

NEXT MEETING

April 10 at 7pm

[Cottonwood Retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road \[4752 South\]](#)

NEXT RIDE & PROJECT

March 22  
Puddle Valley (Paul Kern)

April 6 Service Project

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



Spring riding is here! I really haven't minded the warmer weather this past month - it makes it a lot easier to water and feed. We are looking forward to our first group ride this month on Saturday March 22. Hope to see a good group. I still need to take a drive out I-80 to determine the exact location, but we will let everyone know in good time (the choice was either Puddle Valley or the Salt Flats).

Don Bradshaw caught up with me over the weekend and mentioned that he had made up a few "bucking straps" that he would be willing to make available to

chapter members. Contact Don for more information

Thank you to Bob Campbell who spoke at our last meeting on Mormon Gold.

Please join us for the Puddle Valley ride this Saturday. It's a good time to get the horses out and start the riding season.

Looking forward to a great month!

Paul

## MOUNTAIN RIDGE BCHU 2014 SCHEDULE



**March 22 Puddle Valley**  
(contact Paul Kern)

Be ready to Ride at 10. Bring lunch and water. Bring water for your horse at the trailhead too, sometimes there is water on the ride, and other times not.

This is easy, sandy terrain, bare-foot horses should be fine. The ride is about 4-5 hours including a lunch stop, 10.1 miles round trip. This is a good training ride, and sometimes challenging, as the horses can see all of the other horses around them.

To get to the trailhead:  
Take I-80 west to exit 62. Turn right onto the frontage (dirt) road and go about 2 miles. Park in a large open area on the left. If you cross the RR tracks, you have gone too far.

[Googlemap to trailhead](#)

**April 6 Jordan River Service Project / Doris Richards**  
"Ride and Trim"

Meet at 9 a.m. at the trailhead located at approximately 13800 South 1300 West. Follow 1300 West south. It will go down a hill and curve several times but ends up in a very nice parking lot with about 16 designated trailer spots. The equestrian trail comes off that parking lot. We will work north toward 10200 South as we ride. Much of the trail is chipped and moved quite far from the paved trail.

Contact: Doris Richards: 801-694-4273 [ohioaninutah@gmail.com](mailto:ohioaninutah@gmail.com)  
Or Kristi Collins: 801-746-9271  
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**April 10 at 7pm Monthly Meeting** [Cottonwood Retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road \[4752 South\]](#)

**April 12 Mile Marker 10 Ride and CleanUp/ Perry White**

**May 3 Dimple Dell Service Project / Doris Richards**  
"Purge the Spurge"

Please join in this high-profile Salt Lake County project. Meet at Wrangler Trailhead at 8 am for sign-in.

Salt Lake County will start the morning out with dinks and snacks, discount coupons, drawings for passes, free plants and more. This is an "on-foot" activity which will take about 2 hours, leaving time to return to ride later! Contact: Doris Richards: 801-694-4273 [ohioaninutah@gmail.com](mailto:ohioaninutah@gmail.com)

**May 8 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**

**May 17 Sandy Pride Day Project / Doris Richards**

Details forthcoming. For those who can spend a few hours early in the morning, there will be some trail work in either the western part of Dimple Dell or Brandon Canyon area.

**May 31 Sheep Creek Ride & CleanUp / Scott and Doris Richards**

**June 12 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**

**June 28&29 Payson Canyon / Cindy Furse**

**July 10 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**  
**July 11,12 Strawberry / TBD**

**July 18,19,20 Uintas / Women's Pack In Trip & Pack Out Project / Gina Levesque**

**Aug. 14 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**

**August 16 American Fork / Larry Newton**

**Sept. 11 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**

**September 20 Old Ephraim's Grave / Bill McEwan**

**Oct 9 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**

**October 11 South Willow / Tom McEwan**

**Nov 13 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**

**November 15 Stansbury Island / Paul Kern**

**Dec 11 Christmas Party & Auction**

## A TRJECTORY OFF COURSE BY PAUL KERN

A hollow wrenchin' in the gut comes on a little cold,  
As you climb aboard that unbroke colt and go to take a hold,  
You know well what to expect and can feel it in each bone,  
So many have been broken, this feelin' is well known.

