



# Mountain Ridge

**Back Country Horsemen of Utah**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**May 10 at 7pm  
Equine Preventative Care — Dr. Lyle Barbour DVM**  
[Cottonwood Retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road \[4752 South\]](#)

**NEXT RIDE:**

**May 12 Sheep Creek (See p2)**

**NEXT SERVICE PROJECT:**

**May 5 Dimple Dell Service Project and Burger Burn (See p2)**

**May 19 Sandy Pride Day Project — Graffiti Clean Up (p.2)**

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



Hello Again,

The weather has made a shift and the riding season is in full swing. May promises us an early summer to enjoy many great rides.

The turnout for Saturday's obstacle course event and was a wonderful success. Many thanks to all that participated and contributed to a delicious lunch, as well as a special thank you to Ray Smith for providing the burgers. Please let me know what your thoughts are about making this an annual event.

For our May 5th work project we will be rebuilding the fence around the pond at Dimple Dell. Many volunteers are

needed to accomplish this, so if you can spare a few hours to help, please contact Fred Leslie at (801) 450-2905 or fredleslie101@gmail.com. We will meet at the Dimple Dell Amphitheater at 8:00 am and a lunch of burgers, brats, and drinks will be provided at 1:00 pm, please bring a dish to share.

Upcoming Thursday May 10th at our next meeting, Dr. Lyle Barbour will be joining us to discuss preventative health care, trailside emergencies, first aide, and barn injuries. Come prepared with your questions for Dr. Barbour. See you there!

—Paul Deputy

## MOUNTAIN RIDGE BCHU 2012 SCHEDULE

*Sheep Creek Ride — May 12*

**May 5 at 8am Dimple Dell Service Project Fence Build and Burger Burn**

**THIS IS A DATE CHANGE FROM YOUR CALENDAR**

Meet at Dimple Dell, SouthEast parking lot (amphitheater) at 8am

For all of us who have used the trails in Dimple Dell with our horses Saturday May 5 is the day we can repay a little for the fun times we've had there. We will be replacing the fence around the pond and repairing some of the amphitheater. We have all the tools lined up (generators, saws-alls, drills, chainsaws) but what we need in full force is YOU. We need lots and lots of willing hands. We're hoping for 30 plus helpers. Come with work gloves and a canteen and we'll put you to work. After work (noon) we'll be having a burger burn at the amphitheater, burgers, hotdogs and drinks will be provided any pot luck side dishes would be appreciated.

What will you get in return? Satisfaction you helping maintain the park you use with your horse and a full stomach at the burger burn.

We'd love you to be there for the full time but if you can only make an hour we'd love to get the hour.

Any questions call Fred Leslie 801-484-3253, 801-450-2905 or e-mail [fredleslie101@gmail.com](mailto:fredleslie101@gmail.com)

**May 10 Monthly Meeting 7pm Equine Preventative Care — Dr.**

Lyle Barbour DVM

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

**May 12 Sheep Creek Ride** (contact Steve Johnson 801 541-6008)  
**Be Ready to Ride at 10 am sharp!**

Bring lunch and drinking water. There is water on the trail for the horses. Ride is moderate difficulty, about 5-6 hours. Horses need shoes.

**To get to the trailhead:**

From I-15 south take exit 258 towards Price. Follow US 89 and then Highway 6 (Spanish Fork Canyon) to the Sheep Creek Turnoff, which will be on your left. This is marked with a sign that says 'Sheep Creek' and is very close to the Sinclair Station. Go up the road a mile and park on the left.

**May 19 Sandy Price Day Project: Dimple Dell Graffiti Removal** (Contact Doris Richards: 801-694-4273 [ohioaninutah@gmail.com](mailto:ohioaninutah@gmail.com) )

MRBCHU 2012 Sandy Pride project is removing graffiti in Dimple Dell Park. Those of us who ride in the park cannot miss the high concen-

tration of "tagging" on the 700 East bridge structure as well as the area west of the 1300 East tunnel. Sandy City and Salt Lake County maintenance crews have asked for our help in sending a message back at the taggers that their artistic "efforts" will not be a permanent part of the park. Given a solid crew of 10-12 people, this job should take about 2 hours. We will start at 8 am under the 700 East bridge crossing at Dimple Dell. Sandy City will provide materials. We need only to bring/wear old clothing and gloves. Be sure to bring water.

