

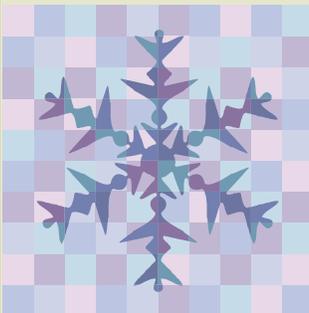
Mountain Ridge

Back Country Horsemen of Utah

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

**BCHU
CHRISTMAS
PARTY &
AUCTION!
Dec. 12 at 6-9pm**

**CR. Hamilton Sports
Complex,
13800 S 3700 W
Riverton, Utah**



**JANUARY
PLANNING
MEETING**

Jan. 9 at 7pm
Cottonwood Retirement Center 1245
East Murray-Holladay
Road [4752 South]

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'The White Knight' Snow Sculpture

Fellow equestrians,

Horses have always meant a lot to me and luckily my Dad always had some around to enjoy. If I remember correctly, the most he had at any one time was 13. Way too many, but my Dad loved his horses and found it difficult to part with them. In fact the first memory of my Dad and horses took place when I was 4 years old. It was springtime and Dad had brought Old Jan up to the house because she (his favorite) was ready to foal and he wanted to care of her if needed.

A few days later the event happened. In the middle of the night Dad woke me and carried me out to see his new prize. Little Jan was taking her first steps. In my mind's eye, I can still see her, still wet looking wide eyed at the her new world. I will always be grateful for my Dad's kindness and his horses. I learned to ride by myself on Old Jessie when I was 9, with and without the saddle. My Dad was there on Goldie to give me hints and support. I think it was love at first ride and I will always be grateful to my Dad for teaching me and letting me go. Since then I have spent many hours in the saddle and I plan on spending many more.

I really enjoy being a part of this group. I appreciate your friendship and I love going on the rides. There is nothing more enjoyable to me than riding a horse.

I want to remind all of you of our Dinner and Auction on December 12th. Please bring some gently used items to donate. Please turn in your service hours to Paul Deputy. Don't be shy.

I would like to thank all of you for the support you've given me as president. Also, I encourage as many as possible to be to our planning meeting in January. See you on the trail.
Perry

2013 SCHEDULE



The Full Cold Moon; or the Full Long Nights Moon – Dec. 17

During this month the winter cold fastens its grip, and nights are at their longest and darkest. It is also sometimes called the Moon before Yule. The term Long Night Moon is a doubly appropriate name because the midwinter night is indeed long, and because the Moon is above the horizon for a long time. The midwinter full Moon has a high trajectory across the sky because it is opposite a low Sun.

**December 12 at 6pm
Christmas Party & Auction
(contact Fran Wilby
Frances.Wilby@socwk.utah.edu**

Same location as last year. C.R. Hamilton Family Sports Complex-3700 W 13800 S, Riverton, UT 84096.

The following members are taking responsibilities for food and items we need for the auction. PLEASE contact them or me and offer to help!

Please bring your gently used items for the auction. Horse items, home décor, gift items, clothing, etc. Thanks, Fran

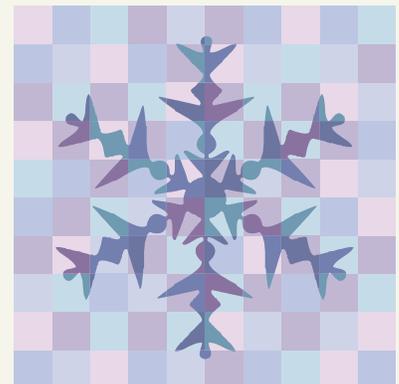
Table decorations-Kathie Kern
Christmas Tree decorations-Paul Deputy
Auction-Doris Roberts, Pat Wilson, Gina Levesque
Potatoes-Joyce Smith & Kim Agnew
Salads-Lueen Allison
Desserts-Martienne White
Drinks/papergoods/plates,etc-Diana vanUitert
Taking money at the door and registering members-Sandy Williams

