

Goat Tracks



Journal of the Working Goat - Winter 2019

Until You Have Loved an Animal, Part of Your Soul Remains Unawakened. --Anatole France

The indoor life is the next best thing to premature burial. --Edward Abbey



Nan & Phil Hassey on the Hunt for the (Elusive) Yule Log

Page 17

Also in this issue:

Page 5-7: Land Use Issues

Page 8-11: An Update on the Status of the Old Irish Goat, Lauren Hall Ruddell

Page 12-13: Why I Now Carry, Taffy Mercer

Page 17: Traditions Old & New, Nan Hassey

Page 20-23: Hiking the San Rafael Swell, Taffy Mercer

Page 25-26: Dwite Sharp Flashback... in better times

Table of Contents

Page 3 - On Track With Goat Tracks	Larry Robinson, Idaho City, ID
Page 4 - The Mailroom	
Page 5-7, Land Use Issues	Misc
Page 8-11, An Update on the Status of the Old Irish Goat	Lauren Hall Ruddell
Page 11 - Winter Management for Your Goats	MSU Extension
Page 12, Why I Now Carry	Taffy Mercer
Page 12-13, Editorial on Carrying a Weapon	Larry Robinson
Page 13, A Goat Rescue	FB from Italy
Page 14-15, NAPgA On the Road	Taffy Mercer
Page 15, Goats die after eating donated apples	
Page 17 - Traditions Old & New	Nan Hassey
Page 18 - Kane Lake, Copper Basin, Idaho	Larry Robinson
Page 20-23 Hiking the San Rafael Swell	Taffy Mercer
Page 24 - Chocolate Chunk Pumpkin Seed Cookies	Submitted by Taffy Mercer
Page 25-26, Dwite Sharp Flashback	Farm & Ranch Living Magazine, June/July 2015
Page 27, 29 - Big-Rough-Long-Round Nonsense	Larry Robinson
Page 28, Packgoat Marketplace	
Page 30 - The North American Packgoat Association	
Page 31 - Working Goat Directory	

Goat Tracks

Published four times a year
Subscription: \$24 per year, \$46 for 2 years
(paperless subscribers save \$4)
Canada: Add \$4/yr, Foreign: Add \$12/yr

Publisher

Larry Robinson

Editor & Contributors

Larry Robinson, Lauren Hall Ruddell

Training Consultant

Lauren Hall Ruddell

4H

t

NAPgA News

NAPgA Board

Contact Information

Correspondence and phone calls to:

Larry Robinson

13 Norwood Place

Boise, ID 83716-3283

(208) 331-0772

larry@goattracksmagazine.org

Back Issues

(Some Paper Issues are Available. Contact Larry)

All back issues are available via the Goat

Tracks DVD, or 2CDs

\$60, 1995-Present

Deadline Dates

GT Issues are produced the first week of, March,
June, September & December.

*Deadlines are 10 days prior to the 1st of those
months.*

Disclaimers and Copyright Information

The content of Goat Tracks is at the discretion of the editors. Submissions are subject to editing for clarity and space. We are not responsible for loss or damage of unsolicited materials. Views of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of this journal and its staff. None of the material may be reprinted without the author's or artist's permission.

Items submitted to Goat Tracks retain ownership of the original submitter. No article once submitted to Goat Tracks will be expunged from that Goat Tracks issue after publication.

This publication is open to all advertisers. Ads appearing herein should not be interpreted as an endorsement of those products by this journal or members of its staff. We retain the right to refuse ads containing fraudulent or misleading information.

On Track with Goat Tracks

by Larry Robinson



Hard to believe that hiking, at least here in Idaho, is all over again for this year. It seems to take forever to get started (July 4th or thereabouts), and is over sometime in the fall (Highly variable here in Idaho, sometimes September, sometimes November). Sadly, in spite of the fact that we had superior weather until almost December, I was not able to get out again after my last trip in September due to the need for major work to be done to prepare for winter, which I got done the day before the first snowfall on November 27th.

It was a good year for hiking all things considered. Starting with snowshoeing in January, and ending with the last hike to a favorite hot springs in late September. One of the blessings of hiking in Idaho is that there just doesn't seem to be an end to new places to hike to and explore. One of the gentlemen in my church recently brought up some lakes in the Sawtooths that for some reason have been completely off my radar. Rest assured that they are now on the list for 2020.

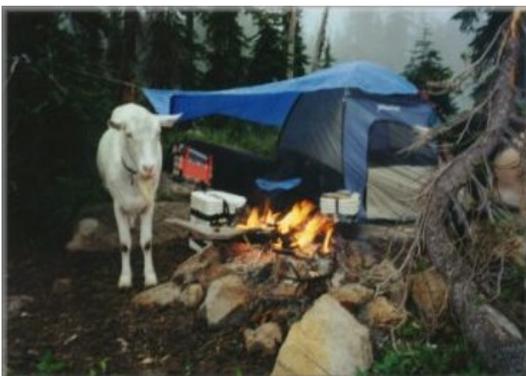
Land use issues continue to be at the top of the goatpacker's attention at least here in the western half of the US. It is becoming more and more obvious that for the goatpacker, constant attention needs to be given to the machinations of the land use agencies as they are required to update their land use plans every so often, at 20 year intervals I believe, and goats always seem to be at the top of their list of things to 'rule against' if there are any Bighorn Sheep anywhere in their forest.

One of the recent useful resources that surfaced vis-a-vis land use, is the website URL for the Forest Service's *Schedule of Proposed Actions*. This is a good way to find out what is coming up in any of the contiguous United States, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Interestingly, Hawaii is not listed. Did they secede?

Humor aside, all contemplated land use plan revisions are listed here and accessible by a few mouse clicks. <https://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/>

A lot of great articles as always in this issue. There are a couple that are a bit long, but tell great stories. I hope y'all enjoy the magazine.

I am always looking for folks to describe their goat-travels here in Goat Tracks. I have a lot of my stories on backlog, but you are going to get real tired of just reading about me! Please consider sending me a narrative of your adventures. I can edit like mad, but can't describe your travels!



Goat Tracks Advertising Pricing

		Per Issue	Year
Business Card	2x3-1/2 or 3-1/2x2	10.00	30.00
The 'Square'	3-1/2x3-1/2	15.00	45.00
1/4 page	3-1/2x4-3/4 or 4-3/4x3-1/2	20.00	60.00
1/2 page	3-1/2x9 or 7x4-1/2	35.00	105.00
Full page	7x9	50.00	150.00
Classified, per word, contact info counts as one word		.20	.60



A recent fun message from Karen Bean, Maple Falls, WA, a frequent contributor to these pages...

On the 4-wheel drive to one of my normal local hangouts, a tree climber had gone up, well above head-height, to post a "Please Do Not Instagram This Area"...I'm afraid a bit too late.

That day I encountered young people who should not have been on that trail (4 high as kites, in shorts and flip-flops... I saw them as the sun was setting - no flashlights, of course; and one young man head down in his phone, where there is no reception, probably reading a download)...Sigh... I wouldn't mind if they had not decided my campsite was "another road-side attraction"... one tried to pet Balder (the bully boy), even when I said "don't touch him".

Their hand hurt... But the mountains here were lovely, and I had a nice time.

Hope all's well out your way. After doing an October run to Oregon for honey I barely beat out a snow storm in the Cascades. So on Nov 1 I had my snowtires put on... we promptly had the warmest 14 days in November in years.... I take full credit. Karen puts snowtires on, result: no snow.

Karen

A Packgoat Registry

At packgoats.com we are trying to work on a official "pack goat registry" as well as a system where people looking to buy goats have a place they can go to "order" their proven pack goat stock. With Dwite Sharp does and bucks dispersed across the west and "packgoats.com approved" genetics we will have a way for people to trust (based on proven evidence) that the stock they are buying will have a high success of being good packers. For people wanting to know how to reserve their kid packer visit this link. <https://packgoats.com/goats-for-sale/>

Blessings,

Marc Warnke

PackGoats.com

208-867-6675



How to Get Rid of the 'Buck-in-the-Rut' Smell

This recipe works for removing both the buck in rut smell and/or if your animal gets sprayed by a skunk.

Dawn dishwashing liquid

Baking Soda

Hydrogen Peroxide

Mix the Dawn and baking soda in a bowl until it makes a paste, add the hydrogen peroxide so it still remains thick (too much makes it thin). Thoroughly scrub yourself (or your animal) in the areas that are "contaminated." Rinse well.

Taffy Mercer



Heather Driver ▶ North American Pack Goats Association- Discussion Group

3 hrs · 🌐

I live in Western CO. Lost my sweetest little goat (and the first one we had) to a mountain lion the day before returning home from a vacation. I had someone checking on them twice a day. Supposedly it happened during the DAY. His name was Gizmo. He was a rescue whose personality stole my heart. Had him a few years, and he had even recently started carrying a tiny pack on our hikes /backpacks and was always in front. I will be getting the fence at least extended 3 feet taller and adding more electric lines (already had one). Adding loops of barbed wire , too, as I found evidence that the cat entered the fence by climbing over a corner. We'll add more lighting, sound alarms, etc.. Horribly tough lesson to learn... Hold your goat babies close. I certainly will take ideas as to what you folks do that works for you to keep Cougars away... 😞



Land Use Issues

GMUG National Forest Plan

On Friday September 20th, Nan and Phil Hassey from Rye, Celia Adamec from Salida, Chris Cook from Montrose, and Vicky Jordan from Bellvue met in Delta, CO with several Forest Service team members who are working on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest plan. Back in July we had an overwhelming response from NAPgA members objecting to their proposal to ban packgoats throughout the GMUG forests. The planning team was shocked by our massive response and has been very open to working with us. The head of their planning team came to the meeting in September along with one of their wildlife biologists. The meeting went very well and we were given plenty of time to speak and to answer their questions and concerns.

Neither the GMUG team leader nor the biologist was familiar with packgoats or their behavior, so we spent time educating them about the unique bond packgoats share with humans, along with the many measures we take to mitigate any possible wildlife/packgoat encounters or incidents of lost packgoats. We addressed their concerns about disease and were able to point out that the only supporting document concerning domestic goats that was used in the GMUG plan was one that showed goats in a favorable light (Foreyt, 1994: <http://media.nwsgc.org/proceedings/NWSGC-1994/1994-all.pdf>). We also discussed the commonly-used Hell's Canyon and Silver Bell Mountains disease outbreaks that are unfairly used against packgoats.

The team was impressed with our extensive knowledge of goat diseases and the research papers that deal with them, as well as with NAPgA's emphasis on education, training, and Best Management Practices. We left the GMUG team with a sheaf of scientific papers along with the entire Shoshone objection filed by our lawyer, Andy Irvine. It contains arguments against the various sheep and goat research papers that are being unfairly applied to packgoats. We also left them with some of our NAPgA BMP cards and packgoat fact sheets.

After the formal meeting, the team leader accompanied Phil and I to the parking lot where we introduced him to our packgoats and showed him our equipment, the goats' various forms of

ID, health papers, registration papers, etc. There's nothing like seeing a packgoat in person to realize that these aren't "throw-away" animals that are only marginally cared for. These are sleek, healthy, well-trained goats with a tight bond to humans. They are loved as pets and given top-notch care. Their equipment is specialized and worth a lot of money. Combine all this and it becomes very clear that being careless about our packgoats is not an option. I think we left the GMUG team with a whole new perspective on packgoats. While it remains to be seen, we hope that this meeting marked a turning point in the direction of their forest plan.

From the North American Packgoat Association President, concerning Land Use

NAPgA continues to work in striving to secure your rights to use pack goats on public lands. This past July we had an overwhelming response from our NAPgA members in flooding the Forest Service with your comments on the **Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests in Colorado**. Your comments were not taken lightly and we also received support from the states senator outlining a very interesting fact in his letter to the forester. If you're not going to remove wool sheep from these forests, then why would you asked a hiker with a few trained pack goats to step off the mountain?

