

NEXT MEETING:

Sept 13 at 7pm  
[Cottonwood Retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road \[4752 South\]](#)

NEXT RIDE:

Aug 17-19 PACK TRIP! (RSVP)

NEXT PROJECT:

Upcoming? Woodland / Bench Creek  
See p.2



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



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Hello All,

Summer is officially here. The travel season has arrived; the hot weather has arrived; and the FIRE season has arrived. With the early fire season please remember all the usual precautions and be vigilant about preventing dragging chains when towing trailers and RVs, as sparks can kick up and ignite roadside brush while headed down the highway, particularly in these hot windy conditions.

During these hot summer months keeping your horse well hydrated is a given. The old adage 'you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink' is so often true of my own horse. Many horses have no problem drinking anything anywhere anytime. Then there are horses like my Maddie who is a little finicky, so adding electrolytes to your water source is very useful (and often tempting to horses) during these hot summer

months. Providing access to clean fresh water also encourages horses to drink. Horses prefer water that is below air temperature, so placing water tanks in shaded areas will help maintain lower water temperatures.

Finally, with the travel season in full swing and most everyone busy here and busy there it has been decided to forego July and August monthly meetings (after speaking with several members), and reconvene in September. As news and updates on rides occur, I will forward that information to you by email.

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

— Paul.

## MOUNTAIN RIDGE BCHU 2012 SCHEDULE

*Come Packing August 17-19*

**August 9 Monthly Meeting NO MEETING, CANCELLED FOR SUMMER RIDING**

**August 17-19 Uintas Pack Trip**  
(Fred Leslie 801-553-1873  
fredleslie101@gmail.com  
/ Cindy Furse 801-581-9225  
cfurse@ece.utah.edu)

This is a fun opportunity to try that first time pack trip, expand your packing experience, or just plain have a fun outing with friends. If this is your first trip, contact Fred or Cindy for some pointers and help getting your gear and your horse ready to go. There is quite a bit of information (including lists of what to bring) on the BCHU Education page on bchu.com .

Fred will pack in the food and cooking gear. (Let Fred know if you have a second pack horse with space available.) You will need to bring your personal items on your own horse (sleeping bag, tent, clothes, etc.). Let us know if you need sug-

gestions for how to do this.

Horses will need to be high lined at night, so please bring or share a high line. We normally hobble them night and morning to graze, so plan to bring hobbles or similar. Let us know if you need help training your horse to hobble.

Meet at the Crystal Lake Trailhead at 9. We will plan to leave the trailhead at 10, but it might take us longer. Remember to stop at the fee station on the way up and get a parking pass for the 3 days we will be there.

Cost will be \$40 person for the food. If you have ever packed with Fred before, you know we will be eating well! **Bring a lunch for Friday.** The rest of the meals will be taken care of.

**Please RSVP by August 3, so we know how many are planning to go.**

**September 13 Monthly Meeting 7pm**

**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)

## WESTERN SADDLE FITTING

www.horsesaddleshop.com/howshoulifit.html

Thank you to the Horse Saddle Shop for letting us reprint this article on how to properly fit a Western saddle. There are several tree sizes: Quarter Horse (regular bars), Full Quarter (FQHB) also know as Wide Tree, Arab, Gaited Horse, Haflinger, and Draft Horse. You can download the templates to match them to your horse from their website above.

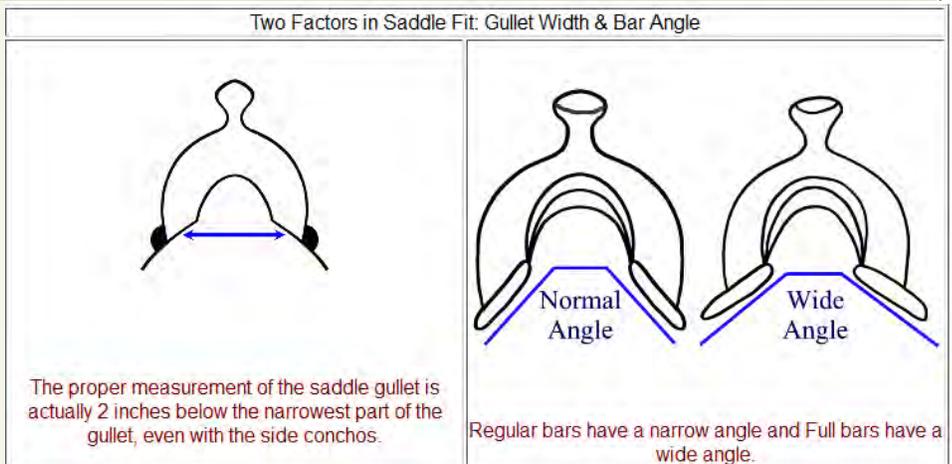
Quarter Horse Bar or Semi Quarter Horse Bar is by far the most common tree. It has a higher pitch as opposed to the flatter pitch for FQHB. It is for the medium back, decent wither and often mixed blood descent (1/2 Arab, Appendix or other mixes). Most of our saddles are semi qh/qh bars. QH/Semi QH bars usually have the higher pitched angles.