**June 14 Monthly Meeting**

**June 23 Bruce's Book Ride! North Willow** (contact Bruce Kartchner)

**June 29-July 1 Blackhawk** (contact Cindy Furse)

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TO

CAMP: <http://www.recreation.gov/>  
Look for Blackhawk, UT, and choose a site in LoopE, which is the only loop where you

can have horses. Site 11 is where I'm camped, and you'll see several others reserved nearby by BCHU folks.

**July 12 Monthly Meeting**

**July 14 Woodland / Bench Creek Service Project** (Larry Newton)

**July 19-22 Island Park** (contact Paul Kern) Please RSVP.

**August 9 Monthly Meeting**

**August — date TBD: Uintas Pack Trip** (ask Fred Leslie / Cindy Furse)

**September 13 Monthly Meeting**

**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)



**R I D E R S   N E E D E D   F O R   D A V I S   C O U N T Y   T R A I L S**

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**
- 1606 Tuttle Loop**
- 1608 Parrish Creek**
- 1609 Farmington Canyon**
- 1611 Gold Hill**
- 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\\_Program.html](http://www.backcountryhorse.com/Trail_Classification_Assistance_Program.html)

**T O O E L E   C O U N T Y   W I L D   H O R S E   A N D   H E R I T A G E   D A Y S   J U N E   7 - 9**

On June 7 thru 9, Tooele County and BLM will host the first annual Wild Horse and Heritage Days festival. Headliner will be Baxter Black on Friday, June 8 at 8:00 P.M. On Thursday, June 7 at 7:00 P.M., there will be a Pony Express Relay Race. It would be great if several Mountain Ridge Back Country Horsemen can put together some teams. The rules are attached. Hope to see you there.

<http://wildhorseandheritagedays.com/>  
For details and registration, click on 'Equestrian'

For more information, contact Diana van Uiter



## UTAH OVER-REACHING: EDITORIAL BY BILL COON

As someone who spends a significant portion of time on horseback exploring the backcountry of Utah, I can attest to the natural beauty of our great state and why I feel so fortunate to be living here. Whenever I travel out of state and tell others that I live in Utah, the response is typically something like this: "You are so lucky. That is such a beautiful state!"

So it goes without saying that the overwhelming majority of Americans will never have the outdoor experiences that we here in the Beehive State enjoy. No matter your outdoor pleasure, the opportunities that abound for me and my family and hundreds of thousands like us are something that we should not take for granted.

That is why the hair on the back of my head stands up when I hear the increasing political rhetoric coming from many of Utah's elected officials, including Gov. Gary Herbert, about how the federal government is "overreaching" by blocking Utah's ability to develop its "energy resources," or that Utah should take control of federal lands.

This is from a Legislature that couldn't even find \$500,000 last year to keep Edge of the Cedars State Park open.

Let's be clear. The 60 million-plus acres of federal land in Utah are owned not only by me and my kids, title is also held by every American, whether they live in Indiana, Florida, Iowa, New Mexico or Utah. This is a trust and a vision left by those before us that is unmatched anywhere else in the world.

Selling off or even leasing such lands for private development is clearly a violation of that trust, particularly when it's merely for speculation, as in the case of oil shale and tar sands. Most people understand that developing oil shale has been a card shark's game for nearly a century.

Now, as we enter an election season, many officials, including the governor, are using higher gas prices as political fodder to 1) discredit President Obama, and 2) build support from an ignorant public for speculative leasing of large tracts of public lands for a very marginal source of energy.

Consider this from Herbert's Facebook page: "The Federal Government is blocking Utah energy development. \$4.00 gas looms as a result." First, it's been said over and over. Gasoline prices are based on the world oil markets. A president has little if any effect on current gas prices.

Second, opening up large tracts of lands in Utah or Colorado for oil shale and tar sands leasing, as was done by the Bush administration, was a true overreach into the public good, a real land grab, and a major gift to corporate corruption. It accomplished one thing only: pad the balance sheets for speculators looking to attract investors.

Considering that heating rocks into a viable motor fuel is still years away (in spite of erroneous assertions), claims that such development will help alleviate the cost of \$4 gasoline today are disingenuous at best. Worse, it's an outright lie and any politician who makes such a claim knows it's a lie.