On July 23rd I to travel to Asotin, Washington with board members Taffy Mercer and Emmett McCormick for the Asotin County Conservation District meeting. The joint effort being put on by the district partnering with the Washington State Department of fish and wildlife will offer free sampling and testing of both sheep and goats herds in this area. The effort is to identify sheep and goat herds that might be carrying M-ovi. The guest speaker and presenter Dr. Tom Besser provided a lengthy PowerPoint presentation on what has taken place with several Bighorn sheep heads in this area in the last 15 years. We had lots of questions about what laboratory would be used for the testing and if we would be privileged to the results. The WADDL laboratory in Pullman, WA will be handling the samples. We will only be privileged to see the end results of the study and I have concerns about what those stats will look like as we have been hoodwinked with percentages in the past. More to follow on this.

October 2019, we were not so lucky with the **Rio Grande NF** in Colorado as it appears that we missed the comment period due to the forest service only announcing the proposed forest plan comments period in a small town local newspaper article. When we learned earlier this year that they slipped packgoats into the plan without notifying NAPgA we were basically “hoodwinked”. We did send an objection letter to the Forester outlining our concerns of removing packgoats from a portion of this forest. Our complaint is that the Forest Service failed in their scoping period to adequately notify interested parties when these changes to the plan came up for review or in this case changed. Our letter has been received and is being reviewed by the planning team even though they are not legally required to do anything. I have been in phone contact with a member of their team who is looking into this matter on our behalf. More on this to follow.

What’s Important Now?

I have asked for and will continue to ask for all of you to carefully watch the forest plans in your area. If we miss out on the comments period for any renewing forest plan then we have no legal stance or right to object to the forest plan during the objection process. NAPgA is working on trying to find better ways to be notified when these forest plans come up for renewal. I have also asked for us to put together a “team of scouts” or several members from each state to closely monitor and watch the forest plans in your area. There are one-hundred and fifty-five national forests throughout the United States. When these forest plans come up for renewal or changes we must be notified even if the plan does not call for any changes or the removal of pack goats due to the concern of contact with Bighorn sheep. We need to respond to “every forest plan” even if Bighorn sheep are not present or mentioned. Why? When things get slipped in without us knowing about it we are left out, and then possibly kicked out.

Please contact us if you can help with this process as it is extremely difficult and burdensome for your NAPgA board of directors to monitor all of them. We are looking into ways to be electronically notified by email from the Forest Service register but until we have this completed we do need your help. All the forest plans have a comments period when they come up for renewal or amendment and that comments period has a dead line date that we cannot miss.

No goats allowed in Santa Catalina Ranger District

Denelle Confair, October 16, 2019

<https://kvoa.com/news/2019/10/16/no-goats-allowed-in-santa-catalina-ranger-district/>

TUCSON – The public has been reminded to not walk their goats in the Catalina Mountains in the past few weeks, according to Arizona Game and Fish Department officials.

This was a result of a person recently getting caught twice walking their goats in an area that inhabits a vulnerable population of bighorn sheep.

“You take domestic sheep and goats into that bighorn management area,” said Mark Hart of Arizona Game and Fish Department.

“You can be fined \$5,000 as an individual, \$10,000 as a group and spend up to six months in jail,” said Hart.

AZ Game and Fish has made many efforts to protect the vulnerable bighorn sheep population here in the state.

In 2013, the department released several bighorn sheep in the area to help rebuild the herd.

“Bighorns can get diseases ranging from pneumonia to pink eye,” said Hart.

“Years ago, a bighorn herd in the Silverbell Mountains was wiped out when domestic sheep and goats got in the mix,” said Hart. “They got pink eye, which blinds big horns, and makes them vulnerable to predators.”

That’s why it’s so important to be mindful of all trail rules, said Hart.

“They’re up to 75 bighorns in the Santa Catalinas,” said Hart. “That is really good news for our long term project, which is to re-establish the herd up there in 2013 to started moving big horns in from other parts of the state.”

However, it’s not just goats that are not allowed in the [Santa Catalina Ranger District](#). Dogs are also not allowed unless they’re service dogs.

If you see someone on the trails breaking the rules, call officials at the [Coronado National Forest](#).

Here’s one for a good belly laugh. At least for someone that has been following the ‘sky-is-falling’ issues with the Bighorn Sheep for the last 8 or so years. They blather on about the ‘best available science’, but as we know all too well, they only talk about it, then ignore it in thier bloody plans. The new Idaho wilderness where I submitted 3-1/2 pages of comments is the most recent example. When I did a public presentation, they interrupted me midway and asked me to hurry up and shut up.

Best available science used in forest plan revisions

Friday, August 9, 2019

OREGON — The 154 national forests and 20 national grasslands in the United States are managed according

to the guidance of planning documents, or “forest plans,” that must be periodically updated. Natural resource managers and planners who help develop these forest plans are directed to base their assessments on the best available science. A [recent study](#) showed that the “best available science” they draw on often includes USDA Forest Service general technical reports.

Pacific Northwest Research Station scientists [Lee Cerveny](#) and [Dale Blahna](#) contributed to the study, which looked at the forest planning efforts of four national forests. They sought to determine how these forests approached the requirement for using the best available scientific information in their assessments.

The study authors found that government documents and technical reports were the most commonly cited format of science reporting in these four forest assessments. In particular, Forest Service general technical reports from the agency’s Research and Development branch were the most frequently cited type of science document.

Interestingly, the authors found that assessments were disproportionately heavy in ecological science and more limited in their treatment of social and economic issues, with recreation being the only topic to receive consistent attention across all four forests.

The authors’ conclusions contain important messages about science communication. For example, they suggest that planning teams rely on Forest Service technical reports because they may be more accessible and usable compared to scholarly journal articles. Engagement with scientists can be valuable too. Recreation managers in the study indicated strong preferences for enhanced interactions with Forest Service scientists via collaborative research and conferences, and expressed a desire for researchers to reach out to them more directly.

Bighorn Sheep Dying From Pneumonia, State Hopes To Double Populations

By , Carter Moore, Oct 9, 2019
<https://www.upr.org/post/bighorn-sheep-dying-pneumonia-state-hopes-double-populations>

Bighorn sheep don’t sound good coughing. And biologists warn it’s the sign of sheep’s number one killer - pneumonia.



The respiratory disease is why the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources adopted new management numbers last week, aiming to double the population of sheep in the state.

“They live in incredibly rugged terrain, they’re really tough animals, but they have this susceptibility to respiratory disease,” said Jace Taylor, the bighorn sheep and mountain goat biologist for the division.

“Often times when a herd gets it, it can be passed on for generations.”

Taylor said some sheep can handle the infection, but for juvenile sheep, pneumonia can be fatal.

In November 2018, disease wiped out all of the sheep on Antelope Island in the Great Salt Lake. With new management numbers, the division is looking to reestablish a herd of bighorn on the island, and will be releasing 35 healthy individuals in January.

Taylor said the sheep are synonymous with the West, and protecting them is vital for the ecosystems.

“Bighorn are hard,” he said. “There is no herd in the state that is immune to respiratory disease or entirely safe from the risks, it is important part for every one of our herds to be managed with intensive care.”

The pathogen is often spread from domestic sheep, which don’t show symptoms, so Taylor said it is important that humans admire wild bighorn from a distance, to not spread anything.

Galveston goats on the lam bite officer, charged with ‘intent to graze’ and more

By [Briana Zamora-Nipper](#) - Community Associate Producer, November 02, 2019

<https://www.click2houston.com/news/galveston-goats-on-the-lam-bite-officer-charged-with-intent-to-graze-and-more>

GALVESTON, Texas - These goats are b-a-a-a-d to the bone.

Police apprehended two Galveston goats who were on the lam early Saturday morning.

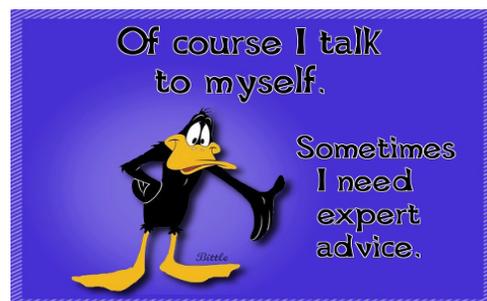


Around 3:30 a.m. Saturday, Galveston

police responded to a report of two goats causing a disturbance on 54th Street, near the Galveston Police Department. Officers corralled the goats into an industrial yard nearby.

One goat bit an officer’s fingers while she was closing the gate with zip ties, securing the nuisance-makers.

According to authorities, the goats, who both go by the name Billy, were charged with escape with intent to graze and assault on an officer’s finger.



An update on the Status of the Old Irish Goat

Lauren Hall Ruddell

Well, gentle readers, I have returned from the trip to Ireland mentioned in the last GT. It was relaxing and productive, but many of my carefully laid animal care plans on the home front went completely to hell 2 weeks before departure. More on that and the outcome of it all in the next issue. Nevertheless, while relaxing along the Wild Atlantic Way, I was able to get caught up with the Old Irish Goat Society and put together a bit of an overview of the successes and challenges that they are facing, and how this meshes with goat conservation in general.

In 2006, goats exhibiting the traits of the Old Irish type were found in the Burren area of County Clare. Efforts were made to collect and conserve these goats, but despite sterling efforts, the endeavor eventually petered out by 2011. Then in 2012, a new herd was identified near Mulranny.



Typy Buck in the wilds of the Burren in County Clare.
Photo by Anonymous, 2018

In 2008, the ‘collapse of the Celtic Tiger’ sent Ireland’s business and banking industry into a tailspin that echoed and paralleled the ‘Great Recession’ in the US. Ireland had to claw its way back to fiscal solvency as did so many other nations. The economic realities were brutal. While having tea in Shannon town, (County Clare) with a friend, she mentioned that the neighbor’s house was for sale. She said they were asking 250,000 (euros or about \$260,000). Sounded reasonable. It was a generous 3 bedroom house with a small yard and a view to the Shannon River. A bit of a bargain, really, at that price. She then offhandedly mentioned that they had considered selling a decade earlier, when their house was appraised at 600,000 euros. Oi!! Such are the times that we live in, and not easy ones for conservationists, or realtors.

Despite the financial climate in the early 2000s, which broadly affected many charity’s volunteerism and donor’s expendable income, an amazing group of people have managed to preserve the Old Irish Goat. No longer

should they be considered merely a ‘feral’ goat, or even a landrace (the term “landrace” has generally been defined as a genetically heterogeneous variety that has evolved in a certain ecogeographical area and is therefore especially adapted to the climatic conditions and to its traditional management and uses), but rather a true breed. DNA tests conducted in cooperation with the Trinity College genetics lab in Dublin have demonstrated conclusively that the introgression (mixing with outlying gene pools) of the genetic makeup of the Old Irish Goat is small enough, and the genetic purity strong enough, that this animal should now be considered to be a distinct breed, and distinctly in need of a coherent and well-funded conservation ‘scheme’, as the Irish like to call it.

This uphill battle has been waged with a breeding program in a leased walled garden in Westport, County Mayo, subsidized by the Mayo Foundation and further supported by private donations and government grants. Conferences highlighting broad-spectrum heritage breed conservation, a new goat sanctuary for educational purposes, and an environmental center dedicated specifically to this breed in Mulranny have been initiated. The environmental center is manned and supported by volunteers during the summer months, and the sanctuary (underway) is adjacent. Artists, photographers, writers, videographers, web designers, and local village folk of all sorts have made this effort possible. The Mulranny herd is now considered the most typical of Old Irish genetic expression. But they are an island on an island, and therefore always, always, vulnerable.

