

NEXT SERVICE PROJECT:

Sept. 18 Hemangog Trail project (p.6)

NEXT RIDES:

Sept 25 Soldier Hollow (p.6)

NEXT MEETING:

Dutch Oven Cooking
Thur Sept 9 at 7pm

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

THANK YOU!

Ray Smith for hosting the Bryce ride!

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Mountain Ridge

Back Country Horsemen of Utah

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

Last July as Fred Leslie, Bruce Kartchner and I rode past the ranger patrol cabin at Bridger Lake in the Teton Wilderness Area, a old-time packer lazing around in the sun chewing the fat with the rangers and a couple of buddies called out to us "Hey - who tied that diamond hitch?" He was impressed with Fred's mustang pack horse and the pack that had held together through some pretty rough country.

We had ridden through areas of old growth timber, open meadows with meandering streams, through high country tundra, over the continental divide through a small glacier and down a steep canyon passing a thousand foot waterfall to the headwaters of the Yellowstone in the most remote area of wilderness in the lower forty-eight. Not only are the trails challenging, they are long. By the end of our 125 mile jaunt, we had forded streams belly-high to the horse, navigated steep switchbacks, crossed the continental divide several times, reached elevations on horseback of a little over 10,500 feet and spent long days and long miles in the saddle. This deep in the wilderness, there is no one to help if you get in trouble. You are on your own, period. Maps tend to be accurate, but still vary from the reality of the trail. GPS distances in the mountains are only relative since they are calculated as the crow flies and do not take into considera-

tion the heaves and the dips of the actual terrain. Both horse and rider need to be in shape. The packs and equipment have to hang together.

The value system of the wilderness with its notions of self-reliance, competency with back-country stock, the appreciation of God's primal workmanship, seeking out the unknown, the ability to defend, protect, feed and shelter yourself in remote areas, the ability to navigate difficult terrain, physi-



cal conditioning and inherent ruggedness of mind and body – are disappearing in our wired and pixilated society about as fast as a ten dollar bill in a Walmart parking lot.

These values are held by most

backcountry horsemen. These values are the driving force in keeping trails open and the backcountry accessible for stock use. Keeping these values and passing them on to the rising generation is a motivational force for BCHU. It is the values of the wilderness that keep the whole thing together in the same way that a good diamond hitch keeps a sawbuck pack together.

When we make a credible effort in maintaining our backcountry values through service and through actual use of the backcountry, people take notice – a little like the old timer on the porch at Bridger Lake, who was impressed with the double diamond hitch. A diamond hitched pack horse is an icon in my mind of these wilderness values that will keep it all together through the ups and the downs and the jostling of the trail

— Paul Kern

The Diamond Hitch

BY ARTHUR CHAPMAN

When camp is moved, at break of day,
 Then comes old Packer Bill--a king
 Who rules, with most despotic sway,
 The while he loads the pack-mule string;
 "Now, stand off, fellers, give him room!
 Now, let the critter buck and pitch;
 That load will stay till crack o' doom
 'Cause Bill has slung the diamond hitch."
 The helpers stand in trembling awe
 And watch the ropes weave round the pack;
 The artist's lightest word is law
 While strong and deft hands show their knack;
 A false move condemnation brings--
 "This noose must go jest thus and sich;
 No tenderfoot must bobble things
 When Old Bill slings the diamond hitch."
 Old Bill is gone--and o'er the ways
 His caravans trailed in the past,
 The engine thunders through the haze
 That hangs above the prairie vast;
 But ere the dawn of life is fanned,
 Disclosing land of fence and ditch,
 I seem to see the pack-mules stand
 While old Bill slings the diamond hitch.

LEARN HOW TO TIE
 A DOUBLE DIAMOND
 HITCH

WWW.BCHU.COM
 (CLICK ON PACKING)

Need a Pack Saddle to Tie a Double Diamond On?