Though you hate for young horses to ply the buckin' trade,  
And do your best to hide from them this talent God has made,  
By sackin' out and round pen work and easy as she goes,  
But some just have a knack to launch a rider 'fore he knows.

They call 'em athletic, they're just heedin' nature's call,  
They've a well-formed hip and overstep and seem a little tall,  
Not mean by disposition just sensitive about the girth,  
Gotta get 'em past this so they can claim their right of birth.

Someone has to climb aboard and be willin' to pull leather,  
Could be you or maybe me, odd ducks of different feather.  
So you ask me what it's like atop a buckin' horse,  
And how it feels to lose your seat in a trajectory off course.

Well first of all I have to say that it'll nearly always hurt,  
To hit the ground at runnin' speed face down in rocks and dirt,  
In my time I've tried out gravel, pavement, dirt and sand,  
Regardless though the bruises come no matter where you land.

When you see him bog his head and hump his saddleback,  
And he's pullin' at the reins and hogs up all the slack,  
And fakes a lope to fool you just to catch you off your guard,  
It's too late to recuperate 'cause you're airborne now old pard'.

The highest that I've ever flown is five feet over saddle,  
For ten feet up and ten feet fore – and thus begun the battle.  
There are some things you have to know before you pick a fight,  
Some horses buck up leftwards and some buck to the right.

Somehow you need to figure out how landin' hurts the least,  
I light upon my left where I don't seem to get so creased,  
I've learned to tuck 'em in – my wrists into each arm,  
But never seem to walk away from havin' done a little harm.

At first when you take flight you think your life is at its end,  
Below you see your saddle movin' out upon your friend.  
The ground always seems to come up faster than it should,  
Your hip and leg hit first, then the other strikes like wood.

Your teeth all grind together as your head flops to the ground,  
Your eyes and ears fill up with dirt, you can't hardly hear a sound,  
You catch your wind and check your bones and try to find your feet,  
Your elbow rips through your sleeve and your face flushes with heat.

Your colt is still a buckin' like some demon straight from hell,  
But you know that in a minute he'll calm down for a spell,  
So you get back up and get back on and find he's good to go,  
You work him hard and work him fast - he's run out of fits to throw.



## WHEN THINGS GO WRONG



This article is dedicated to the runaway horse! What to do on the trail when things go wrong:

First, let's talk about how NOT to have things go wrong. It's spring. If your horses have been happily munching on bales all winter, they could be feeling just a little fat, happy, and (maybe) a little Wa-hoo! What can you do?

Start out on the ground. It's always better to start that way than end that way. Most horses these days have been trained with at least a little ground work — circling on the rope in or out of a round pen, changing directions and gaits willingly, backing and bending, turning, and more. It's a great time to add 'stuff' to play with. Bring out the obstacle course stuff like the ones we have had fun with in the spring (Pegasus Event Center) or the Saddlebred Obstacle course in October.

The tried-and-true process here is 'approach and retreat' where you bring your horse near the scary object, but only close enough that they begin to be nervous, not have a full-scale panic. Eventually you can bring the object to the horse,

stopping when it appears he is getting too stressed, and retreating or stopping to 'release' the pressure. Then approaching and retreating again.

Some trainers advise you not to talk to your horse, others tell you to talk to them. Do what seems to work for you. I talk to my horse, in calm tones, usually deep guttural tones (because that is the tone horses use when they are calm with each other), especially when they are stressed, and I am riding. The intention is to remind them I am there. After a while doing this as needed, you can often feel the horse relaxing.

