



THE ULTIMATE HORSE COURSE

9700 Clarkston Rd. Three Forks, MT 59752 | 406 285-3541 | www.montanahorses.com

UHC Extreme Trail Challenge Competitions

Course Mission:

The Ultimate Horse Course is a permanent trail obstacle course located at the Mantle Ranch (home of Montana Horses) and open every summer on Saturday and Sunday by appointment. It was designed as a training tool to expose horses to a wide variety of different trail elements – natural and manmade, to help riders improve their trail horsemanship, and to facilitate communication between horse and rider in a challenging environment that simulates many of the natural challenges you will find in the mountains and out on the trail. Throughout the year, in a non-judged, non-timed environment, riders are encouraged to utilize the Course to work on horsemanship, train, and positively improve communication and confidence with their horse. We also encourage people to utilize the Course to showcase sale horses, to train young horses, expose horses to new environments, to conduct training sessions with friends or clients, and to hold club or group outings.

COMPETITIONS are an opportunity to showcase your trail horsemanship and your horse's abilities and to earn money. They should be considered suitable for riders and horses that are well trained and comfortable under pressure. Please note: Our Competitions are not intended for beginners. Safety is our #1 consideration. If you are unsure of your competency level, or that of your horse, avoid the competitions and spend some relaxed training time on the Course another day.

BASIC COURSE INFORMATION:

The Course is located 14 miles from the services of Three Forks. Be sure to arrive with plenty of fuel, food, and feed. There is no cell reception at the ranch, but the ranch telephone can be used 406 285-3541.

Directions: Off I90 take Exit 283, the Logan Exit. Turn north off the interstate and then west (L) onto the Frontage Road. Take the first right (N) onto the Logan-Trident Road over the Gallatin River bridge and follow that road for four miles. At the Y, veer right onto Clarkston Road and continue six miles to the ranch entrance.

You might want: 1.) Fly spray for you and your horse. 2.) Feed and water buckets if you plan to stay awhile. 3.) Raincoat or jacket. 4) Lunch, water, snacks, drinks, etc. (There is no food at the ranch, but we're a 10 mile drive to the best steak in Logan and great restaurants in Three Forks.)

There is running water on the Course, and hydrants, hoses, and a wash rack at the corrals. Pens and hitch rails are available, as well as cabins or camping. There is an outhouse at the Course entrance and bathroom in the office.

We have two RV hookups (elec & sewer) with pen for \$25 per night. Primitive camping is available at no charge or in your trailers. Pens are \$5 per night—you provide feed and buckets, let us know well in advance and we'll set them up. Cabins are available for \$75 per night.

The Course is designed as a backcountry Western trail riding challenge course. Expect to encounter downtimber, branches, trees, brambles, deep water, mud, weather (sun, heat, wind, rain), and possibly rattlesnakes, bees, and poisonous plants. Appropriate clothing and tack should include a long sleeved shirt, heeled boots, hat to keep the sun off your face and branches out of your hair, and a saddle with a horn (if you plan to utilize the dragging portion, a rope is provided). We recommend riding with a halter/lead on, or have the ability to tie your horse away from your trailer. The footing is soft and can be wet/muddy, so unshod horses are okay, though we always recommend shoes. We do not recommend using boots because of the thick mud. Everyone is entitled to wear protective equipment without penalty and we encourage exhibitors to do so.

An Observation Loop runs through the center of the Course. Spectators may walk the Loop and observe most of the Course while remaining outside of the Course progression. Participants may walk the Course prior to the beginning of each Division, but no horses are allowed on the Course or the Loop on the day of Competition.

Well behaved dogs are welcome if they stay with you at all times and do not fight with other dogs. Dogs are not allowed with you on the Course during competition. **You, your horses, and your dogs WILL come into contact with others. You assume and understand the risks of these encounters. (This could include contagious diseases, unspayed/neutered dogs, and misbehaving animals or people.)**

So far, everyone has been respectful and cooperative and this has been a really nice group of people and animals enjoying the Course. **We do not see the need to regulate common sense.**

Divisions/Fees:

The **Novice Division** is intended for individuals who have never competed in an outdoor extreme-type challenge, who are riding a horse that has never competed in a challenge, and for anyone/horse who has **never ridden or practiced on the Ultimate Horse Course**. It is suitable for "first-timers." It is also intended for children under 14yrs old. \$55 entry fee.

The **Open Division** is intended for all others, or anyone who wishes to compete in this Division. \$75 entry fee.

\$25 from each entry fee will be retained for Course administration (\$5 from this will benefit www.projectspirit.org) the remaining amount will be placed into the "pot" for prize money. There is no additional money added. First, Second, and Third places will be awarded in each Division. 1st place will receive 50% of the pot, 2nd place will receive 35%, 3rd place will receive 15%.

A rider may enter twice, using two different horses. A horse may only be ridden once in a day's competition.

Scoring/Judging:

There are 25 judged challenges. All challenges can be passed by (avoided). Each challenge has a possible score of 10. 5 points are possible for the rider and 5 for the horse. A perfect score is 300. The agility pattern (obstacle #15) is worth 20 points (10/10), be sure to memorize and understand the pattern. The backcountry portion (obstacle #22) is worth 50 points (25/25) and may utilize a judge's assistant.