Selling a couple of sawbuck pack saddles and some pack gear, and a couple of saddles, one a youth and the other a riding training saddle. Lots of miscellaneous tack, including blankets, saddle pads, head stalls, reins, bits, halters and ropes, a free standing 4 place saddle rack, a 16 foot square portable corral, saddle, cantle and pommel bags, easy boots, hobbles, picket lines, new hard panniers, an old antique wall hanging saddle (not for riding now) and many other other items. If interested call Hugh Jacobs at 801-785-8781.



Fred Leslie and his beautiful double diamond (ask him how, I'll bet he'd show you!)

M R B C H U M E E T I N G M I N U T E S – A U G . 1 2 , 2 0 1 0
P A T W I L S O N , S E C R E T A R Y

Present: Phyllis Allen, Tom Smith, Pat Wilson, Sandy Williams, Ray Smith, Doris Richards, Tom and Becky Roc, Fred Leslie, Parry White, Paul Deputy, Celeste and Bruce Reitling, Bob and Lisa Baker

Paul Kern absent. Ray Smith called the meeting to order at 1907.

No minutes to discuss.

Ray: Paul Kern is urging all members to keep track of their service hours and to turn them in. He would like to remind members that work counts that you do to pick up trash and trim and do trail upkeep even if it isn't an actual Unit organized event. These hours go to the state organization and then to the national organization which is then used as a lobbying tool to help keep trails open nationwide to horsemen everywhere.

Fred Leslie: Fred reported that the Corduroy Project went very well. Four chapters participated, ours included. Twelve people with pack horses showed up for the work day as well as one rider with a string of mules. They were able to make two trips a day which was very good to move the bridge planks. These planks were 2"x4"x4' and 9 to a bundle. This required technical packing of the pack animals at the take off point and then careful loading at the endpoint which was 3 miles up a very steep and rocky trail.

Sandy Williams and Paul Deputy: Sandy and Paul reported on the Island Park ride. Diana's horse got badly injured somehow with the fence line on the first night so Diana was unable to go on any of the rides. The prognosis is that her horse will eventually recover to soundness. Sandy reported that she did see a couple of wolves. On the second day the group rode into Yellowstone Park.

When they returned to the trailhead the ranger was waiting there for them to check their papers. Everyone was legal!

Ray Smith: Ray reported that the upcoming Bryce Canyon ride is taking shape. He said so far just a few people are signed up to come. The group will camp at Ray's place in Bryce. He has a bunkhouse, hot showers and a kitchen. There is a possibility of a potluck on Friday night.

Ray Smith: Ray reported on the Jordan River Parkway Project that he has heard nothing from Envision Utah. He states that interest groups are being denied access to the meetings.

For soaking a foot he feels a mixture of 50% apple cider vinegar and 50% H2O has a good Ph. balance and is good for soaking. He feels Epsom salts can be too drying and once you use a solution you need to make more as the Ph. will change.

Do NOT use any kind of "paint" on the outside of the hoof wall. All it does is pull moisture out of the hoof and doesn't let any outside moisture into the hoof.

Chad likes Jim Richens Foot Formula #1 to toughen soles IF you use anything.

Chad recommends using plain salt as the salt supplement for your horse. Mineral blocks frequently contain too much iron.

C H A D M O N T E E – H O O F C A R E

Chad Montee reported on Hoof Care. He brought cadaver feet to demonstrate his points. He does between 200-250 trims a month. He stated that the most important aspect of hoof care is diet and that most diets, supplements, treats are too high in NSCho (non-structural carbohydrates). He states that most hays are missing the four essentials needed by the horse for good feet: copper, zinc, omega 3 and niacin. The best option is to get you hay analyzed.

The back of the foot is everything in the foot and the horse. A foot takes 4-5 years to develop. Shoeing before this time restricts the development of the foot.

Black anywhere on the foot is a flag that something is wrong. You are developing thrush. **"See black? Go on the attack!"** Chad feels that the foot needs to be cleaned thoroughly. Use your hoof pick and then use a solution of 2 Oz. Lysol in 1 gallon H2O **OR** 1 part bleach to 10 parts H2O to clean thoroughly and to treat. Chad feels the commercial preparations like CopperTox are too harsh.