Although I have not heard other trainers using this, I use a specific command 'touch it' to tell my horse I can see he is scared of it, but it is a safe thing, and we are going to go touch it to see. Eventually, they take this as a cue to relax. This is just another of mom's stupid ideas. It also helps horses to follow or 'chase' the scary object. Leading your horse behind you as you flip a tarp or bag around in front of you is a good way of desensitizing them to this unfamiliar object. This also often helps with vehicles, bikes, hikers with backpacks, dogs, and other scary, moving

objects.

The COLOR of each thing may matter to your horse. Some horses are afraid of things that are dark, others of things that are light colored. Let your horse sniff and smell the scary thing, and try to get them to approach the object, rather than bringing the object to them. Gradually, as they relax, rub their nose, cheek, neck, shoulder, ribs, hip, legs, etc. Always be aware of your position and if your horse is at all inclined to kick (or even if they aren't), stay near their shoulder until you know they aren't going to kick out at this strange and scary thing.

Teach your horse to back around objects, step over logs front-ways, back-ways, side-ways, any ways! This is a simulation of negotiating deadfall and branches, boulders, and more. Use the dreaded horse-eating tarp (you can get these at Home Depot) as a training aid for crossing water. Teach your horse to walk over it, stand on it, back over it, and more. Rustle it (now it makes a sound like blowing leaves and bags, and if you drag it towards you, maybe it is the porcupine in the bushes.

## REASONS FOR BUCKING

Wikipedia lists these common reasons for bucking (most of which can be solved by ... no surprises here! .. Good training and preparation.):

Bucking, though a potentially dangerous disobedience when under saddle, is a natural aspect of [horse behavior](#). It developed in the wild for the purpose of protection from feline predators such as [mountain lions](#), who would attack horses by dropping onto their backs from above. The process of kicking out with both hind legs, another defense mechanism for the horse, also results in a mild bucking movement. Thus, for a human to safely ride a horse, the horse has to be desensitized to the presence of something on its back and also learn not to kick out with both hind legs while under saddle. Nonetheless, because the instinct is always there, bucking can still occur for a number of reasons:

Happiness, such as when a horse bucks during a gallop because of enjoyment, or during play.

General excitement, such as horses that buck in a crowded schooling ring or at the beginning of a ride in a crowd of horses, such as an [endurance ride](#).

The rider's [aids](#) are causing confusion or fear in the horse, and the horse responds by bucking.

The horse is "fresh," having been kept up in a stall for a long period of time, and is releasing pent-up energy.

Pain, which may be due to an ill-fitting saddle or another piece of equipment, [tooth problems](#), or other medical issues.

Provocation, usually due to an insect bite (usually on the hindquarters) which the horse is trying to rid himself of, or in some cases a response to use of a [whip](#) on the flank or hindquarters.

Untrained horses may instinctually buck the first few times they have a saddle on the back if not given proper [ground training](#), and occasionally, even with proper preparation. This is an instinctive defense mechanism.

Having found that bucking the rider off results in not having to work, the horse does it to avoid his

exercise.

Disobedience to the [riding aids](#), when a horse does not wish to do what is asked by the rider. Sometimes this is due to poor riding on the part of the person, but sometimes a horse attempts to evade a legitimate request by bucking.

Rodeo [broncs](#) are used specifically as bucking horses, usually bred to be prone to bucking and encouraged to buck whenever a rider is on their back with the help of a "bucking strap" around their flank.

Fear of loud and noisy machines, like cars, trucks, trains, and planes. In response to the tragic injuries that have resulted, the American courts have uniformly held that "the needs of a modern, industrial society often conflict with and generally must prevail over the delicate sensibilities of horses."<sup>1</sup>

Ordinary riders need to learn to ride out and correct a simple buck or two, because it is a relatively common form of disobedience. Further, at times, movement akin to bucking is actually required of a horse: Horses that are [jumping](#) over an obstacle actually are using almost the same action as bucking when launching themselves into the air, it is simply carried out with advanced planning over a higher and wider distance. The [classical dressage](#) movement known as the [Capriole](#) is also very similar to the low buck done by a horse when it kicks out



with both hind legs.