Third, the Bureau of Land Management's current proposal to scale back previous lease acreages is the smart thing to do because it guards the public resources from being hijacked by a few profiteers and speculators. In addition, it protects some of those special outdoor places that are held in trust for all Americans, not just a handful of political donors.

Allowing politicians to give away public resources for private interests is bad policy. Managing our beautiful public lands in the West for the good of all is good policy. The public deserves nothing less.

Bill Coon lives in unincorporated Salt Lake County west of Herriman. He is a past president and member of the Back Country Horsemen of Utah, and a past member of the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Advisory Council.

# OBSTACLE COURSE RIDE APRIL 21, 2012



Lots of fun at the Pegasus Event Center in Grantsville. Thank you, Ray Smith, for organizing this fun event. There were plenty of obstacles ranging from easy to downright difficult. This was a lot of fun!



OBSTACLE COURSE (CONTINUED)



## TIME TO INSPECT YOUR TRAILER HITCH!



It's spring again! Time to inspect your trailer hitch! After the obstacle course ride, Gina, Pat, and Sue had a nasty scare. On Bangerter, as they pulled away from a stop, they heard a sudden crash/drag/scrape. The factory-installed heavy-duty hitch on Gina's '92 pickup had pulled loose. The horse trailer was still attached to the ball, and the safety chains to the hitch, but the hitch was no longer fully attached to the truck. A very nice gentleman stopped and helped them get the trailer (with the 3 horses) disengaged from the truck, went home and got his truck (and the right sized trailer ball), and pulled their horse trailer to the barn for them.

In hindsight, Gina had noticed a few symptoms in the past (for several months, or longer). When starting out, the trailer always seemed to have a

little lag before it really engaged with the truck. She thought this was the trailer brakes catching, but it wasn't... And when stopping, there was a little bump sound, which she thought was the hitch in the receiver, but it wasn't .... So, now is a great time to climb under your truck and carefully check out your trailer hitch, and the attachment to the truck. Look for rust, cracks, bends, damage. Cracks in paint often signal stress cracks in metal or welds. Thanks for the reminder, Gina! And we are glad that all people & horses are safe & sound!

## 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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## SPRING TRAILER INSPECTION



**Tires & Wheels** — Do they have enough air (check your truck, too, and both spares)?? Also check for lumps, bumps, obvious sidewall damage. How about tread? Is it time to grease your bearings again?

**Tongue and Hitch** — Are they in good shape? Any bends, breaks, cracks, dents? It's a good idea to grease your ball and coupler to keep them in good working order. Also may want to oil your jack, especially if it is getting harder to crank. Obvious signs of wear are shiny places (like uneven wear on your ball, check to see what is causing them), and cracks in the paint, which signal stress points on the trailer.

**Undercarriage** — Inspect all points of welding on your trailer for rust, cracks, or damage. Look for stress cracks in the metal, anything bent, broken, cracked, or damaged. Consider regular cleaning and painting for rust.

**Brakes** — Have your horse trailer brakes professionally inspected regularly. Also test the breakaway break to be sure the battery is charged and the system is working (pull the pin and listen for the breaks closing). Be sure your brake controller is working and adjusted. When you put on the brakes, there should be a smooth braking well matched to your tow vehicle. You should not feel your trailer pushing your car (turn up your trailer brake controller), or the trailer braking the truck (turn it down a little). Read your controller manual for details and suggestions of how to adjust this well. Remember the adjustment depends on the load, so getting it just right with an empty trailer does not mean it is just right for a loaded trailer. Another note about brakes. Utah has a lot of really mountainous roads, which both wear your brakes quickly and can make them heat up and become ineffective (never a good thing!). Use your transmission whenever possible to help slow you down, especially on long, steep inclines.

**Wiring & Electrical** — Check your wiring (also those running under and through the trailer for damage). Be sure all the lights work. Corrosion in the connector (on the trailer and/or truck) is a common problem, easily remedied by cleaning. Burned out LEDlights are also common if you bounce your trailer along dirt roads a lot.

**Floor and horse compartment** — Remove and clean the mats. Check for hazards, including worn, cracked, or rotting floor boards, anything loose, rough, or protruding. Also look carefully for wasp nests ... they love my trailer.

**Funny Noises** — And, as Gina's event reminds us, if you do hear or feel something funny, stop and check it out. Have a Happy and Safe Trail Ride!