Equipride is a recommended mineral supplement. It is available at Steve Regan's.

You should trim your horse every 4-6 weeks without fail. If you see red rings or ripple rings on your horse's feet you have a diet imbalance.

Quarter cracks in a hoof are due to the distal arch being trimmed out of a hoof. Trimming like this throws the pressure in the hoof on the wrong area. Several breeds have a natural distal arch, Arabians for one.

Cold sunny days usually mean the highest sugars in your pasture. This means your horse will get too many NSCho (non-structural carbohydrates).

If you use a boot to ride in either all the time or during a bout of hoof issues **BE SURE** to use packing or padding of some sort or you really haven't changed anything in terms of comfort for your horse.

Meeting concluded at 2035.

BRYCE CANYON RIDE BY RAY SMITH



I was concerned Wednesday when I arrived to get everything ready for the ride. It rained all the way down the highway and was in the mid 60's when I arrived and then all that night it rained and put on one of the most spectacular light shows I have ever seen. But the next day the sun came out and just continued to improve from there. The temperatures were in the mid to upper 70's for all of our rides and there was no wind or clouds. I had several people indicate that they were going to come down and ride but we ended up having a small group of 9 riders.

Each day we shuttled our trucks to the bottom trail heads so we could ride the full length of the trails. We rode the Thunder Mountain trail on Friday which begins on top in the Ponderosa and Bristle cone pines and then winds its way down through the most spectacular red rock country you can imagine.

Several of the new member ladies stayed and boarded their horses at Ruby's Inn but we all got together on both Friday and Saturday nights for bar-b-qued hamburgers, with fruit salad, fresh made fruit pizza, lemon cake and all the trimmings.

On Saturday Paul Deputy's horse had developed a sore back and laid down on him every time he tried to get on. So Paul loaded up and went home while the rest of us road the Butch Cassidy trail from Red Canyon north where we picked up the Rich trail loop which tied into the Losee trail. The Losee trail is a very easy trail following the river bed down the canyon and twisting through the giant hoo-doo's and rock formations. We had great rides good food and made new friends. I wish more could have made it, but it was a perfect weekend.



MOUNTAIN RIDGE BCHU 2010 SCHEDULE

*American Fork Rides — Sept. 18 and Oct. 23*

Sept 9, Monthly Meeting, 7pm
[Cottonwood Retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road \[4752 South\]](#) Dutch Oven Cooking w/Rinda Black. Rinda will bring a special desert treat, info and recipes.

Sept 18, Hemangog Trail Maintenance (Bob & Lisa Baker 801-631-8058)

Be in the saddle by 8:30 am at the trail head at the end of the Corner Canyon road above Orson Smith Park. The parking is very limited and fills early with cars. The early start time is to combat the parking. If riders can consolidate, we can use less space at the trailhead.

The first section of the climb to the trail is really steep and rocky. At the end the climb, the Hemongog trail is similar to any High Uintas trail with spectacular views.

We will work to clear the over growth

and repair damage from the winter run off. We usually do trail work until around 12:30 then ride to the Hemongog and have lunch, explore, then arrive back at the trailers around 4:00.

To the trail head: Go to the round about at the bottom of the hill on 13 th east and 12300 south. Drive east to 2000 east and turn right (south). Travel to the Orson Smith trail head/ Corner Canyon gate, about three blocks. Drive up the dirt road to the end.

Sept 25, American Fork Ride (Bob Baker 801-631-8058)

Meet at the Horse Transfer Station up American Fork Canyon. Be ready to ride by 10. We will ride up to Silver Lake in the Lone Peak Wilderness area. the trail is steep and rocky in places, but I think it's a moderate rated trail over all. If we get a lot of riders then we can split into

smaller groups, as the wilderness area is small group access. The ride is about 5 hours with lunch.

