



## *What?... Me ... procrastinate a Llama Christmas?*

OK ... OK ... OK ... I'm here now! BJ & Mike have been on my llama butt to get workin' on our Christmas letter. It's been soooo nice out in the hay field. The grass out there is a lot longer than usual. And besides, how am I suppose to tell what date it is if they don't hang a calendar out in the shed. You'd think humans would know better if they want somethin' done by a llama.

It's been (8) years and counting being the famed editor of this letter. Yeeep, me... *Titcomb Basin 7<sup>th</sup> Wayfarer!!!*

Life here at the **Wayfaring Traveler Ranch** hasn't been half bad this year. Mike let the hay field grow until the end of July. When the dogs would go out with BJ for a walk through the field they acted like frogs. The grass was sooooo high they had to jump up or I guess it's called bound to see where they were going. Man ... that was funny to see those two go bloop, bloop, bloop ..., ha, ha, ha .....

I did a bad thing and got loose in the hay field when the grass was sooo high. Lucky I'm a tall llama I had no problem, but it did come up to the top of my back.

Another year for BJ & Mike to cut our wool. They choose ½ the herd of us to do it to. Lucky I was out in the pasture when they were doing it. When a bunch of my llama buds came out to pasture I was laughing pretty good at them. They looked pretty goofy and their cut wasn't too good either, so they must be like me when I have mine done. I'm not the most cooperative llama. Mike says I get what I deserve.

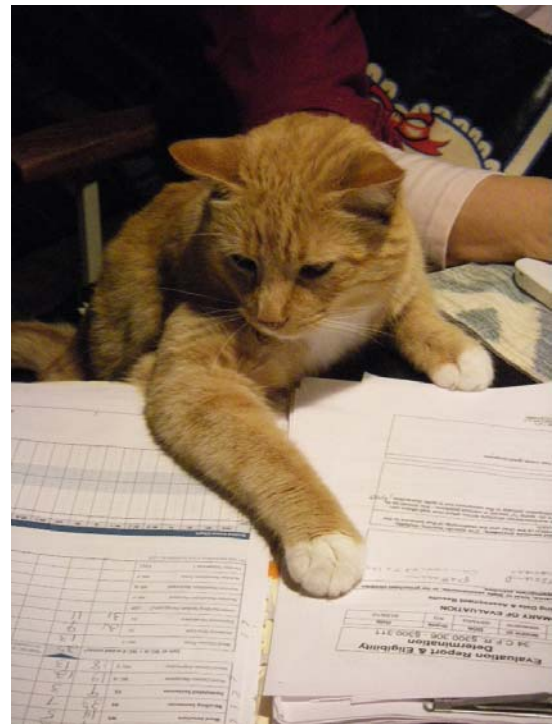
Howard K & Spunky took a trip to the Beartooth Mtns with a family in early August. They said they had a good time except for the mosquitoes that came out in force. Seems the melt off of the snow in that high country just occurred at the end of July.

Speaking of July .... We llamas didn't go to Cody for their 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. BJ & Mike were off to southeastern Wyoming attending an Encampment for the Civil Air Patrol cadets and got back on the 4<sup>th</sup>, soooo maybe next year we might be able to do it again because .... I guess ... this Encampment thing will occur in August.



Then ... there is this 2-Socks character. Seems he wanted to help out BJ with her school paperwork. He figured he had a better method of sorting the paperwork than BJ did.

Then he gets a kick out of watching us when we are getting sheared. He gets into one of the feeding bins and watches us suffer. Sometimes ... I hear .... It gets soooooo bad he has to close his eyes. Remember what I said about the tall grass in the hay field? ... well .... It's my understanding that 2-Socks went out there to do some mouse huntin' an didn't come back for 3 days. He must-a got lost out there.







Hey there ... this is **Mike**. Life in 2011 ain't half bad. Turned the **BIG 60** this year. Still substitute teach @ 4 school districts, still a volunteer fireman for Burlington, still do Search & Rescue for Park County, still the cheapest labor for the ranch, still handle the Search & Rescue for WY Civil Air Patrol, still work wildland fires with a private enterprise call "Dragon Fighters", .... **and still** .... BJ's biggest pain-in-the-butt.

January had BJ & I attending the Riverton Fire School. Got more training on keeping safe through tough fires.

In February I got called out to do a rescue for two

female ice climbers. Was just about under the covers on a Saturday night when the call came out. I traveled to Cody to get the assignment. Drove 50 miles to the jump off spot. Sent in 2 of our teammates 3 miles up Deer Creek to assess what the main group of us needed to lug into the wilderness. All we knew was the two climbers had not returned when planned. We had no idea what the situation was so we waited until the advance team assessed the situation. One gal had fallen 200 ft on a climb. Five of us ended up hauling a stretcher, with all gear for High/Angle rescue, 3-1/2 miles back through deep snow. We started at an elevation of 6,400 feet and climbed to 7,800 feet. Took about 4 hours. Luckily we didn't have to do major climbing. We just packaged her, hauled her up a 50 ft cliff and pulled her out the 3-1/2 miles to the waiting ambulance finishing at 4:00 pm. An hour back to the Search Hall, debrief, and then another hour home. It was a long time being up without sleep, from 6:30AM Saturday morning to 10:00PM Sunday evening.