5 EXCELLENT: The horse/pony/mule and rider approach and negotiate the obstacle in correct form with definite style. The horse performs in an efficient manner with curiosity and athleticism. The rider is confident and able and displays familiarity and ease with the obstacle. The horse's/rider's performance over the obstacle is visually impressive.

4 GOOD: The horse/rider approaches and negotiates the obstacle in correct form with noticeable style. They definitely display many qualities of a good trail horse and rider and their performance over the obstacle is visually attractive. This horse/rider may display some qualities of the ideal trail horse/rider, but may lack those qualities to the degree they are exhibited by the Excellent performer.

3 AVERAGE: For the most part, the horse and rider approach and negotiate the obstacle in correct form. Minimal style is exhibited. If the horse's/rider's performance displays any qualities of the ideal trail horse, they are negated by errors in form. The horse's/rider's performance leaves a visually neutral impression.

2 POOR: The horse/rider fails in some way to approach and/or negotiate the obstacle in correct form. There is a noticeable void in some of the qualities of the ideal trail horse/rider. Control may have been compromised but safety was maintained. The horse exhibits noticeable resistance to the rider or the rider exhibits noticeable inability to communicate with the horse.

1 VERY POOR: The horse/rider approach and /or negotiate the obstacle in unacceptable form, but avoids elimination. There is a definite deficiency in the qualities of the ideal trail horse/rider. Safety may have been compromised. This horse's or rider's performance is reckless, careless, and/or dangerous. The horse exhibits significant resistance towards the competitor's commands. The rider exhibits significant inability to convey commands to the horse.

0 REFUSAL: The judge instructs the rider to proceed to next obstacle after 3 refusals to negotiate the obstacle or after the judge determines it is unsafe to continue attempting the obstacle.

COURSE CHALLENGES: #1 – Gate; #2 – Cavelletti (walk, trot, lope); #3 – Wooden Bridge over water; #4 - Log Jump; #5 – Railroad Tracks; #6 – Backing Down and Up Incline through marker logs; #7 – Jumping Off Embankment; #8 – Jumping Up Tables; #9 – Barrel Bending and Flag Race; #10 – Half Barrel Jump with depressed tarp prior; #11 – Log Drag around barrels (rope provided, you must be able to pull heavy log); #12 – Mailbox with crinkly bags; #13 – Barrel Pattern (classic cloverleaf pattern); #14 – 2' Standard Jump; #15 – Agility (sidepass over log to left, pivot on hindquarters, back through L, sidepass over log to right, pivot on front quarters), #16 – Downtimber; #17 – Raincoat on while mounted; #18 – Tie horse at hitchrail, return raincoat; #19 – Off-side mounting from block; #20 – Downtimber jump; #21 - Slick Rock down and then up stairs; #22 - Backcountry Trail portion – this is worth 20 points (10/10) - it includes mud, dismount/remount, low trees, in between trees, possible bees, water crossings, marked trail, etc.; #23 – Deep Water Crossing; #24 – Bag of Cans drag forward and back; #25 – Car Wash, walk through hanging tarp next to waterfall.

There are 6 judges, who judge in zones. They are looking for horses that can maneuver through a course of obstacles with physical skill, expression and a good mental attitude. The horse should travel through and between obstacles with inquisitive desire to go forward without compromising its calm, relaxed attitude and way of going. It should approach each obstacle squarely with authority and correct form, with its own style, yet maintaining its willingness to be dictated completely to by the competitor with no apparent resistance.

Riders are staggered 15 minutes apart. You will draw for your start time on the morning of the competition. Your Course run will be timed, and you must complete the Course below a very generous par time (this is simply to discourage "training" during competition). The par time will be announced the morning of the competition and is generally around 35 minutes for Open, and 40 minutes for Novice. Time will only be considered in case of a tie.

Schedule: 2011 Challenge Dates—July 16, August 20, September 10

When you arrive, park and check in at the office before unloading. You will turn in or sign a Risk Acknowledgment Form and pay your entry fees at the office. Tie your horses to your trailer in the parking lot and use it as your "base". You may use the covered deck at the office for breaks or the shady picnic area on the Course.

8-9am - OPEN Division Registration

9am - Judges meeting with all Open Division Riders. Draw for start times.

9:30am - 1st OPEN rider begins. Riders depart every 15 minutes.

1pm – Lunch Break (There are no concessions on site, please bring your lunch)

OPEN DIVISION AWARDS PRESENTED

1-2pm - NOVICE Division Registration

2pm - Judges Meeting with all Novice Division Riders. Draw for start times.

2:30pm - 1st NOVICE rider begins. Riders depart every 15 minutes.

5:30pm (or following judges tally)

NOVICE DIVISION AWARDS PRESENTED

A **TRAIL CHALLENGE COURSE CLINIC with Kail Mantle** is available this summer on June 18th. Clinic cost : \$150. Instructed by Kail Mantle, these small group clinics allow you and your horse to spend the day working on each element and the horsemanship necessary to perfect the obstacle. Individualized instruction is concentrated on proficiency at recreational level as well as competition suggestions. Lunch provided. (Participation in clinic or lessons disqualifies participants from competing in the NOVICE division.)

Ultimate Horse Course management holds the sole right to dispute & settle any and all issues and our determination will be final and binding.