To get to the horse transfer station: From I-15 Alpine/Highland exit 284, travel east on Highway 92 to American Fork Canyon. Go 5 miles up the canyon and turn north at the Tibble Fork Reservoir sign. Continue 1.5 miles to the north end of Tibble Fork Lake, and staying on the paved road, go west 1/2 mile to the horse trailhead on the right side of the road (large paved parking area above the road with a forest service bathroom). Cost to enter the canyon is about \$6.

Oct 14, Monthly Meeting, Horse-First Aid (coordinator: Cindy Furse)

Oct 23, American Fork Ride (Pat Wilson/Tom Smith) weather permitting.

Meet at the Horse Transfer Station (see above) ready to ride at 10:00a.m. As this is the hunting season please plan to wear **Hunter Orange**. If there is the interest there will be two rides offered : a slower, shorter ride for those who don't want to go so far so fast and a longer, faster ride for those who wish to move out. Please bring your lunch and your drinking water.

Oct 29-30, Antelope Island Bison Roundup (30th) / opt campout (Paul Kern)

Nov 11, Monthly Meeting, Bare Foot Trim (coordinator: Tom Smith)

Nov 20 weekend (tentative), Wild Bunch-Robbers Roost Ride (Bruce Kartchner)

Dec 4, Stansbury Petroglyphs Ride (Paul Kern)

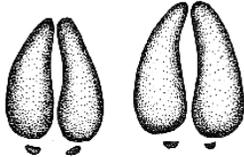
Dec 9, Christmas Party (Tom Smith)

ANIMAL TRACKS

From

www.bcadventure.com/adventure/wilderness/animals

Tracks - The mule deer has a distinct "bound" in which all four feet come down together as if on springs. The tracks will vary from a rough "V-shape" while running to a straight line with slower speeds. The track varies according to the surrounding landscape. In soft, woodland areas the print is more pointed and on harder ground where the hoof may be worn, the track may appear with a blunter tip. The hoof print may be described as two paisley shapes facing one another with smaller "dots" of the dew claws at the wider end of these paisleys.



Straddle: 15.5 cm (6.2 in)
 Stride: 50 - 61 cm (20 - 24.4 in)
 Track: 8.5 cm (3.4 in) long / 6.5 cm (2.6 in) wide

The key difference in distinguishing the gallop of the white-tailed and mule deer is while the mule tends to bound as if on springs, the white-tailed deer "rocks" by swinging its hind feet ahead of the front ones. The white-tailed deer is known to drag its hooves between steps creating troughs between each print. The hoof print itself is nearly indistinguishable from that of the mule deer.

Straddle: 15.5 cm (6.2 in)
 Stride: 33 - 50 cm (13.2 - 20 in)
 Track: 7 - 9 cm (2.8 - 3.6 in) / 4.5 - 6.5 cm (1.8 - 2.6 in)



DEER

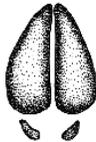
Deer Tracks

Use Deer Tracks to Determine What Type of Deer You are Tracking

- 1-1/2 in.  Fawn
- 2 in.  Yearling Doe
- 2 -1/2 in.  Adult Doe or Yearling Buck
- 3 in.  2-1/2 Year Old Buck
- 3-1/2 - 4 in.  3-1/2 Year Old & Older Bucks

Scat: The scat of all of the cloven hooved mammals is oval pellets that depends on the size of the animal. It can be difficult to tell elk and cattle tracks apart, but the flat 'cow pies' are a dead give away.

ELK (WAPITI)



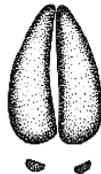
Tracks - The track of an elk is larger and rounder than that of a deer and somewhat rounder and smaller than that of a moose. Look for blackened, rough bark on aspen trees to distinguish the elks habitat.