NIGHTLATCH - FOR WHEN THINGS GO WRONG



pulls you away from the cantle, and provides a fulcrum for your "launch". I demonstrated Night Latches at your last meeting. I have made 40 since the first of the year. many of these are pre sold, but I made an extra dozen. I wholesale these to a tack dealer for \$20.00 (barely the cost of material--- Herman Oak has gone to \$265 a side) I will bring the extras (12 or 13) to your next meeting in MARCH. These are my "suitcase style handle latches" and they will not collapse. I have ridden with a night latch for over 20 years. One just might "save" you. I will sell

Craig Cameron says you should never get on a horse unless you have a night latch on your saddle. A Night Latch is a strap that goes over the top of the swell next to the horn, and buckles under the front of the gullet. A Night Latch works like a Buck-

ing Bronc Rig. It PULLS YOU DOWN INTO THE SADDLE SEAT, PUSHES YOU BACK AGAINST THE CANTLE, AND PUSHES YOU INTO THE STIRRUPS. When you "grab the horn" it lifts you out of the seat,

them for my wholesale price \$20.00. I want to get them on all BCHU saddles.

— Don Bradshaw  
[bradshaw0097@hotmail.com](mailto:bradshaw0097@hotmail.com)



## RIDING OUT A BUCK



Look closely at the anatomy of a buck. If you are centered in your saddle (both side to side and front/back), and lean back rather than forward as your horse bucks, you have a good chance of staying in the saddle. If you are properly centered over your horse's shoulder (your night latch can help you here), the motion of the buck is minimized. Bringing your horse's head up and/or to the side can help stop the next buck.

If your horse spins and bucks simultaneously, it is much harder to stay on, but you will still do better if you are sitting up and back rather than leaning forward and hanging on to the horse's neck.

If you lose your stirrups, think of jamming both heels towards the ground. This will help you keep your legs on either side of the horse. The natural response of many riders is to curl up like a ball, bringing your knees up more towards your body. This makes you clamp around the horse's barrel, and makes him more likely to keep bucking and or go fast. Pushing your heels towards the ground

gives you more stability, keeps you centered, helps you sit up in the saddle, and keeps 'one leg on either side of the horse'.

Also notice the location of the feet in

the stirrups. If your horse is bucking, you are likely to end up with your toes pointed towards the ground. This is a time when you will be glad you have 'proper' riding boots. Something with a heel that will catch on the stirrup can help keep your foot from slipping through and getting stuck in the stirrup. There are also a number of different safety stirrups available in both English and Western styles these days that open up or break away in case your foot does go through them. (See previous articles I've written for the BCHU newsletter.)

Most English saddles have stirrup bars that are set up to allow the leathers to release if a rider falls off and is being dragged. Check to be sure the little 'clips' are pointing straight back (to allow release of the stirrup leather) and not up (to hold it in place). Also be sure your leathers are smooth



## RIDING OUT A BUCK (CONTINUED)



and thin enough to pull off easily if you pull the leather to the back of the saddle. By contrast, the stirrup bars on Western saddles are fully enclosed and will not release the leathers. So, rumor has it that the cowboy boot was invented to allow the rider's foot to come out of the boot in the event it got stuck in the stirrup. So, basically, start with proper training and preparation. Be sure your horse is well trained for what you are asking it to do, and that it is physically and mentally comfortable, so it doesn't buck. If you haven't ridden your horse all winter, and you think he might be bucky fresh, you might consider having a professional trainer tune him up in the spring for you. There is nothing chicken about making a safe decision. The reality is, however, that most riders will eventually have to ride out a buck, so build your riding skills to handle this if you need to. Consider adding a night latch to your saddle, breakaway stirrups, boots, etc. Good luck, for no bucks!



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