The Nephin Beg mountains inland from the coastal village of Mulranny are sheer and not easily accessible to the average ‘tramper’ (hiker). This geographic feature has created a defacto refugium for this breed (an area where special environmental circumstances have enabled a species or a community of species to survive after extinction in surrounding areas.) There are other population cores scattered across Northern Ireland and the Republic, however the Mulranny herd is the largest and most genetically pure. Ironically, it may be the loss of interest in goats over the centuries (in favor of sheep) that created this refugium. There were few modern goat breeds such as Alpines or Anglo Nubians that got away from their farmsteads in sufficient numbers to pollute the gene pool. And it takes a hardy animal to survive the gales that scream in from the Wild Atlantic Way (as the western highways are known in that part of the country). I know my hot-house flower Nubians would not survive even one winter month on those crags.

The Old Irish has a super thick under-coat of cashmere topped by a very course, very long outer coat of oily guard hairs. Although they hate rain as much as any goat, when it hits them when they are far away from a source of shelter, they find what they can and ride it out together, no worse for the wear. However, because of the brutal environmental conditions, this breed tends to have only one kid at a time. Despite that low birth rate, the goats on the mountain are often so successful that they present the Society with a PR challenge

that the group must cope with in addition to constant funding needs.

You see, in typical goat fashion, these goats like to come down from the mountain from time to time and visit people's gardens and front yards. "Please Don't Eat the Daisies," could easily be a rallying cry for some of the locals, a few of whom are not quite as stoked about the wild goat herd as some of their neighbors are.

Don't get me wrong, these folks are not nature haters. To the contrary, Mulranny, although tiny, is one of the more progressive and environmentally supportive towns in the country. They are an official award winning Irish 'Tidy Town', have a very progressive Green Plan program, are often the recipients of various LEED type certification awards for sustainability in town planning and other amenities, and other accomplishments that some would consider downright 'new age.'

Many of the townspeople also love their gardens and take great pride in their horticultural accomplishments. In fact, this year Mulranny was chosen for an international European competition, the Entente Florale. Pitting their best cabbage roses and community programs against 13 other European towns, judges were due to arrive in July. Imagine the angst one might feel when hosting 10 international judges, envisioning that just before their arrival, one might awaken to find that the goats had come down from the mountain and eaten enough treasured ornamentals to deface the town's display and knock you completely out of the running! And they can and have.



A mother and doeling coming down from the Nephin Beg mountains to eat the landscaping at the local pre-school.

Photo by Lauren Hall Ruddell 2019

This year, the town did not gain the coveted 'gold' status, but merely a 'silver.' On the bright side, and ironically, the town was awarded one of only two international Best Practice Awards...for their Old Irish Goat program!

This tricky and often awkward dynamic between goat lovers, goat neutral, and goat haters can make for some pretty lively town council meetings. It is because the Society sees that the goodwill of the community at large is crucial to this effort that they have attempted to 'round up' many of the younger goats, especially those who do not appear to be very 'typy,' and rehome them with adopters in various parts of the country. They have managed so far, but the number of potential adopters is limited, and limited funds for outreach

are creating a crunch. Next year may be a tipping point in goodwill if more adopters cannot be found. Abundance of a rare breed is usually considered a good thing, but this unique situation makes unmanaged reproduction a bit dicey.

An additional challenge expressed to me (and my inquiring mind wanted to know), was the fact that the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, who has co-funded research and conservation measures for the goat has yet to acknowledge that the Old Irish Goat is really a thing. Seán Carolan, former chairman and current grant writing and PR guru on the OIG board stated, "One of the big challenges, you're working on a project, on an animal that nobody recognizes, and isn't really protected."

Seán was expressing his frustration with the government and that is understandable. I found it encouraging that while I was there the group received a 5,000 euro grant for breeding herd maintenance from the same department. So there is hope.

I hold the personal opinion that this designation may have more to do with political considerations than hard science. And things in Ireland move slowly. The age of the Celtic Tiger was anomalous in the history of the country. They do need a bit of time to think things through, and again, rightly so. For instance, a very rare breed of Irish cow, the Droimeann, with a strong group of breeders and supporters, finally received recognition in 2018, after a similar uphill battle.

I am optimistic, therefore, that unless there is another global recession ('Lord willin an the crick don't rise', as we say in my neck of the woods) that the breeding herd and the sanctuary will find steady funding once the breed is recognized by the state. And while champing at the bit for recognition, especially after the DNA results came in as they did, board members and volunteers do admit that in Ireland, as elsewhere, these things can take time. As Seán stated further, "There is a very strong, innate sense of heritage in Ireland, but, like we're a new group trying to get through this and we don't have 20 years of track record, and so the state is very slow to realize that something interesting is going on here." And who knows after all, it may be that outside pressure from other states in the EU will put on a bit of pressure as well. As mentioned, the Entente Florale adjudicants had no trouble recognizing the importance of these efforts.

As an aside, in pursuing a bit of further information on the state of goat heritage breeds globally, I was surprised to see that the data set provided by the FAO on goats listed the Old Irish as a distinct breed that was 'at risk.' Well by golly, someone, somewhere had to enter that information. My friends in the OIG did not know that this database listed the OIG as such, and will be using it in further grant proposals and such, as a little international arm twisting, perhaps. If you are interested, and you will be if you are a geek like me, you can check out the status of all sorts of breeds at the United Nations Department of Food and Agriculture (FAO) <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home>. There is a downloadable excel



'Typy' doe in the walled garden breeding herd. Exhibits small ears, quaff (tuft of hair between horns), long and thick outer coat, short legs. Photo by Lauren Hall Ruddell, 2019

database on the current status of all known breeds, heritage or otherwise. It is pretty comprehensive, and lists data on the status of everything from cows to cassowaries (and I did not know that those nasty and dangerous birds were considered 'livestock.')

I asked it to search on goats and then downloaded the results and examined them. Really interesting how many local populations or landrace breeds of goats are listed as either 'Unknown' or that field is blank entirely. Plainly, a new world census of goat genetics and status the world over is needed. Anybody want to pay me to do this (just kidding, mostly)?

But I digress. Seán mentioned that he feels that Brexit may be throwing the brakes on many initiatives and grant applications. The Republic of Ireland will remain in the EU, of course, while Northern Ireland and its small populations of OIG will sail away with the UK. This could be good or bad, in equal measure, and nobody knows for sure. It is in uncertain financial and political times like these that conservation takes the biggest hits, history has shown.

I'm going to digress again, but it's relevant to the point about Old Irish Goats, really it is, I promise. Take for example the Markhor goat, Pakistan's national animal. They were once ridiculously abundant. Then came the war in Afghanistan. Not only were there goat casualties from spill over artillery fire in the war - which began in 1979 and lasted for a decade - but the inevitable influx of guns and ammunition lead which inevitably lead to increased Markhor hunting and poaching.

So, not surprisingly, by 1984, only 1,600 Markhor remained throughout their Himalayan range, where once there were thousands. Post war, a joint initiative by the USFWS and local groups like the Torghar Conservation Project, sought to restore the Markhor to nearly historic numbers in Torghar Mountains and other areas. And it worked. But the war was not the only pressure on these goats. Poaching by some locals and many non-local border guards took an enormous toll.

Now, poaching has all but vanished, following the hiring of nearly 100 Pakistani rangers and some clever, if controversial, management decisions.

The wild Markhor population remains relatively stable at around 10,000 individuals spread over several ranges. Not great, but better than before. And really great news, the poaching is vastly reduced because of the efforts of several local conservancies, and additional international efforts have convinced the local people that they are better off with them,

than without them. For instance, in Pakistan, 10-12 males are allowed to be hunted every year at a cost of about \$100,000 for the experience. This money, spent on a permit, lodgings, and local guide services, goes primarily into the local community, with 20 percent siphoned off for enforcement costs. Whether this system has worked as perfectly as they would have you believe, who can say, but the population of Markhor is rebounding rapidly. So the moral of the story is, unstable political times and geopolitical turmoil is bad for indigenous and heritage species, bad or absent management is bad, and poor PR among the locals is bad.

What does this have to do with the OIG, you say? Well, there are some parallels. For one, time matters, and two, timeliness matters. It took over 20 years for the Markhor population to stabilize. The right people at the right time saved the day, and the goats. Recognition of a crisis was needed. Hands in the field and hands in people's wallets, and a word in the ears of movers and shakers, well, I think you get my drift.

So the Old Irish Goat has certain very interesting features that might arguably make it a candidate for Ireland's national animal. What!! You cry, surely it would be the sheep. True now, but not so long ago...

The scene is 1848. Most of the common folk of Ireland are gripped by the potato famine. This excerpt tells the tale of a reenactment that I missed seeing by two days, much to my dismay. But flights and car rentals wait for no man. This excerpt from the Mayo News <http://www.mayonews.ie/comment-opinion/down-memory-lane/31324-mulranny-and-the-poor-man-s-cow> captures well a number of fireside chats I have had.

"Often referred to as 'The Poor Man's Cow', the goat provided nutritious milk to the poor and hungry of an impoverished race. It has been said that, in famine times, a community which had access to goats and fish had a much greater chance of survival than did others dependent on the potato alone.

One of the most favourably received programs of RTÉ's 'Countrywide' was that devoted to the Old Irish Goat and the poignant folk tale from Mulranny, 'A Famine Love Story,' written by local playwright Michael Joe Ginnelly. You can hear Mr. Ginnelly explaining the story in his own words by clicking on this link "[Love Story.](#)"

The story concerned an incident of the Great Famine. On the little island of Inishuaighe, the islanders would row their dead across to the Mulranny mainland, so that they could be buried in consecrated ground. However, they themselves were often so weak they could only reach the shoreline, where they would leave the dead so that the mainlanders might complete the burials on their behalf.

On one such occasion, it was noticed that among the victims left for burial was a young girl who happened to be still alive. A young man carried her back to the hovel he shared with his mother and there, thanks to the healing properties of the goat's milk, she was restored to health. In time, the

young couple fell in love and, although so traumatised by her experience that she was unable to speak, they married.

In time, the ravages of the famine passed, and slowly life returned to what it had been. The islanders began again to journey to the mainland village to trade and barter, and it was thus that one day one of the islanders encountered the young man, who was wearing an Aran geansaí (sweater) which his young wife had knitted for him.

“Where did you get the geansaí,” the stranger enquired. “My wife knitted it for me,” came the answer. “And what is her name,” he was asked. “I do not know, she cannot speak,” he replied. “The pattern on your geansaí is my family pattern,” the stranger explained. “Each island family has its own pattern, so that in case of drowning at sea, even after weeks, we are able to tell the identity of the fisherman. This means that your wife must be my daughter, and the little girl we thought had died is alive and well.”

An apocryphal story, to be sure, to be sure. And wait for it...the young woman restored from the dead because the family of the rescuer had a goat? Remember Seán Carolan, quoted above, well this young woman’s married name was Carolan, and so it’s very possible that she was his great-great grandmother. Seán may owe his very existence to the Old Irish Goat!

We believe that those times can never occur again, never happen to us. For instance, while in Westport, just south of Mulranny, I could easily find new and fashionable face products, and even spa days, devoted to ‘dillisk’ seaweed treatments. In famine times, people by the ocean shore fed that seaweed (which is quite tasty, actually) to their goats and donkeys, the cattle all having been sold to pay the rent. Hopefully the Irish will never have to depend on seaweed and goat’s milk for survival ever again, but you never know.

Again, I can’t help reflect that my high maintenance, heavy milking, short-coated, hot-house flowers of Anglo Nubian descent would not last one month in a typical Colorado winter without my constant husbandry. The Old Irish Goat, although not a fabulous milker, not tall in stature, and not particularly meaty, is a survivor and might be a repository of needed genetic traits perfectly suited for their life in the wild and in the farmstead under less than ideal conditions. And as a bonus, their wonderfully adaptive personalities make them good, if not outstanding, packers!