Straddle: 20 cm (8 in)
 Stride: 65 - 70 cm (26 - 28 in)
 Track: 10 cm (4 in) long / 7.5 cm (3 in) wide



Front (running)

MOOSE



Tracks - The moose track is slightly larger and more pointed than that of the elk and similar in shape to a deer's but twice as large. The track may be blunted if the ground is rocky and hard, making it more difficult to distinguish from the elks. A typical print is of two pointed pear shapes with the tips closer than the wider bottom.

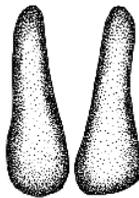
Straddle: 23 - 26 cm (9.2 - 10.4 in)
 Stride: 60 - 85 cm (24 - 34 in)
 Track: 16 cm (6.4 in) / 14 cm (5.6 in)



ANIMAL TRACKS (CONTINUED)



MOUNTAIN GOAT



Tracks - The track of the mountain goat is similar to that of the mountain sheep. The toes spread giving the track a square shape with a V in front. The mountain goat tends to drag its feet creating a trough between prints. This is particularly noticeable in the snow.

Straddle: 16 - 18 cm (6.4 - 7.2 in)
 Stride: 38 cm (15.2 in)
 Track: 6.5 cm (2.6 in) / 3.5 cm (1.4 in)

Traces of Elk Eating and Scraping: Tree bark pulled off. Peeled spots higher than three feet and with deep tooth marks. Likes to wallow in mud puddles near the "scratching tree" where he rubs himself and where the mud and hairs stick. "Scraping trees," typically pine sapplings, where he beats his antlers first to remove the velvet and later playfully or excitedly when he is in heat, stand along his usual run. The antlers are shed from February to March; the antler scraping time is midsummer. The higher the marks on the tree and the stronger the tree, the larger and more powerful the stag. Moose have similar scratching trees, but on weaker trees and not as high. The moose does not wallow in the mud and therefore has no trees for scratching. The moose kicks up earth and grass when in heat, but the elk does that all the time. The stamping spots of the moose are much more noticeable, lie closer together, and the ground is completely barren and stamped down solid. Loses antlers later than elk.



So? How can I tell the difference between an elk track and a young cattle track? The tips on the cattle track are more rounded. Mature cattle make larger tracks than elk, and much rounder tracks than moose. Look for cow pies / elk poop. Also, cows and elk SMELL very different.

More cool info, including recorded elk sounds: <http://www.elk-hunting-tips.net/elk-sign.html>
 Another good tracking resource: www.wildwoodtracking.com

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
BCHU.Com

HOW TO JOIN BCHU

The membership form to join Mountain Ridge BCHU is in the January newsletter. This is on the web at www.BCHU.com. Go to the Mountain Ridge chapter page, click on Newsletter Archives, then January 2010. It is on the last page of the newsletter. OR contact Cindy Furse (cfurse@ece.utah.edu) 801 581 9225,

ASHUA COMPETITIVE OBSTACLE COURSE!

Saturday, October 2, the American Saddlebred Association of Utah is sponsoring their annual competitive trail ride/obstacle course in Dimple Dell Park. If you have competed recently, you will receive an announcement. We will also have entry forms posted at the park, IFA, Horse Crazy, Callisters and other outlets. Contact Doris Richards if you want to be added to the mailing list: 801-694-4273 or ohioaninutah@gmail.com

SANTA AND ELVES NEEDED!

The Mountain Ridge BCHU Christmas Party and Auction are coming December 9. We need helpers for the dinner (decorating and setting up tables, cooking, cleaning up) and donations for the auction. Please contact Tom Smith (801 254 5570) to volunteer or if you have suggestions for companies to request contributions from (just to be sure we don't have 72 people asking the same corporate donor). And please start cleaning out your closets and tack rooms early! Clean used items, new items, donations of services, etc. are always welcome. These can be things that are horsey (we all do have horses, of course), or just fun stuff for around the house, gift items, etc. So make room in your closets before the holidays, and then plan on some creative Christmas shopping at the BCHU holiday auction. All proceeds go to Mountain Ridge BCHU and are used to purchase equipment, materials, etc. for our trail projects and activities.