**2014 PLANNING MEETING
COME CHOOSE ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR!**

January 9 at 7pm

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

Please come help select activities for the coming year. If you can't come, but have an idea. Or if you are willing to lead a service project or ride, please contact Paul Kern [801-942-8928 kernpr@gmail.com](mailto:kernpr@gmail.com)



**2014 CALENDAR
PLEASE SEND PICTURES!**

It's time to collect pictures for the calendar again! Make your horse a star. Please send your favorite pictures to: cfurse@ece.utah.edu

Some special needs:

- Service Project Pictures
- Packing, camping, and riding
- Great Utah Trail views (with horses!)
- Holiday pictures
- I'm always short on SNOW pics.

Include info on who / where / what
Thank you!



Christmas Party & Auction!

December 12th

6:00-9:00 P.M.

C.R. Hamilton

Family Sports Complex

13800 S. 3700 W. Riverton, UT



Polish up your boots and join us for the annual Christmas Party, auction, and fund raiser for the Mountain Ridge Backcountry Horsemen of Utah. We'll have cowboy poetry and music, a slide show featuring MRBCHU members, great food, and an auction featuring choice western items. Mark your calendars now and plan on renewing your membership at the party. Bring a friend!

For more information about the auction, contact:

Doris Richards at ohioaninutah@gmail.com or 801-572-1253

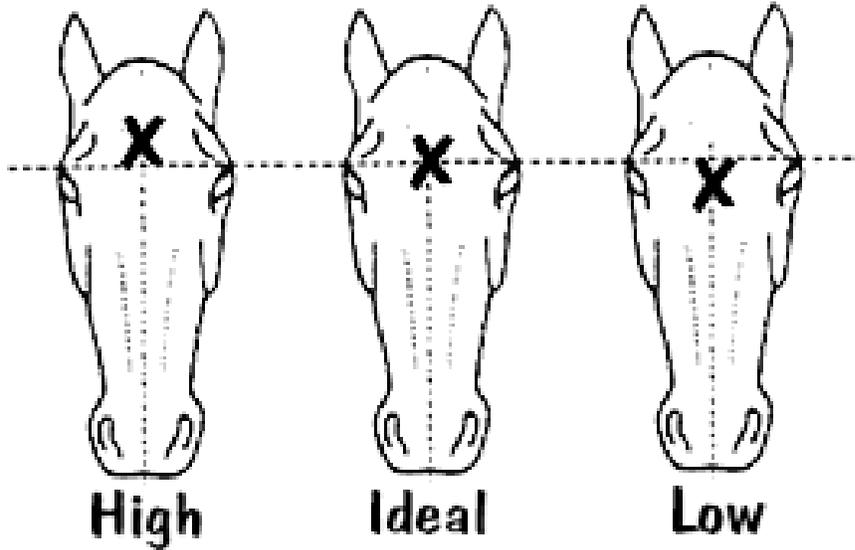
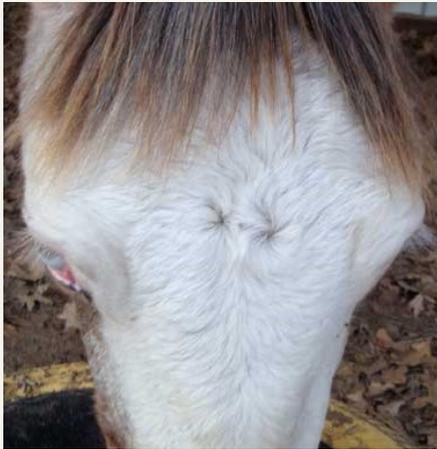
For more information about the party or to volunteer, contact:

Fran Wilby at frances.wilby@socwk.utah.edu or 801-631-1275

WHORLS, WHOAS, AND WHOOPIES

There is much cowboy lore about hair whorls and what they mean on different horses. A recent scientific article (abstract included below) finally gives us some data on this interesting phenomenon.