A week later BJ, I, and the dogs headed up that way and attempted to reach the same place. We were less than a 1/2 mile from the spot and run-into snow slides and snow slopes that were 50 degree or greater angles leading 40 ft down to a drop-off of 150 ft. With no ropes or ice axes we turned back. Of course the dogs have built-in crampons and are willing to continue.

Had a bunch of Aircraft lost this past year that I coordinated the search for Civil Air Patrol. All had no survivors. Had some good results with lost hunters ... all found.

The only fun I had this summer .... I attended WY Wing Encampment for CAP along with BJ @ the end of June. She wasn't the camp commander this year but took the Admin position while I had my TACO position again. While she was in Virginia for 3 weeks I took care of the ranch. Cutting hay, baling, and stacking I did by myself.

I took off for 3 weeks in July and flew my plane out to eastern Pennsylvania and attended CAP's Hawk Mtn Ranger school. Got to teach a lot of different skills and had sometime on the rappel tower. After ... I flew from Pennsylvania to Laramie, WY to participate in a Search & Rescue Exercise. BJ didn't know I was going to be there .... So it was an amore meeting!!! YEP .... Love surprising her!!





Had a job fighting wild fires this year. Had a week long gig just north of Cody; a 63,000 acre fire. Most of my time was spent working nights monitoring the fire's spread or working small mop-ups. Fun ... and got paid for it.



In October a hiker/fisherman didn't come back from a day trip in the Beartooth Mtns. We did not find out about it until 3 days later. The search went on for 3 weeks in some hard country with a search area of 1 x 3 miles wide, and had a river valley that was 1,200 ft deep. Weather was from clear blue skies to rain/snow during the time. Found the individual lying at the base of a cliff down along the river; a hard place to reach.



**BJ here**, not much else to say as things are basically the same as last year – the year before and the year before that .... work, Civil Air Patrol, gardening and trying to keep up with 2 puppies who are now FINALLY growing up. We did not grow produce to sell this year at the Farmer's market so we cut our garden in half. It was a wet spring and we got additional rain during the early growing season so the weeds really had a hay-day. I am always amazed at how well they can grow. We had a bumper crop in just about everything we grew, and my freezer and extra refrigerator are now well stocked. The staff at school appreciated my gifts of cucumbers, squash and carrots so not much went to waste.



We had some water damage under the kitchen sink this fall due to a dripping osmosis system that we did not catch. The short story is that due to the damage we need to redo the whole kitchen.



We were hoping to salvage the fronts of the cupboards but the cabinet person said that it would be very costly so we opted for new cupboards entirely. It will be nice to have a remodeled kitchen, hopefully by the end of January. Our living room ceiling will also be scraped of the dirty and yellowed acoustic material and a ceiling fan installed. Guess we get to live in the guest house for a while so the contractor and cabinet maker can do everything they need to do.



As always, I am still very involved in Civil Air Patrol. We just had a recruiting drive this fall and brought in 5 new cadets and 3 senior members. Hopefully, we will finally get some help with the program and maybe we can give up some of our jobs. It continues to be a fairly rewarding volunteer job although I threaten to quit several times a year. Guess I will stick it out for a while yet.

Take care everyone. Happy holidays!



Now that all these humans have finished with their renditions I can get back to the MORE important STUFF.

We've had some interesting fall weather. As you can see in the pictures we've got some snow and with it came some



moisture that made the ranch look kind-a neat. Mike says the stuff is called "horror frost". I thought "horror" meant something BAD. Somethin' is kind-a wrong naming it that. In my llama book it looks pretty.



Lastly .... I've got some bad news .... The Dad to all the llamas born here on the ranch except for me .... **Zasu Wayfarer** is no longer here but in llama heaven. He still is the GREATEST Llama EVER!!!! He was the 1<sup>st</sup> on the ranch to obtain the Master Packer rating. Mike says Zasu beat out every challenge at pack trials. In the parades Mike would put Zasu at the back to push all the llamas along. Zasu loved to be out packing with Mike. Zasu would get off his lead but NEVER go off wondering like the other llamas. Now Zasu joins Meiko (St. Benard) and the two can chase each other.



Time to go. So..... from us llamas: **Maggie, Tymico, White Knight, Seneca, Turret, Nichaja, Titapa, Granite Peak, Stroud Peak, Mt. Osborn, Sinara, Esparado, Klondike, Sensay-Su, Bola, Groucho, Spunky, Howard K, Coco Man, Shasta, Bridger, Zorac, Chinar Wing, Breeze Boy, Torrey Creek, Jenny, Sir Rado, Magnus, Mandarin Chocolate, Ethan, and Tenacious**



From that small dog **Josie**, and the two strange brothers **Torin & Sasha**  
From the lean/mean/crafty **2-Socks**.

From the **GONZO duo: Thunder and Lightening**, and that **Cheyenne** (Now 10 yrs old)  
**And**, can't forget those Lt Col's **Mike and BJ** who keep this menagerie together.

Last but not least, from the BESTest editor WTR has ever had: Me!!!! ... **Titcomb Basin 7th Wayfarer**

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**See ya'll guys.**