The [FQHB tree](#) (usually 7" gullet) is often used for the "Bulldog" Quarter Horse or horses with broad backs and sometimes mutton-withered Quarter Horses. The FQHB will usually have a flatter pitch than the QH/Semi QH bar.

[Arab saddles](#) are for Arabians they have a narrow (usually 6 1/2" - 6 3/4" width) gullet like the Semi QH but a flatter pitch angle like the FQHB - sometimes flatter yet, than the FQHB. [Gaited horse bars](#) have a higher gullet for high withered horses. They usually have a wider gullet front that narrows towards the back to allow shoulder movement. They usually have more rock. [Haflinger saddles](#) (7 1/2" gullet) are great for Haflingers or short backed mutton withered horses. Often have the flatter pitch and very little rock. [Draft Horse bars](#) (8" gullet), are for the large Draft Horses.

**GOAL IN FITTING:  
MAKE AS MUCH SADDLE  
BAR TO HORSE BACK  
CONTACT AS POSSIBLE.**

How much is enough contact? Two things determine this.



- 1. How much the rider weighs.** The heavier the rider, the more contact is needed. Vice versa, with a lighter rider, you can get by with less contact. Remember you are trying to distribute pounds per inch.
- 2. How much bar surface is available to evenly distribute weight.** If you have a saddle with small bars, then it is more important that all of that tree touches the horse for distribution. If you have a very large tree then not as much of it needs to touch the horse for weight distribution. Regardless of a small or large tree, a certain amount has to contact the horse for distribution.

There are two major areas of concern when fitting a saddle.

**1. Gullet Width:** In the saddle industry, there is no definition for tree width sizes. There are generic terms such as semi-quarter horse and full quarter horse, which give an idea of what type of horse the tree should fit, but there is no rule for measurement. Each tree builder has their own idea of what fits each breed of horse the best. There are several things to consider when fitting the wither.

**2. Width** If the saddle is too nar-

row, there will be contact at the bottom of the bar and not at the top. If the saddle is too wide, there will be contact at the top of the bar and not at the bottom.

**3. Bar Flare and Slope** If the bar is flat at the wither, it can cause the saddle to be pushed back as well as restricting shoulder movement. This is more evident with gaited horses. Bar flare can be evident in the front and rear of the saddle. As the front can restrict movement, the rear can dig into the croup if the rider is heavy and sits deep into the seat, or the horse is short backed, or sway backed. Each of these could cause sores if the saddle doesn't have adequate rear bar flare.

**What about padding-up or saddle pads?**

Good saddle pads can cause the saddle to fit better. There is much technology in the pad industry to help a saddle fit better and you should take advantage of that technology. Padding-up to help eliminate sores from a poor fitting saddle is not a good choice. For example, if a saddle is too narrow, padding up to buffer the pressure will make the horse wider which will cause more pressure.

## MEETING MINUTES (MAY 2012) BY STEPHANIE YEAGER

We'd like to **thank Lyle Barbour, DVM**, our speaker at the May meeting. He talked about several things but the main focus was on worming our horses and that 80% of the horses are low shedders and probably don't need to be wormed. He does a test called a fecal egg count, to show if your horse is high shedder or low shedder of internal and external parasites, bot flies, etc. And what wormer might be needed. Horses are becoming resistant to Ivermectin and they are seeing health issues like liver dysfunction in horses that are on a rotating worming schedule. The test costs \$15 that includes the wormer, if necessary, he does this

test at his house. Lyles contact information is South Mountain Equine, [www.southmountainequine.net](http://www.southmountainequine.net), [info@southmountainequine.net](mailto:info@southmountainequine.net) or (801) 884-8892. The test can be ordered online and paid for by PayPal and dropped off at his house. 3103 W. 14865 S., he has red cooler on his porch, that the samples can be left in.

Paul would also like to remind everyone about the fleece vests that he can order with the Mountain Ridge logo, he can order them in just about any color, but needs to have at least 12 interested people before he can place the order. The vests will cost \$26, but the MR logo can

be put on any article of existing clothing for \$8. Contact Paul Deputy at [pmdeputy@gmail.com](mailto:pmdeputy@gmail.com).