I do hope that there is never a need for my descendants to tell such a heart-wrenching tale as the one above to any of my distant progeny, but maybe there will be. I also hope that we humans can find the time to take pleasure in the little things that don’t produce as much as our industrial society demands. And not just pleasure, but value. As stated in an academic paper published this last April in *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* by a Scottish team (Wainwright et al, 2019)...“Rare breeds may carry important genes that allow breeders to respond to global production challenges including climate change and emerging disease risk.”

Could not have said it better meself.

Winter Management for Your Goats

By Michael Metzger MSU Extension, Posted Oct 29, 2019

<https://www.sturgisjournal.com/news/20191029/winter-management-tips-for-goats>

Winter can be a stressful time for livestock. As owners, we need to help to reduce that stress by providing proper care, feeding and management practices. Adjusting management practices will help to ensure that goats under your care will thrive through the cold winter months.

Goats do not require elaborate housing during the winter. The most important issues regarding housing is to block the harsh, cold north wind and to keep the animals dry. Goats that receive proper care will have a thick coat of hair helping them to survive the winter with minimal housing.

A three-sided structure with the opening facing the south provides protection from the cold wind and yet allow plenty of ventilation to keep moisture down in the barn or shed. Make sure there is plenty of clean, dry bedding available. Goats kidding in the cold weather will require more shelter because young kids will not be able to maintain their body temperature outside. A heat lamp may be required in these situations but should only be used with extreme caution because of the risk of barn fires or animals chewing electric cords.

Feeding and watering goats in the winter requires a little more planning than during the warmer summer months. Goats should have access to fresh water at all times. This may require changing water a couple of times a day to remove the ice or some other type of heated waterer. Use caution with any type of electrical device with goats as they may chew the cord. During the winter, goats need more energy to help maintain body temperature. They will need roughage, which can be supplied in grass, alfalfa or mixed hay. Alfalfa hay can be a great source of both energy and protein, although care should be taken when feeding bucks and wethers because of urinary calculi. Salt and minerals also should be available.

Lice are more prevalent on goats during the winter months. They can be irritating to the goat and in some cases, heavy infestations can cause anemia, poor coat or skin quality.

Michigan State University Extension recommends working with your veterinarian to develop a treatment plan for you goat herd to control lice and other parasites.

Keeping a herd of goats, or even a couple of animals as companions, can be a rewarding experience. With a little preplanning we can help our animals not only survive, but thrive the cold winter months.

Why I Now Carry

By Taffy Mercer

I've been around rifles and shotguns my entire life, hunting as a youth and adult. I have never handled a handgun or felt the need to carry one until this past September when I was on a goatpacking trip in Utah. Two things during this trip changed my mind about being armed with a handgun.

My friends and I watched as young antelope, trying to get to its mother who was on the other side of a 4 x 4 mesh field fence, run into the fence so hard it flipped him and caused a spinal injury. I had absolutely nothing to use to dispatch him so he didn't have to suffer. It was heartbreaking knowing it would not be a quick death.

The second thing that happened on this trip was an extremely traumatic event for me, personally. My friends, Eldon and Debbi Otta, and I had stopped in Sand Hollow, ID for a late breakfast on our way home from Utah. We'd ordered and were sitting enjoying a cup of coffee when the waitress yelled, "Does someone own a goat?" The three of us went flying out the door.

Bourbon, my loyal friend and packgoat, was standing in the middle of a busy intersection looking dazed and confused! I walked out to him and his hair was standing on end. He was obviously spooked. A good Samaritan had stopped her car and was making sure traffic didn't hit him. Unfortunately, she left as I was catching Bourbon so I never had the chance to thank her.

I walked him back to the truck with my heart pounding. I had locked the truck canopy latches but they hadn't locked into the frame properly. When Bourbon's pressed his nose against the glass to



look out the canopy window lifted open. He'd jumped out with the tailgate up while the truck was hooked to the travel trailer. So many things could have gone wrong with this whole scenario. I will always double-check the latches from now on! The Lord was looking over Bourbon.

Both events made me realize I needed to carry a firearm to dispatch an animal if the need arose. Carrying a rifle or shotgun while goatpacking didn't seem practical. I spoke with Curtis King, who is the NAPgA President and a police officer, about which handguns he recommended. I spoke to my goat veterinarian about what he suggested. Then I visited the local gun shops to look at

their suggestions and see what "felt good" in my hand. A friend of mine took me out to the shooting range where I spent a few hours shooting his and his wife's wide variety of handguns.

I found I liked a semi-automatic over a revolver. However, most semi-automatic's slides were too hard for me to pull back. I finally found the perfect handgun that fit my grip, had an easy to rack slide, a grip safety plus a manual safety and a large enough caliber to dispatch an animal, plus it's an easy to carry weight and size.

The Smith & Wesson M&P 380 Shield EZ. <https://www.smith-wesson.com/firearms/mp-380-shield-ez-0>

I applied for my state concealed carry permit and am attending a concealed carry class in a couple weeks that will allow me to carry in all the states where I go goatpacking. I never want to be faced with dilemmas such as the two I experienced without being prepared.



Ed Opinion:

This is a subject near and dear to my heart. Since I can, and frequently do, get as much as 200 miles on the trail during a given summer, I am therefore exposed to many more chances of getting crosswise with the tooth and claw of nature. It has now happened three times... at least three that I am aware of.

The first was a wolf encounter. They didn't get visible, but Ezra my goat was bloody well aware that they were there and was massively acting out to let me know they were there, and what in the he-- was I going to do about it!

Oddly, he didn't exactly relish being the main course for that night's repast.

As a result of that encounter, and the realization that I was 100% unable to do anything should one of the predator animals come calling, I immediately purchased a weapon and now carry it religiously.

The wisdom of that became obvious during Matt Lyon's and my encounter with a cougar that was hell bent on relieving us of one of our boys. He wasn't particular which one, he just wanted a meal of goat.

Sadly, it took the use of a weapon to convince Señor Puma that our goats were *NOT* on the menu that evening.

Finally, on a trip last year, I woke to the goat closest to my tent doing a great rendition of a tap dance. My light pointed out the cause of his concern, a large coyote that, like the rest of his predator acquaintances, was much more interested in a ready meal, than actually having to hunt for it.

The reality is, that if you do not have a way to defend yourself, you are betting on the luck of the draw whether or not you survive an encounter with nature's meat eaters. You may carry bear spray, but you are not going to deal with a wolf pack with pepper spray. There have been wolf packs that have challenged hunters, cougars that have challenged and attacked hikers, and the next one could be you. And you *BETTER* be ready.

Ashland County family finds goat in bathroom (Ohio)

By Noah Jones, Staff Reporter, Oct 7, 2019

https://www.knoxpages.com/news/ashland-county-family-finds-goat-in-bathroom/article_0fc0433c-1540-530a-981a-51245b88e756.html

SULLIVAN TOWNSHIP -- The Keathley family had a "Baaa"-zarre start to their weekend on Friday, Oct. 4.

"My son got home about 2:30 (p.m.) from school and saw that the screen door was busted," said Jennifer Keathley, who lives in the 560 block of Township Road 150.

She said her son was nervous and worried they'd been burgled or that someone had broken into their home.

"My son went in, and found a goat in the bathroom," she said, laughing. "There's security video of him walking into the house, then running out when he found the goat."

The Ashland County Sheriff's Office described the intruder as a big white goat with horns.

Once inside the home, Keathley said the goat, who is in its rut or mating season, urinated in multiple spots.

"Our house smells like a goat farm now," she said. "It's so disgusting. I've learned quite a lot about goats the past few days."

A Goat Rescue

<https://www.facebook.com/ABCNews/videos/2431628690427513/>

The Italian Alpine rescue unit used a rope and harness to save six goats who were stuck on a steep, rocky mountain in the Piedmont region for 15 days. One of the seven goats had died before they arrived, but the team was able to rescue the rest.

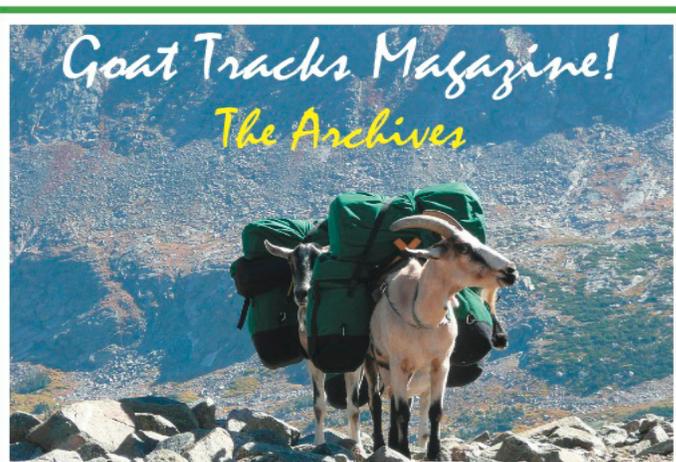


An online community for the working goat enthusiast!

- Ask questions and get answers
- Health info
- Training tools
- Photos, stories, and news
- Chatroom
- Monthly prize drawings
- Get to know other goat packers!



<http://www.packgoatcentral.com/forums/>



2 CD Set, or DVD \$60

A virtual encyclopedia of goat information from the very beginning of Goat Tracks Magazine.

You'll love all the training tips, stories health information and more!

From those who were in it from the very beginning!

To order use the same info as to order a subscription

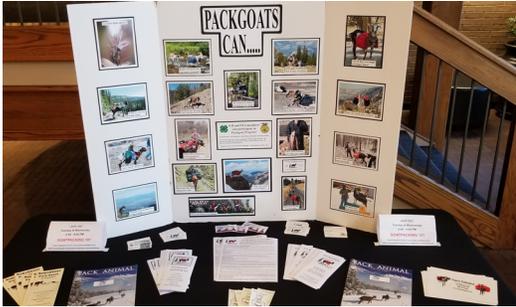
In my frequent forays into the files that make up the GT Archives, I have come to the conclusion that the only reason that everyone doesn't have a copy of this information is that they just don't realize how completely entertaining lots of this stuff is. There have been some great writers for GT over the years!

NAPgA on the Road!

Article & Photos by Taffy Mercer

The American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) holds an annual convention in a different location in the U.S. each October. This year it was held in Boise, ID from October 14-20. This year 418 people from all over the U.S. attended the convention.

Apart from the association meeting, the week is filled with educational seminars, The American Association



of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP) programming, multiple youth events and hands-on events such as cheese making and AI seminars. A Banquet and Costume Ball traditionally take place on Friday evening as well as a champagne and dessert buffet proceeding the much anticipated, Spotlight Sale on Saturday night. The Spotlight Sale is one of two premium dairy goat auctions hosted by ADGA annually. The convention is open to both ADGA Members and non-members alike. The theme for this year's convention was "Peace, Love, Dairy Goats!" There was a lot of tie die and Hippie clothing seen at the Costume Ball!

I was asked to present a seminar on goatpacking. I asked Marc Warnke, who lives in Boise, to help me teach the seminars. We gave a two-hour long seminar on Tuesday and again on Wednesday. The first hour was classroom time with me giving a PowerPoint presentation that included information about NAPgA, a history of goatpacking, , goat husbandry, trail etiquette and much more. The second hour was spent outside with Marc's packgoats while he spoke about packgoat conformation, saddle fitting and the different equipment that is available today. People learn in different ways. We covered all the bases by having both classroom and live learning experiences.

The NAPgA display table had a stand-up display of photos, numerous goatpacking and NAPgA handouts, business cards and copies of Pack Animal magazine. ADGA gave us a fantastic location which was seen from every angle and situated next to the vendor's room. I spent time sitting at the table answering questions. My name tag also read Goatpacking 101 Speaker so even as I was walking between classes or mingling at evening functions I'd be stopped and asked about goatpacking.

