

NEXT MEETING

Aug 8 at 7pm

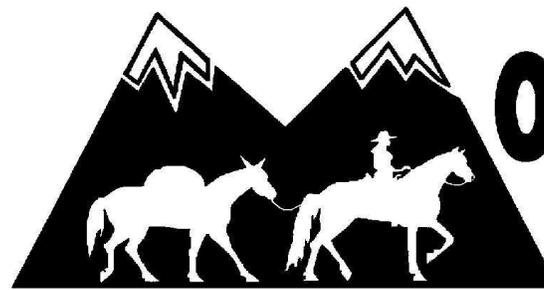
Learn to Pack

(1 horse)

Cottonwood Retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road [4752 South]

NEXT RIDE

Aug 16-18 Learn to Pack Trip



Mountain Ridge

Back Country Horsemen of Utah

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



Gina Levesque as our guest speaker. She is going to teach us how to pack our horses to ride and camp.

August 16-18th, we are going on a pack trip (place is yet to be determined). Paul Deputy will lead us on this adventure. Many of us are looking forward to spending some quality time in the hills with our horses.

We have a Teton pack trip scheduled for August 28th to September 1st. Paul

Kern will lead us on this journey. Paul would like to hear from those who are planning to join us on this ride.

Another packing opportunity is the "Notch project". Sponsored by Terry Morrison, our state president. This will take place every weekend in the month of August. The purpose is to repair and improve an existing trail. Contact Terry if interested in helping out.

Paul Deputy is still in need of any volunteer hours you have spent this summer. Please contact him with whatever you have done.

See you on the trail.

Perry

Fellow Equestrians,

Well friends, July is nearly over, before we know it September will be here and the summer of 2013 will be history. I hope that it has been hot enough for you all. It has been plenty hot for me.

The ride up American Fork Canyon on July 13th was a really good ride. For those of you that weren't there, you missed out. Thanks to Larry Newton for planning and leading the ride for us.

The month of August is "packed" with some fun opportunities!

Our monthly meeting, the second Thursday of the month, will feature our own

MOUNTAIN RIDGE BCHU 2013 SCHEDULE



Learn to Pack, Aug 7 Meeting & Aug 16-18 Try it!

August 8 Monthly Meeting 7pm

Cottonwood Retirement Center
1245 East Murray-Holladay Road
[4752 South]

Gina Levesque will be talking about how to single horse pack, and bringing her gear. If you are planning to come on the pack trip, please come discuss the final arrangements.

August 16-18 Learn to Pack Trip

(Paul Deputy pmdeputy@gmail.com (801) 725-1133)
 Please come Aug 8 to work out final details before our trip. We are planning on the Uintas (probably out of Crystal Lake Trailhead, but will be watching the weather and will choose location accordingly)

August 29-31 Tetons Pack Trip

(Paul Kern kernpr@gmail.com (801) 718-9910) (We will drive up Aug 28 and drive back Sept 1)
 Need Coggins & Health Certificate. Contact Paul if you are interested in going on this trip.

September 12 Monthly Meeting

September 13-14 Settlement Canyon Camp, Project & Ride
 (Cindy Furse) with Paul Kern cowboy poetry around the campfire. Bring clippers & trail saw.

September 28 Service Project (Paul Deputy)

October 10 Monthly Meeting

October 19 Service Project (Paul Deputy)

October 25 Bison Roundup
 (contact Cindy Furse)

November 14 Monthly Meeting

November 16 BCHU Ride TBD

December 12 Christmas Party & Auction (contact Fran Wilby)

**LEARN TO
 PACK**

This month we have two awesome pack trips scheduled. Aug 16-18 is a local trip (to the Uintas, unless weather diverts us elsewhere), suitable for anyone wanting to try packing for the first time. Come to the BCHU meeting Aug 8, with your questions in mind.

Aug 29-31 is a pack trip for those who already have a little experience. We will be doing a 60 mile ride and pack out of Turpin Meadows in the Tetons. Spectacular country. If you haven't used a pack horse before, Paul Kern will help teach you the ins and outs of the double diamond and ponying a pack horse.

The BCHU.com Education Page (Packing Page) has a lot of information to help you get started, including videos and hints on one horse packing, videos of the double diamond and other pack horse knots, and more.

To start: All horses need to be able to hobble to graze and highline for the night. Check out the online information, and start their training at home. If you need help or advice,



Full Corn Moon Aug 21

The fishing tribes are given credit for the naming of this Moon, since sturgeon, a large fish of the Great Lakes and other major bodies of water, were most readily caught during this month. A few tribes knew it as the Full Red Moon because, as the Moon rises, it appears reddish through any sultry haze. It was also called the Green Corn Moon or Grain Moon.

