

And a Good Experience Was Had By All

So you're tired of hearing about all the wrecks we have, and how funny we think those wrecks are....

Well, truth be told, for all the rides we go on, and all the people that attend those rides, we actually don't have very many wrecks at all. And we *certainly* don't think the wrecks that do happen are funny. We all have quite a bit of horse/riding experience amongst us, and what we laugh about is somebody with a lot of riding experience coming off their horse. But the laughing and razzing and kidding only starts long after the wreck is over, and we know everybody and every horse is okay. And then, yes, we do invoke the name of that French guy, U. Dumass, and give the wreckee a raft of razzin' about coming off his/her horse. But all in all, we respect and care about all our fellow riders, and know that at any time it could be *me* getting dumped instead of the other guy. And we actually do try to avoid those negative situations when we can. Read on.....

It was the first ride of the season, out at Celebration Park, which is a good place to ride even with snow on the ground or in rather inclement conditions. I was excited; I had a new horse that I'd only ridden a couple of times around the pasture, and I woke up in the middle of the night thinking of getting to ride her for the first time out on a trail!

The day dawned clear and chilly; a perfect day to keep the bugs at Celebration Park at bay. Loading Lexie in the trailer went well; a good first sign. Trailering was uneventful; a good second sign. Pulling into the parking area at the park, there were tons of rigs and people and horses! Wow, I'd never seen that many rigs at a ride before!! Evidently Lexie had never seen that many people and horses in one place at a time either; she was very excited. So I

unloaded her, lead her around a bit so she could see and smell things and get used to it, then I tied her to the trailer to finish tacking her up and get ready to go. It was still chilly and now it was breezy too; the type of day fresh horses like to snort and cavort and strut their stuff.

And Lexie was strutting her stuff!! So much so that I was getting a little concerned about how she was going to behave on the ride. When we got ready to go, I had Leon hold her while I tried to get my foot in the stirrup to get on. Leon was having trouble holding her, and I couldn't get my foot in the stirrup because of all the fidgeting she was doing. I stepped back from her and said to the people waiting for me, and watching, that I thought maybe I'd better just take her home and ride her in familiar surroundings. I kept thinking of all the big rocks along the trail and how much I would NOT like to fall off a horse and hit my head on one of those boulders.

Then Rob came up with an alternate plan: I would ride the little horse he was ponying along for the exercise, and we would pony Lexie instead, so she could go on the ride and get used to all the other horses, people, and hubbub. Perfect!

So that's what we did, and it was an excellent ride. I enjoyed it immensely, Lexie did great and was a perfect angel on the trail, Rob's horse got experience ponying an unfamiliar horse, and a great experience was had by all!

(p.s. Look ma, no wrecks)

Now then, the Back Country Horsemen of Idaho 2013 Convention is coming up this month—the 15th & 16th –and you all should plan to attend that shindig and have a good time, too. The theme is “Partnerships Clear Trails”; it's about how one group can't keep all the back country trails open by themselves and we all need to Partnership Up (kind of like Cowboy Up, Cowgirl Up) to get the

job done. There will be some bang-up speakers, some good vendors, some totally awesome door prizes to be given away, and some truly remarkable items that will be auctioned off. There will also be a nice dinner, good folks to try to get along with (if you're inclined to try to get along with people), and I'm pretty sure you'll hear some lies and tall tales (if you're inclined to listen to lies and tall tales [or tell a few yourself]). There will be a Cowboy Poet to entertain us. I doubt he'll get into any o' them-thar lies er tall tales, but, ya jest never know.

Anyway, come on out to the Convention and share your partnership ideas with everybody. It'll be good to see you! And we all may just have a good experience, too.

Janine Townsend

President

SBBCH