I have a wonderful life-sized sheep that I dress up as a packgoat display. Her nickname is Dolly Lamba. She wears a set of horns, a bright red Marc Warnke kid training

pack, a red Sopris halter with halter handle, a red collar with a bell and red lead rope with a carabiner clip on the end. When I move her from one location to another it's easiest to set her upside down in my wagon. As you can guess – this draws a LOT of comments! The best part of it – when people ask about her I get to educate them about packgoats! By the end of the convention people were referring to me as the Packgoat lady. That's ok. It means I reached a lot of people who didn't attend our seminars!



A huge THANKYOU to the packgoat suppliers who donated items for giveaway in the seminars! I put together packets of information for attendees. Each packet had a ticket stapled to it. At the end of each classroom session I drew tickets for winners of the items. Northwest Packgoats donated two of Carolyn Eddy's Practical Goatpacking books, Sopris donated four goat halters and Pack Animal magazine donated five subscriptions. Everyone who won was thrilled to receive their gift!

Each day is filled with outstanding seminars on a variety of topics. Many times it's difficult to choose what to attend! Tuesday our session was held at the same time as the Goat First Aid class given by Dr. Deb Manglesdorf (Dwite Sharp's vet) and 3 other popular classes. Our turnout was small but those who attended had great questions. I believe if we reach even one person it is a win. That person will in turn speak to at least one other person and so on.

On Wednesday we had a larger attendance and one gentleman, from Colorado, who attended our session for a second time. He was seriously interested! Our class got off to a late start – the beer and goat cheese-pairing seminar was held in our room prior our seminar and no one was in a hurry to leave! Marc and I finally moved in to help clean up the room and set up. The projector had been moved to another room so while I went in search of another, while Marc spoke about NAPgA's fight to keep public lands open to packgoats and M. ovi.



I couldn't locate a projector so set my laptop on the podium at the front of the class for people to see while I spoke. There is one slide in the presentation that always makes a huge impact – a photo of a euthanized wether's urethra showing urinary calculi. Marc carried the laptop around to everyone in the room so they could see it well.

We moved outdoors for the second half of the seminar. The artificial insemination seminar was running overtime in the activity tent so we set up the display of gear by Marc's trailer. Dr. Manglesdorf taught an hourlong seminar of her own during the first hour of ours then came out to listen to Marc.

It was interesting watching Marc's goats while he was talking and working with them. It's obvious they each have their own personality but they all adore him. They were calm and took everything in stride. Most dairy goat breeders don't own horned goats. Being around Marc's boys and their large horns was a new experience for many. Of course, the question always arises – should packgoats have horns or be disbudded! Marc's are horned, mine are disbudded. We still like each other! ☺



There were saddles from Bantam Saddle & Tack, Northwest Packgoats, Sopris and Marc designed on display along

with saddle pads, lead ropes, halters and bells. Marc explained how to fit a saddle to a goat and why it's so important to have the right one for each goat. His goats have different conformation so he was able to visibly show why one saddle would fit one goat better than another.

Something worth mentioning which made ADGA history at this convention. The Spotlight Sale is an auction of goat kids who have been nominated, and accepted, for the sale. This year 15 kids were auctioned. A 7-month-old LaMancha buckling sold for \$17,000! Yup, you read that right! \$17,000! The highest amount ever paid at the Spotlight Sale.

The format Marc and I used for our seminars worked so well I'll be using it again on February 29, 2020, when I teach a packgoat class at the Northwest Oregon Dairy Goat Association's 31st Annual Goat Conference. It'll be held at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in Clackamas, OR. This one-day conference is filled with numerous classes on all things goat. Watch their website for information! <https://nwodga.org/>

Goats killed after choking on apples dumped in animals' pen

Rob Polansky, Posted Sep 26, 2019



SOUTHINGTON, CT (WFSB) - Several goats choked on apples that someone dumped in a pen, according to a farmer in Southington.

The goats belonged to Longmeadow Farm, which is on Mount Vernon Road and Prospect Street.

"Attention, whoever dumped apples in my pen choked three of my goats," a sign read outside of the pen.

"Always ask owner before dumping."

The sign also said no animals would be there until the spring or summer of 2020.

The farm had become a refuge for families and even cancer patients because they're welcome to go right up to the fence and pet, as well as feed the animals.

"Everyone feeds them. Cornflakes, Cheerios, stuff like that and it's been real good for families and the neighborhood," said Daniel True.

Farm owner Daniel True says all of the goats died from the apples.

"Coming home and seeing that, and digging the hole for something that I've seen born myself, helped through, the mother and everything, it was really bad," True said.

True is still mourning the loss of three of his beloved goats.

"This person was probably trying to do the right thing by feeding them, but you need to cut the apples or you need to ask or just leave them outside," True said.

True said many from the community have reached out to ask what they can do to help the farm.

"They'll help sponsor a new crowd of animals that I'll get. I'll fix the fence and make it bigger and better for next year," True said.

Going forward, True said he plans on getting more goats and also baby cows.

True said he isn't reporting the incident to police.

When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?

NORTHWEST PACK GOATS



*Reach for
Higher ground*

Selling quality equipment & supplies around the world.



All Saddles come with a **LIFETIME** Guarantee

with your choice of regular or mountain straps

- **Northwest Custom Fit –U.S. Patented** completely adjustable Aluminum Saddle includes a **FREE** pocket pad.



- **Finished Saddles ready to go**
- **Oak & Pine kits – you finish & save money**



PANNIERS: *6 color options*



- **Riverbottom – great for hunting**
- **Timberline - zippered closure**
- **Expedition - for large bulky items**
- **Pack sacks – for organizing your gear**

Exclusive – U.S. Patented Pocket Pad

Impossible for the pad to slip out from under your saddle

Largest Selection of Pack Goat Gear Available

Waterproof Coats, Rope Halters, Books, First Aid Kits and more...

Order On-line : Secure & Fast

www.NorthwestPackgoats.com

1-888-PACKGOAT sales@northwestpackgoats.com

Traditions Old and New

By Nan Hassey

The Yule Log tradition goes back centuries to the ancient Scandinavians who celebrated the Winter Solstice and the return of the sun with a ceremonial Yule Log. The log was burned over the Christmas season and a small piece was saved to start next year's Yule fire. Yule Log traditions started all over Europe and eventually crossed the pond to the U.S.



For Beulah, Colorado the story goes back to 1952 when Gene and Nona Miller brought a piece of Yule Log back from a ceremony they had attended in Palmer Lake, CO the year before. They started a Beulah tradition that has continued every year, becoming one of the oldest continuously-running Yule Log ceremonies in the U.S.

In Beulah, the Yule Log Festival begins with a notched 8-foot log that is hidden somewhere in the local Mountain Park. The crowd gathers on the second Sunday in December and the celebration begins with much pomp and ceremony in the beautiful stone lodge built in the 1930's by the CCC. Hymns are sung and special blessings are read, including a traditional blessing on the animals. Each year, a young Beulah child is selected to play the "Yule Bunde Girl". She is dressed in traditional Swedish clothes and carries a sheaf of wheat and seeds to feed the winter birds.

After the indoor ceremony, the Huntsmen, dressed in festive green capes, lead the crowd outside where the bugler sounds the call to begin the hunt for the Yule Log! The crowd scatters into the woods to search for the hidden log, which may be disguised among other logs, hidden under brush or snow, or propped upright against a tree. The woods ring with laughter and shouts of excitement, but it's not until the log is found that the distinctive cry of "HALEUB!" ("Beulah spelled backwards) is raised. The revelers run toward the sound and everyone gathers round the log. Two long ropes are fastened to one end and the lucky finder sits on the log in triumph while the rest of the crowd drags it back to the lodge. Once there, the winner is toasted with wassail and helps saw the Yule Log in half. One half goes on the Yule Fire and the other is saved to start next year's fire.

In 2013, the Yule Log Festival added another tradition. That was the first year Phil and I attended, and we decided to bring our two six-month-old doelings, Petunia and Nubbin, with us. Goats loom large in Scandinavian Christmas tradition so we thought our girls would fit right in. Our first Yule Log Festival was a snowy one. At

least a foot of fresh powder had fallen the night before and the sun turned it into a dazzling display. Our goats were thrilled about the excursion. They loved the attention lavished upon them, and when the hunt for the Yule Log began, no bloodhounds could have been keener! As soon as the bugle sounded, our girls jumped into the fray, straining at their leashes and dragging Phil and I over hill and dale as they plunged through the deep snow with their heads down, ears pricked, and tails wagging. The goats seemed to know that everyone was looking for something and they were determined to be the first ones to find it!

Unfortunately, goats do not make very good Yule Log trackers. They took us on a wild goose chase where we found many nice logs, but none of them the right one. However, Nubbin and Petunia were convinced they were the victors. They excitedly joined the happy, cheering throng that accompanied the log as it was dragged in jubilant celebration back to camp.

That Yule Log celebration was so much fun, Phil and I decided it must be incorporated into our own Christmas traditions and we and our goats have not missed another one since, although the particular goats in attendance have changed a few times over the years. For the last few Festivals, our pack wethers, Finn and Sputnik have been the chosen two, and they have actually become part of Beulah's traditions as well as our own. As soon as they were big enough, Finn and Sputnik began helping to drag the Yule Log back to the lodge. In fact, last year our goats were invited to take the lead on the tow ropes, and the people who helped drag the log were amazed by our boys' sheer strength and their obvious desire to pull.

Back at the lodge, our goats are treated like royalty by one and all. People offer them cookies, wassail, and pine boughs. Sputnik never met a cookie he didn't like, but Finn generally prefers the physical adoration of his fans. Finn soaks up rubs, pets, scratches, hugs, and kisses and has been known to fall asleep with a child's arms around his neck. Meanwhile, anyone who comes too close to Sputnik with food in their hands should watch out for their fingers!

Phil and I hope that goats will remain an embedded part of the Beulah Yule Log Festival for as long as it continues to be observed.

After all, any Christmas celebration that calls itself "Scandinavian" should include goats in some capacity!



Kane Lake, Idaho

by Larry Robinson

A destination hard to adequately describe... I guess ya just gotta see it.



As a part of my continued quest to 'conquer' all the lakes in the Copper Basin, Idaho, I headed for Kane Lake, one entry on my long list of potential conquests.

However, my arrival at the trailhead was late in the afternoon as I had spent much of the day accessing a couple of lakes

on the west side of Ketchum and just south of the Galena Summit pass on ID75.

My original plan was to RON at the trailhead, then head in the next morning, but the camping looked

sparse at the TH, so the powers of self-deception kicked in, and I thought (*stupidly*), if I keep the hammer down, I can make this before dark. Right.

So with great expeditionary fervor, off we go. And at first the going was fairly benign, so I began to think, hey, I got this! I'll guessing that the goats were back there nodding their heads and noting, 'no way Jose!'

My first clue that this wasn't gonna be a walk-in-the-park was when the trail began to get really gnarly, transiting washouts, climbing over rockfalls, crossing streams, etc., etc. After way too much of this, creeping doubt began to set in regarding the wisdom of my TH decisions. Especially since the sun had set, the light was fading, and every time you got to where it looked like, 'Hey, it's just up on the top of that next ridge', it became

clear that it most assuredly was not on top of the next ridge, or the one after that, or the one after that.

Just as the light meter was headed towards absolute zero, the lake and camping finally appeared, leaving just



Hard to see the depth here, but the granite above the lake pretty much makes the point



Photo by Meaghan Rohrer

enough time to get the goats tied, and the food hung. Dinner was necessarily forgotten, and the first priority became getting the sleeping accommodations assembled. However, sleep didn't come right away as the growling from the stomach was so loud. ☺

Morning appeared, more or less right on schedule, as it has a habit of doing. And the goats woke me up making it clear that they were real tired of being lashed to one geographical

location, so up we go, leaving the toasty sleeping bag behind. Coffee was brewed, and I sat for a while and contemplated the area photography.

