wagon train rides going to the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

Upon completing the rides on horse or wagon, and at the cost of just strolling into the shade of the Garr Ranch Barn, you will be treated to the best cowboy poets and musicians Utah has to offer.

Booths consisting of saddle makers, hat makers, spurs, chaps and other cowboy collectibles will line the shaded grassy area just south of the Barn. Entertainment and booths, along with games and activities for the kids will run all weekend.

If you like the taste of great Dutch oven cooking, be ready for the dinner shows on Friday and Saturday evenings. Cowboy church will take place Sunday morning and a campfire sing along Sunday evening where visitors are invited to share a story, poem, song or just their impressions of the Island.

*"Come Feel the West"*

Come spend your Stay-cation on Antelope Island, Memorial Weekend, May 28-31, 2010. For more information contact [clayshelley@utah.gov](mailto:clayshelley@utah.gov) or [coyoteemoon@comcast.net](mailto:coyoteemoon@comcast.net)

( CONTINUED )

Wilson/Tom Smith)

**Oct 29-30, Antelope Island Bison Roundup (30th) / opt campout** (Paul Kern)

**Nov 11, Monthly Meeting,** Bare Foot Trim (coordinator: Tom Smith)

**Nov 20 weekend (tentative), Wild**

**Bunch-Robbers Roost Ride** (Bruce Kartchner)

**Dec 4, Stansbury Petroglyphs Ride** (Paul Kern)

**Dec 9, MR-BCHU Christmas Party** (Tom Smith)

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Pass this on to a friend!**



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cfurse@ece.utah.edu or call  
581-9225. Color is 11x17 or  
B/W is 12x24. I need approx  
# to know how many to order.



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