PACKING TRAINING STEP-BY-STEP

Your first pack trip is a lot of fun, but it takes some preparation to get ready.

A lot of good packing information is linked on the BCHU [packing page](#) (BCHU.com — Education — Packing). And be careful. Go slow, train your horse step by step. Get help from an experienced trainer if you need it. Don't be afraid to ask for help!

For your horse, you will need a highline, a lead rope with a swivel snap (critical! It's gotta swivel!), and hobbles.

Tie the highline in your backyard. See [How to Tie a Highline](#) in the Oct 2001 newsletter pp4-5. Get your horse accustomed to the highline by looping a rope over the line and pulling it towards him. When he is OK with that, do the same with his lead-rope. Hold it and see how he reacts, but let it go if he panics. Most horses take to this without a problem, but give him the chance to get accustomed to the highline in a safe, familiar setting before tying him to it for the night. When you do tie your horse, remember shorter is safer. The rope should hang just low enough to pass under his chin when he is standing normally.

Get a sturdy pair of hobbles (see the [Oct11](#) and [Feb11](#) newsletters) and train your horse to hobble. Check out the suggestions in those newsletters, additional videos on youtube, and call for help if you need it. I just recently trained my 4yo to hobble. After first training him to lead by all four feet, I started on the nice, green, tasty back lawn when he was hungry and wanted to eat. I hitched the hobble to one front leg, and used a longer rope to act like a hobble on the second, but I could let it go. That was pretty uneventful, so I hooked the other side of the hobble. He moved backwards pretty happily but couldn't move forward. When he got

out of range of the grass, he got upset, tried to get his feet out of the hobbles, and did a little rearing. I 'checked' him with the lead rope (12' lead had me safely out of range), and he settled down and moved forward a little. After several evenings with short training (5-10 minutes), he got the hang of it and can now (unfortunately?) move around pretty comfortably in hobbles.

Whenever I have a horse on a highline or hobbled, I have a packers knife in my pocket. I'm not exactly sure I can fix everything, but it has been important a couple of times already.

Packs and equipment.

Whether you pack with one horse or two, you will need to accustom your horse to carrying the extra pack. Perhaps even more than that, you will need to learn and work out the intricacies of keeping the pack on the horse! Check out the BCHU [packing page](#), come to the Aug 8 meeting, bring your equipment if you would like advice, and TEST IT OUT AT HOME!!!!

I can't say enough here about the importance of proper preparation.

Paul Kern started his young horse packing around some old suitcases (from the DI?). I started my young horse with saddle panniers full of milk jugs filled with water (for weight). Years ago, I was in charge of the 'rodeo' on my first pack trip when the pack pressed the clip on the crupper into my horse's butt, and hurt/rubbed him. Buck buck! Even experienced packers occasionally overestimate what a horse is ready for and underestimate what can go wrong. Practice each new step and take the time it takes to help your horse be ready for what you can at least expect he will need to handle.

Here is a partial list of 'scary things'

- The weight of the pack behind the saddle, especially if you have things (like my tent) that go beyond where he would normally feel gear.
- New noises — clanking, flapping, Velcro, zippers — in strange places.
- Shifting. Your pack is NOT supposed to shift, but what if it does? Will he buck if you drop the pack entirely off the side? Accustom your horse to the pack in its correct and incorrect positions.
- Mantis. Most horses are bothered by the manti going up over their pack saddle, so practice well in advance. Remember a dark tarp and a white manti are two different things to a horse!
- Mantis and packs on other horses. It isn't just the horse getting the manti who might be afraid ... prepare your horse for flapping tarps and loads on other horses, people, etc. (Most notorious is the horse who jumps when someone else puts on their rain gear!)
- Ponying a horse. There are a lot of good videos on youtube about this. Start by making sure your horse can stand the rope under his tail. Use a short piece of dowel like a piece of broom handle a foot or so long, and put it under his tail horizontal to the ground. He is likely to clamp his tail down on it and run/buck/kick to try to get rid of it. Stay out of the way. When he finally lifts his tail it will drop instantly, which is good training. Repeat until he just raises his tail without a fuss.
- Single horse packing— getting your leg up over your pack is important. Keep it low. Plan and practice at home.

Finally, put your loaded pack on your horse and go for several good rides before you seriously head out for a pack trip. You'll be glad you did, and you'll most likely tighten it up a time or two before you are all finished.

E M A I L O R S N A I L M A I L ?

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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