Turns out, it wasn't that easy, as the weather was a bit iffy, the clouds kept rolling over causing the sun to come and go. A picture without sun is pretty blah, so my efforts at documentation were less than I would have liked.

What was obvious, with or without sun, was that this is one of the most striking and beautiful locations I have seen in many miles of hiking. Kane Lake sits in a gigantic granite amphitheatre. Above, and all around the base of this cirque, there is a bench with waterfalls coming over the edge.



The faint image of the trail in the top of the picture gives some indication of where ya gotta go from the shadow down to where you can see the trail.

Breakfast over, we did a dayhike around the base of the north side of the lake, took the requisite number of pictures, then packed up as my

goal was to make it to the TH for Big-Rough-Round-Golden & Long Lakes on the eastern side of Copper Basin.

Trip out was uneventful, with the exception that I met a couple from the Midwest that were dayhiking into this lake. Ya gotta love the stamina of youth. Suffice to say, I ain't got it.

The rest (at least for 2019) of the Copper Basin venture is captured in my writeup, Big-Rough-Round-Long Nonsense ☺ (which is later in this issue, Page 27).



I think they're saying, "This again, eh?"



[Cargo panniers]



Saddles



Small Panniers



Large Panniers



**Halters, Visibility gear,
Goat Coats / Pack
Covers, and much much
more. Visit our website
for the full line of
products available.**

Butt-Head Pack Goats
PO Box 333
Rough & Ready CA 95975
(530) 432-0946
bhpackgoats@hotmail.com

Butt-Head Pack Goat Products

Family owned and operated Butt-Head Pack Goats has been in business since 1988. All of our equipment is hand made by Dennis Willingham in the small town of Rough & Ready, California. We value our customers and take pride in our work. All of our products have been tested on the trail.

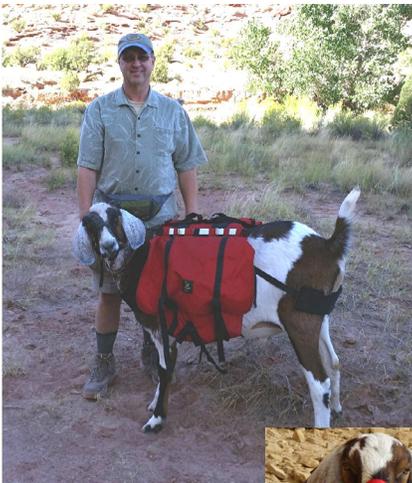
We appreciate your business and guarantee your satisfaction.



Buttheadpackgoats.com

Hiking the San Rafael Swell

In September 2015, eight of us met in the San Rafael Swell in Utah for a week of hiking with our goats. The trip originated because of a goat named Pac-Man who lived in Colorado and a man named Eldon Otta who lived in Washington State. We chose Utah to bring these two together. When Eldon and Pac-Man met an instant bond was formed. It was like they were meant to be together! Pac-Man and Eldon had many adventures together until Pac-Man's untimely passing in fall 2017. It was a devastating loss to Eldon and all who knew their special bond. Pac-Man was Eldon's first packgoat and we weren't sure if he would consider getting another. In spring 2018, Eldon bought two bottle baby mini Nubian goats with coloring reminiscent of Pac-Man's. He named them Elliot and Hobbs.



*Eldon & Pac-man
by Taffy Mercer*

but was determined to bring her this time. However, in March Debbi was diagnosed with cancer. After a heroic battle and many prayers Debbi was able to come

on the trip! Connie and Robert Losee read about the upcoming trip on the Packgoat Central forum and asked to come (all the way from Texas!).

Goatpacking brings together people of all ages, physical and skill levels. Phil and Nan Hassey at 40 were the youngest of our group with Connie and Robert in their 70's being the oldest. This multi-generational group formed a "family" during our trip.

For any of you who are grandparents - my 3-year-old granddaughter was upset she couldn't come with me. She sent her stuffed animal Skye, from the cartoon Paw

The 2015 trip was so outstanding we decided to do it again this past September! After almost a year of planning eight of us met at Herb Flower's home in Ferron, Utah to begin our adventure. Eldon couldn't bring his wife, Debbi, the first trip



Elliot & Hobbs by Nan Hassey

Patrol, on the trip. Skye "reported in" when there was cell service and sent photos of what she had been doing. Grandchildren can get you to do anything!

Herb's thoughts: *"The little-known San Rafael Swell is just a small portion of Utah's Red Rock Country, and even though I live here, it'd take ten lifetimes to see it all. I usually explore the Swell solo, but every hike I think 'This is so amazing I have to bring friends back to see it!' This adventure was my big chance. Several times in my life, I've had that 'WOW, is this real?' moment upon seeing an amazing and impossible place for the first time. Other than my first coral reef, the rest have all been while hiking with my packgoats-- Goblin Valley's hoodoos, fields of dinosaur bones shadowed by purple and white candy-striped hills, slot canyons with swiss-cheese sandstone, Grand Canyon style overlooks, and many more. Sharing 'WOW' experiences with friends is hugely rewarding as it is, but when everyone shares a love of pack goats too, and you see the line of goats and friends in this setting, it becomes its own 'WOW' moment."*

Herb is a spectacular guide for this trip! He's knows the area well and its history. He's also a great guy and loves my cookies! (more on the cookies later). For this trip he chose the Morrison Formation, The Little Grand Canyon, Buckhorn Draw and Calf Canyon (located in the bottom of the Little Grand Canyon), Eagle Canyon overlook and a few spectacular locations in the San Rafael Swell - Goblin Valley State Park, Wildhorse Window and Crack Canyon.

Our first day we caravanned to the Morrison Formation. The Morrison Formation is a rock unit from the Late Jurassic (148-155 million years old). It is the most fertile source of dinosaur fossils in North America. It is composed of mudstone, sandstone, siltstone, and limestone and is light gray, greenish gray, or red, gold and purple. Everywhere I looked the colorful and unique patterns in the rock formations, boulders and riverbed floors were amazing. It's a good thing it wasn't bug infested like it is in June or I'd have swallowed a lot of insects as much as my mouth was open in awe!

At the beginning of the hike the goats didn't know each other, weren't used to the 2 dogs that were with us and sometimes weren't sure what to do when we split off to hike different directions. At some point, Robert and Connie's young packgoats got confused and we think they didn't know where their own people were so they set off on their own! Sprite and Blackie disappeared up the ridge where Phil and Eldon had gone, but by then Phil and Eldon had circled back down and rejoined the rest of the group. No one was around, so Sprite and Blackie kept right on climbing! They disappeared over a high, distant ridgeline. Phil, Herb and Robert went on a recovery mission. They found the two errant goats at the highest point they could reach, stopped at the edge of a cliff. Herb, always seeing

things in a positive light, said, "I'd always wanted to see what was up there and this was the day I got to check it out. I found a great dinosaur bone deposit." Robert said, "Not a bad feat for a 70-year-old man! Although the two "youngsters" seemed to already have it covered." Connie commented, "Herb and Phil's willingness to hike out to locate our knotheads when they deserted us and went straight up the mountain was much appreciated. Frankly, I was ready to write them off and wish some coyote a happy meal of cabrito!"

Cobblestone by Taffy Mercer

They kept Blackie and Sprite leashed after their escapade.

Uniquely colored rocks and rock formations were everywhere. The



Golden-Yellow Rocks by Taffy Mercer

golden-yellow rocks were especially bright in color and matched Nan's shirt! One section

looked like someone had laid a square stone roadway.

We had to pass through a culvert under the road to get to the area Herb was going to show us. On the way back Eldon took an amazing backlit photo of Elliot and Hobbs walking through the tunnel with Herb and Debbi. It should win an award!



Culvert by Eldon Otta

Our next adventure was the Little Grand Canyon (also known as The Wedge Overlook). The Little Grand Canyon is, in its own way, every bit as spectacular as the Grand Canyon. Camping on the rim was a breathtaking experience. It also gave me more gray hairs! Having Herb, Phil & Nan's goats walk right along the edge of the rim scared me

something fierce! They assured me it was natural for the goats but I closed my eyes several times! Debbi and Eldon needed a flat area to park their camper so the refrigerator would work. Debbi said: "The most inspiring location was the night we camped at the Little Grand Canyon. We parked our little trailer on a level spot just 8 feet from the canyon edge which dropped off straight down what looked

like about 1000 ft!" We all gathered on the rim to watch the sunset. While not as spectacular as Herb had hoped, due to some cloud cover, it was still beautiful to see.



Little Grand Canyon by Taffy Mercer

The next morning we packed up and headed to Buckhorn Draw at the bottom of Little Grand Canyon to camp for the night. The route up Buckhorn Draw was part of the Old Spanish Trail. On the way we stopped at the Buckhorn



Finn & Sputnik Walking the Canyon Rim by Nan Hassey

Wash Pictograph Panel. It's a 130' wall of petroglyphs (scratched/etched into the rock) and pictographs (painted on the rock) artwork created by the Barrier Canyon Culture and by the Fremont Indians.

A little further up the road Herb had all of us park as far to the side as possible to hike Calf Canyon. The temperature was hotter than previous hikes and there was no breeze. Shade was at a premium hiking this canyon.

Bourbon and I veered off the trail while the rest of the group kept climbing. The silence in the canyon was deafening. I explored the area and found small animal and lizard tracks in the sand, studied the unique shapes and colors of the rock walls and enjoyed the solitude of being alone with



Group in Calf Canyon by Herb Flower

Bourbon with whom I share an extremely close bond. He rarely leaves my side and when I sit down he stands or lies down next to me.

Further up the trail the group came across some water. Eldon's goat, Elliot, stood on a rock looking at the water trying to decide whether it was worth getting his feet wet to get a drink. After all, the rest of the goats were doing it. He decided the water looked too good to pass up! The group ate lunch and headed back, retrieving Bourbon and me on their way past.

As we drove through Buckhorn Draw the San Rafael River was visible along the road. Herb chose a wonderful location with a panoramic vista of the canyon walls. As he described it when we were emailing before the trip, "It's a small plateau overlooking the San Rafael River surrounded by giant cliffs and plateaus that would remind you of the old cowboy movies." He was right! In fact, it was very easy to picture many western movies being filmed everywhere we went during our trip.

After everyone set up their camp we gathered in the shade of my trailer awning. I'd brought paint pens and rocks for everyone to do rock painting so we could hide them along the trail at Wild Horse Window. Do you have any idea what happens when paint pens change elevation as many times as they had on this trip? We'd be painting and then SPLAT! Paint would be everywhere – on the rock, on our hands, on our clothing! Luckily the paint was water soluble. We all became very cautious when painting!



Rock Paintings by the Group

As the sky darkened we all watched the sun set in the west. It was the longest lasting sunset I have ever seen. The colors kept changing as the sun set and the myriad of stars began to shine.

Eldon's thoughts: "The beauty was not confined to daylight hours as the nights were overpowering and made me feel small just like the tall walls of the canyons had or the vast expanse of open areas. It's okay that I am small, after all it



Buckhorn Draw Sunset by Taffy Mercer

was okay to me that my packgoats are small. It did not make me love them less. I could reflect in my own smallness and be at peace with myself."

Next we headed toward the south side of the Swell which is called the San Rafael Reef. Arriving at the Reef, Herb scouted ahead for a place for us to camp. While he, his dog Luna, and his goat Shelby GT were traveling in a Lexus SUV and can camp anywhere, the rest of us had trucks, trailers and campers that needed a little more room. He found a great spot where we were near both Goblin Valley State Park and the Wild Horse

Window. We set up our camps then gathered in the shade of my trailer for visiting and more rock painting. We had some very talented artists in the group!



