

Sawtooth Pack Adventure June 2014

Saturday, August 19 was the start of a 6 night, 7 day pack trip back into the Sawtooth wilderness. We all meet at the Grandjean overflow horse camping area. There were 5 riders and 9 horses to help us in this great adventure.

Sunday Day One: We began with a five hour trip into Lake Baron, All the pack animals were calm, and knew there jobs. The scenery and weather were awesome. Setting up and tearing down the camp every-day is the hard part of traveling from lake to lake. But, it is in that work that you learn all the ins and outs of packing and traveling the trails.

Monday Day Two: We made our way over Baron Pass to Alpine Lake. Over 9,000 feet up with switch backs and rocky footing. Our horses were sure-footed and made the trip in great time. We did take a cross cut saw and had to use it to clear large trees from the trail when we could not ride around them. We had to bring it out a couple of times and without it we would had to turn around on our second day.

Tuesday Day Three: On to the Crammer Lakes. Three lakes in a row that are picture perfect and have a great waterfalls that had the cameras clicking. We had a great light show that night with mother nature using thunder and lightning to wake us in the early hours of Wednesday morning. The horses took the noise and ruckus like a non event.

Wednesday Day Four: We got on the trail that morning and went over Crammer Pass, another 9,000 plus pass and on to Hidden Lake. Snow, switch backs, disappearing trail and rocks made this part of the journey slow. There were a lot of hikers mostly young people. They all were respective of the stock and even though the trail was narrow we passed each other with out any problems. We made good time, so we decided to go on to Ardeth Lake and give the stock a whole day to rest and eat.

Thursday Day five: We enjoyed the lake with walks and just stayed in camp, read or talked. We were not allowed a camp fire so that great part of the outdoor packing trip had to be imagined. But, mother nature kept us entertained with views, small animals and waterfalls. Bill caught a fish and it was a great addition to our meal that night. We did not skimp on the eating part of the trip, with pork roast, steak, fiestas, and such, we all enjoyed every bite.

Friday Day Six: On to Elk Lake. The pass to get over to the last leg of our trip was a piece of cake. It took us a good six hours to get there but with Spangler Lake, Rocksilde Lake, to our backs we encountered a large snow slide had taken about a large portion of trail out around Bennett Lake. We had to decide how to get around it or go back. Our scout, Rob, found a way to cross the creek, go out and around the slide and then recross the creek back to the trail. It worked really good and we were on our way to rest, dinner and brownies for desert at Elk Lake.

Saturday Day Seven: Up and going, as we had a long leg of the trip to finish at the trailer. We had a pack malfunction on Misty and had to stop and repack her, but the last leg went pretty much like clock work. A lot of hikers at the bottom of the trail and our animals were pretty hoof sore with the amount of rocks they had to deal with. They were going to get a lot of rest time at home. We made it out and were heading for a hamburger at the Sourdough Lodge by supper time.

A great time was had by all and as I have said before, if you want to have a great pack trip, have Rob plan it and of course ask him along!!!