The study basically found that a high hair whorl was associated with horses that were more difficult to handle. Horses with double or elongated whorls took longer to approach a novel object.



A note on behaviour and heart rate in horses differing in facial hair whorl

Aleksandra Górecka^{a,*}, Małgorzata Golonka^b,
Michał Chruszczewski^c, Tadeusz Jezierski^a

The relationship between facial hair whorl position and reactivity, as assessed by behavioural measures (handling score = HS; startle reaction to a suddenly appearing novel object = SR; latency to touch a novel object = LNO) and heart rate measures (mean HR; increase in heart rate = IHR) were studied using 55 Konik horses reared either under conventional stable conditions or in the forest reserve. Horses were classified into four groups according to the whorl position and/or shape: (1) high, single whorl above the top eye line, $n = 9$; (2) medium, single whorl between the top and the bottom eye line, $n = 30$; (3) low, single whorl below the bottom eye line, $n = 10$; and (4) elongated or double whorl, $n = 6$. Horses with a high whorl position demonstrated a lesser degree of manageability as expressed by a lower HS compared to individuals with medium ($P = 0.002$) or low whorl positions ($P = 0.016$). Horses with different whorl positions did not differ significantly in their startle response to a suddenly appearing novel object ($P = 0.685$). The horses with an elongated or double whorl, which appeared only in the forest group, took significantly longer to approach the novel object than horses with medium ($P = 0.006$) or low ($P = 0.005$) whorl positions. No significant differences in mean HR and IHR between groups (HR: $P = 0.629$ and IHR: $P = 0.214$) were found. In conclusion, this study supports the relationship between the position of the hair whorl on the horses' head and their manageability during handling, as well as the latency to approach an unknown object.

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Applied Animal Behaviour Science 105 (2007) 244–248

WHORLS (CONTINUED)

Ok, so does this make sense? A University of Colorado Study by Temple Grandin, Department of Animal Science, August 1998, states that Colorado University labs were the first to discover the brain, skin and hair all form at the same time, providing evidence of the relationship between hair whorl positions and differences in temperament. These swirls/whorls are thought to be formed with the hair actually coming from the personality area of the brain to the skin during this time of formation. To obtain the entire study *Genetics and the Behavior of Domestic Animals* contact Academic Press, 525 B Street, Suite 1900, San Diego, CA 92101

Some trainers have made a 'science' of reading whorls. For example, Chris Irwin (video [here](#)). He says that if the swirl is high, the horse is more aware; if lower, then

close minded/strong-willed/stubborn. The more geometric and symmetrical the whorl, the greater the horse's ability to focus. Muddled or elongated whorls indicate a horse that has difficulty focusing (ADHD). If the whorl is off center to the left (as you look at your horse), it means he is complicated but trustworthy. If it's offset to the right, he is likely to be less cooperative. A double whorl indicates two personalities. If side-by-side, the personalities will be similar, but if they are stacked, the personalities will be contradictory and likely unpredictable. Horses with whorls where the hair grows clockwise tend to favor going to the right; counterclockwise, to the left.

So ... now I am curious! If you send me a picture of your horse's whorls, and a description of his personality, I'll post them in the next newsletter...



**Mountain Ridge Back Country Horsemen
Chapter Application
Join M.R.B.C.H. and preserve our heritage!**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Home # _____ Work # _____ Cell # _____

e-mail _____ Newsletter by: _____ Email _____ Regular Mail _____ Both

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: _____

SEND IN YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS!

Please send in your service hours for this year to Paul Deputy
pmdeputy@gmail.com THANK YOU!

What counts?

- Trail work of all kinds (include # of people, # of horses, # of hours), include mileage and drive time IF the ride was mainly for the purpose of trail work.
- Attending public meetings, writing letters, etc. for preservation and maintenance of trails.
- Doing educational programs, articles, websites, etc.

(We need a new state BCHU webmaster ... please volunteer!)



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We need a volunteer for the
next 2nd VP ... yes, YOU!