Goblin Valley by Herb Flower

Early the next morning we headed to Goblin Valley State Park. You would never know it existed looking at the surrounding landscape. After paying admittance we drove up the road and as we pulled into the parking area Goblin Valley opened before us. Are we on a different planet?! The park features thousands of hoodoos, referred to locally as goblins, which are formations of mushroom-shaped rock pinnacles. Using your imagination, you can see all sorts of images created by the hoodoos. Our group broke up and re-joined depending on our whims. I could not believe the number of people that began showing up about 45 minutes after we arrived. Our goats were a magnet and I met people from France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and throughout the US. Herb said, "We had a chance to preach the truth of packgoats to a lot of Europeans. Eldon makes a great evangelist for packgoats! His goats are the cutest, too."

When we left Goblin Valley I went back to camp while everyone else continued on to the "Back of the Reef Road" also called "Chute Canyon Road" for the next adventure. The road to Crack Canyon is horrible but is worth the drive. Nan said, "There are interesting Swiss cheese-like rock patterns in the walls. Further along, the trail runs through a kind of subway tunnel formed by rock shelves protruding from the canyon walls just overhead on either side. The shelves almost touch in the middle, forming a kind of "crack" from which the canyon derives its name. It's like walking through a huge natural culvert with a narrow crack running



Crack Canyon by Nan Hassey

down the spine.”

That night we sat out under the stars watching for falling stars and satellites. The sky is huge and no

light pollution makes for bright stars. As Eldon said, you really do feel small in such a vast expanse of starlit sky. It was hard to head for bed but the next day we were going to hike to the Wild Horse Window! The Window was going to be a special hike for me. In 2015, I wasn't able to do the hike because I needed a new knee. The group hiked from our camp in Wild Horse Canyon, which ended up being an 11-mile round trip hike.

The next morning, after some scouting, Herb and Nan decided we should hike to Wild Horse Window from our campsite instead of starting at the trailhead. They felt the hike from the campsite would entail less climbing. Off we went. We walked in the deep sand of the wash, then up and across sandstone hills, crossing small ravines and cracks in the sandstone along the way. The views were spectacular.

This is where I must admit I finally met my match. My heart has a defect but if I pace myself I do ok. I ended up lagging behind and it was a real struggle at times but I made it! Once I'd rested I was able to see the beauty of the cave. The Window (shaped like an eye), the pictographs, the view looking down the hills to the desert floor. It was worth the climb. We ate lunch, explored the cave, enjoyed our time with each other and our goats, and hid some of the rocks we'd painted. A group of tourists arrived just as we were leaving the Window. They graciously took a group photo of us.



Group in the Window by another visitor

The trip back to camp was tough. Herb stayed with me the entire hike. He even saved my life when we were crossing a ravine between two sandstone hills. I lost my balance on the last step and his arm was there to keep me from falling! Despite being exhausted, I was still seeing the beauty of the uniquely colored and shaped rocks. My



Bourbon and Taffy by Nan Hassey

Dad was a rockhound. He would have loved this area.

I cannot say enough about how wonderful Bourbon is. He stays with me no matter where I am or what I am doing, both in camp and on the trail. I leaned on him and he helped pull me along a couple times on the Window hike. He acted like he'd been doing it his entire life. At 5 years old he's at the beginning of his prime packing years.

I bought Bourbon at 12 weeks old from a goat breeder's kill pen. We formed an immediate deep bond. Even at that young age I'd swear he could read my mind. As the years have passed and our adventures together have mounted up we have become a well-honed team. On the trail or around our farm Bourbon is always close by me - I can't even "cop a squat" in private! I wouldn't trade him for the world.

Back at camp I took a much-needed rest. Connie and Robert napped, Eldon and Debbi headed out for a drive around the area and ended up having dinner in Green River. Herb, Nan and Phil hadn't had enough hiking so went on another hike above camp. Oh, the energy of youth! Herb even found the perfect little hole to hide a rock Connie had painted of his goat, Bacchus.

That was our last night in camp. Our new "family" would be heading their separate ways in the morning. After dark, under a starlit sky, Phil serenaded us with his fiddle. Some songs were foot stomping reels and some were melancholy melodies. He is so talented! The goats seemed to enjoy it, too. What a wonderful end to a spectacular trip. Herb headed home that night because he didn't have anyone to do his morning chores and the rest of us turned in.

The next morning we all said our goodbyes and headed back to "the real world." I'll never be able to bake enough of my chocolate pumpkin seed cookies to thank Herb for all he did to make this trip one of the most memorable of my lifetime. This isn't the end - Herb said, "I hope we have a chance to do this again sometime, and as I continue to explore, I'm always going to be mentally planning where to lead the next group adventure." We'll be back, Herb!

This article was truly written by all of us. I asked everyone their thoughts about our trip and included them in the article. While we all experienced the same trip, it affected each of us in different ways.

The Cookies talked about in the San Rafael Swell trip above

Chocolate Chunk Pumpkin Seed Cookies by unknown

Servings: Makes about 18

- 1½ cups raw pumpkin seeds (pepitas)
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1½ cups (packed) light brown sugar
- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature
- 2 large eggs
- 1¼ cups bittersweet chocolate chunks or chips
- Flaky sea salt

Preparation

- Place racks in upper and lower thirds of oven; preheat to 350°. Toast pumpkin seeds on a large rimmed baking sheet on upper rack, tossing occasionally, until golden brown, 8-10 minutes. Let cool.
- Meanwhile, whisk flour, cocoa powder, kosher salt, baking soda, cinnamon, and paprika in a large bowl. Using an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat brown sugar, granulated sugar, and butter in a large bowl until pale and fluffy, about 4 minutes. Add eggs one at a time, beating to blend after each addition. Reduce speed to low; add dry ingredients in 3 additions, mixing until well blended after each. Fold in chocolate and pumpkin seeds.

Portion dough into 18 balls (about ¼ cup each) and divide between 2 parchment-lined baking sheets, spacing 3" apart. Sprinkle with sea salt and bake cookies, rotating pans halfway through, until edges are slightly browned and firm but centers are still soft, 18-20 minutes. Transfer to wire racks; let cool.

The Pack Goat



\$18
ORDER
ONLINE AT
AMAZON.COM

by
John
Mionczynski

Illustrated by
Hannah Finchman

Inhabitants of SC's 'Goat Island' wrangled, taken to safety ahead of Dorian

by: [CBS 17 Digital Desk](#), Posted: Sep 4, 2019

<https://www.cbs17.com/news/check-this-out/watch-inhabitants-of-scs-goat-island-wrangled-taken-to-safety-ahead-of-dorian/>

MURRELLS INLET, S.C. (WNCN) — When people think of evacuating animals ahead of a hurricane they probably think about cats, dogs and other family pets.



You might not think of goats — but if you know about South Carolina's Murrells Inlet Goat Island then maybe you would.

The four-legged inhabitants of the small island off the coast near Myrtle Beach were evacuated Tuesday morning ahead of Hurricane Dorian's arrival.

Crews had to literally chase the goats around the island to try and wrangle them so they could be taken to safety.

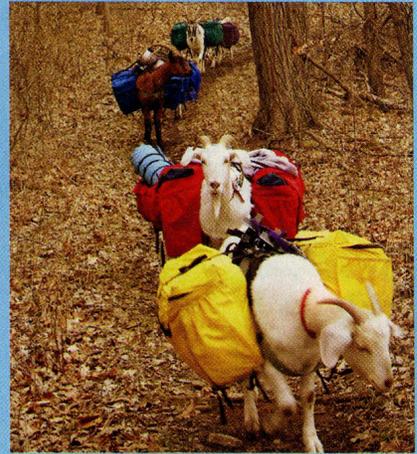
The goats were all eventually caught and moved to a farm for safety until the storm passes.

Once Hurricane Dorian leaves the area, the goats will be returned to their island.

Meet the All Wether Marching Band

This onetime NASCAR builder moved home to the Flint Hills to start a thriving packgoat business.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DWITE SHARP COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS



All my life I've had a love affair with Mother Nature. When we lived in North Carolina, my wife, Mary, and I spent all the time we could backpacking, canoeing, camping and sharing the serenity of the wilderness with our children, Ryan and Ricci.

But as I got older, I was having a harder time carrying all the things I needed while backpacking. I had a successful career designing and

building NASCAR race cars, so I've always been good at solving problems. But I didn't know how to fix this one until I happened upon a magazine article on packgoats—and saw the light.

Around that time, Mary and I decided to leave the city behind and move back to Kansas. I was born here in 1951, and our grandchildren are the eighth generation of my family to live in Council Grove. After my dad graduated from

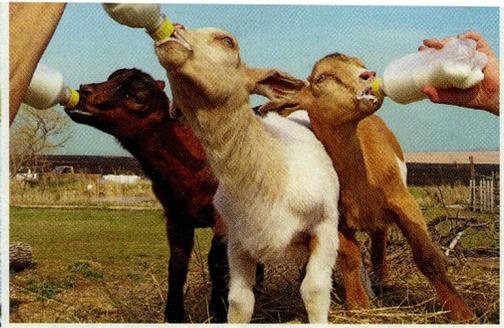
Kansas State's veterinary school we moved to California, but I spent most of my summers here with my grandparents.

In 2001 Mary and I bought 29 acres of beautiful Flint Hills pastureland from my aunt's estate. I took a job with the BNSF railroad to pay the bills, and we made the leap to raising goats.

My first challenge was to educate myself about goats to protect them from my ignorance. We were



Saanen-Boer hybrid Clark at Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming; the marching band (top).



That's Dwite and Oberhasli goat Mudslide at left, cute kids above, and Toggenburg goat Moses below at Langston University's Goat Field Day.



lucky enough to meet a goat doctor early in this adventure. Dr. Deb has had goats her whole life, and we consider her the best vet and best friend we could've hoped for.

Today we operate Paradise Ranch Adventures, an agritourism business built around packgoats and Mammoth donkeys. Our packgoats are known far and wide as the All Wether Marching Band. (A neutered male is called a wether.) We host hiking and camping events at our ranch, and we have taken the goats on pack trips as far away as Washington.

A couple of years ago we had 53 packgoats, by far the largest working group in the country, but we downsized to focus on keeping each one at the top of its game. We currently have 14 working packgoats, all wethers, including perhaps the four largest packgoats in the country. They weigh around 300 pounds and stand 40 to 42 inches tall at the withers. We also have 23 breeding stock does and two outstanding bucks, the result of years of genetic improvements.

We've been breeding and raising packgoat kids for 17 years now, and we're very proud of our breeding

program. We have been told we are the top packgoat breeder in the country, and we have placed kids in Texas, Arkansas, Minnesota, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Oregon and Washington. In 2013 we even sold four packgoats to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

We use seven different breeds in our program: Alpine, Boer, LaMancha, Nubian, Saanen, Toggenburg and Oberhasli. We also use an assortment of hybrids to achieve the characteristics and conformation that we like.

While genes are important, not every goat makes a good packgoat. Our goats bond closely with people and learn to do the things required of them. Training, which starts shortly after birth and continues until they retire, requires patience.

Goats are very intelligent, and they'll constantly test you to see if you're paying attention.

A well-trained goat is a delight. After reaching full maturity at the age of 5, packgoats are capable of carrying more weight per pound than any other pack animal. When in good condition they can carry 25 percent of their body weight. As far as equipment, they need saddles, panniers, collars and leads. You don't need to carry feed, because they eat weeds and brush.

We have had so many memorable moments with our goats, and we love sharing them. Call us at 620-767-7888. Or stop by and we'll tell you about the time our goats carried 500 pounds of gear up a mountain to escape one of the biggest floods in Arkansas history. 🐐

LEARN MORE!