**Thank you to JCW's** for the donation of burgers and buns for the Dimple Dell project! They have restaurants in Lehi, American Fork and Provo.



## SADDLE FITTING – ENGLISH



English saddle fitting is not a lot different than Western saddle fitting. One of the best articles on this can be found at:

<http://www.doversaddlery.com/images/art/Equine%20Library%2033%20Saddle%20Fitting.pdf>

There are also several online videos, 'for both English and Western saddle fitting. Just 'google' English saddle fitting or Western saddle fitting.

One of the most common misconceptions about saddles is that you can use pads to improve their fit. Here is an excellent website that talks about why this is NOT true, and why you need to have a good saddle fit in the first place: [http://lorienstable.com/services/fitting/saddle\\_pad/](http://lorienstable.com/services/fitting/saddle_pad/)

Here is an example of a riser pad and why it doesn't help the saddle fit, and in fact makes it worse.



## 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 (closed)**  
**1606 Tuttle Loop**  
**1608 Parrish Creek**  
**1609 Farmington Canyon**  
**(temporarily closed due to slide, will reopen in the fall)**

**1611 Gold Hill (closed)**  
**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](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/uwcnf/maps-pubs)

Here is information from BCHA on Trail Classification.

[www.backcountryhorse.com/Trail\\_Classification\\_Assistance](http://www.backcountryhorse.com/Trail_Classification_Assistance)

## FITTING THE SADDLE TO THE RIDER

We read a lot about how to fit the saddle to the horse, but it is equally important to fit the saddle to the rider. Here is a particularly good site for Western riders: <http://www.your-guide-to-gifts-for-horse-lovers.com/saddle-seat-size.html> and for English riders: <http://www.doversaddlery.com/images/art/Equine%20Library%2059%20Saddle%20Selection.pdf>

Seat Length (shown measured here, photos thank you to USU) is just ONE of several considerations when sizing a saddle to the rider. The seat should fit so that 3 fingers fit between the fork/swell and the thigh and four from the top of the cantle to the rider's seat. In addition, the shape and angle of the seat is important to keep the rider balanced for the particular discipline the saddle is meant to support. This also con-

trols 'where' in the saddle the rider sits and how well balanced (forward/backward) this is for the type of riding he/she is doing. The location of the stirrups relative to the seat, and the rigging is also an important part of the balancing act. Longer stirrups tend to place less stress on the knees, but also may feel less secure to some riders. The size of the cantle has an effect on how much support the saddle offers and how deeply you can sit in the saddle. The height of the seat above the horse's back (a close contact saddle, for instance) has an impact on how the horse feels your cues and how you feel the horse.



# STRAWBERRY RIDE



## WHEN I AM AN OLD HORSEWOMAN

When I Am An Old Horsewoman  
 I shall wear turquoise and diamonds,  
 And a straw hat that doesn't suit me  
 And I shall spend my social security on  
 white wine and carrots,  
 And sit in my alleyway of my barn  
 And listen to my horses breathe.  
 I will sneak out in the middle of a summer night  
 And ride the old bay gelding,  
 Across the moonstruck meadow  
 If my old bones will allow  
 And when people come to call, I will smile and nod  
 As I walk past the gardens to the barn  
 and show instead the foals growing  
 inside stalls fresh-lined with straw.  
 I will shovel and sweat and wear hay in my hair  
 as if it were a jewel  
 And I will be an embarrassment to ALL  
 Who will not yet have found the peace in being free  
 to have a horse as a best friend  
 A friend who waits at midnight hour  
 With muzzle and nicker and patient eyes  
 For the kind of woman I will be  
 When I am old.



Connie Reeves (101 year old cowgirl) and her horse

-By *Patty Barnhart*

*Originally published in The Arabian Horse World magazine in 1992*

## 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](mailto: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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## STRAWBERRY CAMP & RIDE



In this crazy hot summer, with all of the fires, we had to make some changes to our plans to camp and ride at Blackhawk. The Forest Service had closed Payson Canyon, fearing the fire could come over the ridge. So we went to Strawberry instead. Yes, it was a hot summer day, but at that altitude, the flowers were still blooming, and the air was much better than in the city. We saw a large herd of elk cows and their calves, and heard but didn't see another. Also saw several deer. Larry Newton was also the lucky viewer of several moose the day before. It was Larry's birthday, so we were all glad he had that good luck. Happy Birthday, Larry!