If you're intrigued by packgoats, **Larry Robinson**, editor of *Goat Tracks* online magazine, suggests these books and websites:

North American Packgoat Association, napga.org

Packgoat Central, the biggest working-goat online community, packgoatcentral.com/forums

The Pack Goat by John Mionczynski, available at goatpacking.com

Practical Goatpacking by Carolyn Eddy, available at goattracksmagazine.org/bookstore.html

Big-Rough-Round-Long Nonsense

A demonstrative exercise in government stupidity in the hands of foolish politicians

Big, Rough, Round, Long & Golden Lakes are a group of very high (over 9000') lakes in the east side of Idaho's Copper Basin. Judging from what I have seen already in Idaho's high country, I felt these should be 5 very special locales indeed.

Therefore, as a part of my conquest of the Copper Basin this summer, a continuation of a premature exit from the Copper Basin last summer, I headed for this trailhead on the east side of the Copper Basin Loop Road.

Arrived quite late in the afternoon. Late enough that I knew that accessing the lakes was out of the question, but with enough time to at least get a good start on this 8-mile or so loop trail.

However, right at the beginning of this trek, my 'uh oh' meter received a full hit as the trail that extended out from the TH was an OHV track. *WHAT???* Hey! Margaret Fuller in her guide said NOTHING about an OHV track! But an OHV track it was. And my thinking at the time, with the fact in mind that this trail accessed a group of lakes above 9000', was that certainly this track couldn't go all the way to the lakes... no, that was impossible. [*remain alert here.*]

After about 2 miles of late afternoon (*HOT!*) hiking, it was clear that it was time to call a halt to our forward progress and, as well, the fact that we were at a very nice, right-at-the-side-of-a-good-water-source locale, made it an easy decision. Dinner came and went, goats were highlined, and it was soon time for 'tent retreat'.

Morning came all too quickly. But what is better than waking to the cool of the morning, the babbling of the nearby brook (how in the world did the sound that a brook makes ever come to be described as 'babbling?'), and cows bawling... *Hey! Wait a minute!* What's this 'cows bawling'? Well, it seems that your government, in their infinite wisdom, as well as their lust for cash, have allowed cows to be grazed in this entire drainage. Kane Lake had cows grazing in the Kane Creek drainage as well, but they were blocked from entering any of the territory behind the TH. No such restrictions in this drainage, up to and including their access to the TH campground.

Now note well, this is the same area where the land managers have placed a sign on the TH bulletin board that demands that you remain on the trail in order to protect the precious vegetation. This is the same vegetation that the cows are, either eating, stomping to death and/or crapping upon. But I'm sure that the cows don't create anywhere near the damage that your hiking boots do, eh?

Rant over.

The trail (OHV track) in the morning was far less dusty,

cooler and more scenic that it had been in the heat of yesterday afternoon, and so it wasn't long before we arrived at the uphill grunt that takes one to the Big/Golden Lakes duo that is at the western end of this 5-lake chain. This uphill section is about 800-900 feet up in around 2 miles. To the what-it-feels-like-to-me meter, it seemed like it went on forever.

But finally the OHV track (did you read that? We're still on it, and *now* we are at the lakes!) has taken us to Big Lake, a very pretty and large body that is very near the timberline in this area. Pumped water here to replenish the damage we'd done to our supply on the way up, took the obligatory pictures, then headed around the south end of the lake off-trail to Golden Lake. When we arrive at this location the westernmost lake in this chain we discover that, yep, the OHV track goes all the way to this lake as well (Well, almost. There is a short descent down from the parking area to the lake).

We head on towards Rough Lake on this 'simulation that would be a trail'. What we find there is that if you want to visit Rough Lake, at least you have to hoof it a short ways into this location. The OHV track doesn't take you right up to the lake. At least there is one bright spot.

On to Long Lake, our proposed destination for this night's RON. This lake, is being managed as a trophy fishery, meaning you can only keep fish over 20", and the catch limit is 2. The camping at Long Lake is good, but the OHV track takes you right into the middle of the CG.

I had no more than just arrived, am sitting at the provided picnic table resting the tired feet, and here they all come, a great gaggle of OHVs, at least 6 of them. Need I note here that this failed to increase my 'happiness quotient' even one little notch?

One gentleman from this group wandered over to where I was sitting and noted that he was aware of the intrusion they had just created, to which I noted that 4-wheelers were NOT on my list of favorite things, especially in the high country. This triggered a conversation about the OHV track in particular.

Seems that this gentleman had been a backpacker at one point, and used to backpack into this very area. He noted as well that the presence of the OHV track was fairly recent, in his recollection it was only pushed through around 10 years ago. One has to presuppose this offense against the wilderness was at the behest of the OHV folks themselves. I can't help but wonder who paid for this nonsense.

We, the OHV'ers and myself, sat, ate lunch and had a very pleasant conversation for quite a while. A couple of them tried their hands at fishing, and eventually they bid their goodbyes and departed the way they had come. It was a pleasant interlude, but the return of the wilderness quiet was certainly welcome as well.

Cont. Pg29, Col 2



Pack Goat Marketplace

Butthead Pack Goats & Equipment. Packgoat kids: Togg/Alpine/Oberhasli crosses. Northern California. CAE Negative tested herd. Twenty-two years, raising & training packgoats. Kids can be seen on web: buttheadpackgoats.com. Call Dennis Willingham, 530-432-0946.

GOAT-O-RAMA

Alpine/Nubians for Packing & Dairy!
Phil & Nan Hassey -> GOAT-O-RAMA.COM

**AN AD IN GOAT TRACKS
IS THE BEST WAY TO
REACH THE ENTIRE
GOATPACKING
COMMUNITY**



Advertising CAE Status

“CAE PREVENTION PROGRAM” (May be modified by the words “strict, continuous, etc. Assumes a history of testing of does yearly, and pasteurization of all milk products.)

“CAE NEGATIVE TESTED HERD” (Use this only if your does are tested yearly or have tested negative in the current year.)

“GUARANTEED CAE FREE OR RETURN” (This means that you will replace the kid if he is found to be CAE positive at the earliest age of reliable testing, which is considered by WSU to be 12 months. This is the only context in which “CAE free” will be accepted. This does not guarantee a CAE free kid, just replacement.) Remember that you will have a year of work into a kid by the time it is testable.

Any of these choices will more clearly define a herd’s status to buyers and should be welcomed as a step forward in controlling a disease that is potentially crippling to packgoats.

Goat Tracks Advertising Pricing			
		Per Issue	Year
Business Card	2x3-1/2 or 3-1/2x2	10.00	30.00
The ‘Square’	3-1/2x3-1/2	15.00	45.00
1/4 page	3-1/2x4-3/4 or 4-3/4x3-1/2	20.00	60.00
1/2 page	3-1/2x9 or 7x4-1/2	35.00	105.00
Full page	7x9	50.00	150.00
Classified, per word, contact info counts as one word		.20	.60

Submissions to Goat Tracks

PHOTOS: High-resolution jpgs are preferred, either mailed on disk or emailed to Larry@GoatTracksMagazine.org When mailing prints, please put your name and address on the back of each photo. Please include a SASE if you need your photo returned. Images sent to Goat Tracks may appear elsewhere, unless copyright is reserved when sent. Although every effort is made to return photos, Goat Tracks cannot be responsible for lost photos.

ARTICLES: Articles may be held for future issues. Submissions may be made by email or hardcopy (typed or neatly written).

Please include your contact information in case we have questions or need your data in a different format.

Subscribe to:

Goat Tracks Journal of the Working Goat

13 Norwood Place | Boise, ID 83716

larry@goattracksmagazine.org

- One Year (4 issues) \$24 – or– two years \$46
- Canada add \$4 per year (cash or check on US bank only)
- Overseas Subscriptions \$32/Yr (US currency)
- Paperless edition (\$20/Yr) (a PDF will be available for download on the website)

If you wish to pay by credit card through PayPal, simply go to [PayPal \(www.paypal.com\)](http://www.paypal.com) and request your payment be sent to:

Larry@GoatTracksMagazine.Org.



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

If this is a gift, please include your contact information so we can confirm your gift order with you.)

I off-trailed over to Round Lake, took some pictures and returned to prepare dinner. It was while I was sitting there eating my dinner that I really began to take notice of the high fuzz clouds that were moving in from the west. This type of cloud can have a couple of different meanings, but one of the most common is approaching weather! In addition to the fact that I am a card-carrying fair weather hiker, I also didn't want to get stuck here, about 8 or so miles in, if it was going to begin to rain. So I made the decision to pack up and head for the TH. I didn't intend to absolutely go the whole way to the TH, but I did want to be closer to the truck.

At some point the previous night's campspot came and went. Common sense would dictate that considering that we were pressing hard against darkness, stopping for the night would be a really good plan. However, as the saying goes, 'common sense isn't too common', and they must have been talking about me, as I just kept plugging away towards the TH.

At some point, *well before* we arrived at the TH, it became dark... *really* DARK... you can't see your hands in front of your face, dark. And many of the cows seemed to have chosen this end of the valley as their RON location. And they were black. Same color as a bear. And here I am on the trail with all these black shapes materializing out of the lack of light on the trail. At this point, I am not feeling particularly accommodating towards the idiot that thought it was a good idea to pass up the previous night's campsite, you know, the campsite that had been still in the 'light'.

Finally, the TH, and truck appeared in the glow of my headlamp. Needless to say, the goats were overjoyed to get the packs off and enter the back of the truck. And I was overjoyed to be at the end of that period on the trail where I was concerned about getting eaten by a bear.

Epilogue: I made the obvious decision to camp overnight at the TH CG (in spite of the cows which were still hanging around and bawling) and was busily putting up the tent in the glow of the truck headlights, when what to the wondering eyes would appear but, NOTHING. As the truck's damn computer had shut them down and this was a no-moon night, so was impossibly black. The stars were nice and bright though! I fell three times trying to get back to where I could turn the truck lights on again. Handily the truck wouldn't let me turn them on again without getting in the truck and starting it up. My hatred for the computer that controls this vehicle far exceeds language that could be used in an article such as this.

5AM! Time to give up trying to sleep and hit the road, as the wind is attempting to return the tent to Long Lake. This is due to the weather that I returned to the TH to avoid. The bright side? It made for an early arrival home!

(Pictures will be in the PDF website version)



Why Join NAPgA? NAPgA is the only organization that exclusively represents goatpackers, and works tirelessly to open areas for camping and hiking with your goats that are closed right now, or have come under fire for the supposed danger of goats to Bighorn Sheep. The NAPgA governing board holds regular quarterly meetings, which are open to the entire membership (Meetings are conducted via computer and Internet-base meeting software).

Where do Your Dues Go? Since this is an all-volunteer organization, there is very little 'manpower overhead' and so your dues are exclusively used for issues directly connected to goatpacker concerns. As of late, we have spent a lot of money for our legal representation, but that has been well-rewarded in our successes with our fight to keep goatpacking open in the Shoshone and other unfriendly locations. Goat packers, due to our limited time as a recognized pack entity, have our work cut out for us in order to gain recognition as a viable part of the overall 'packer' spectrum. NAPgA is the only means to get that done, and those that are a part of the current BOD are working daily to make that happen.

Please join with us NOW and help us to encourage and develop packgoating nationwide. Dues may be paid with PayPal or with a check to:

Membership Classes:

- Bronze, \$20
- Silver, \$50
- Gold, \$100
- Youth, \$10

By becoming a member, you help NAPgA work to keep the wilderness open to Packgoats

NAPgA Mail Application

Date: _____ Date Received: _____

Member Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ eMail: _____

Brief Description of Packgoat Experience and/or Interest:

Contact: napga.org@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.napga.org>

WORKING GOAT DIRECTORY

For only \$10 per year, (That's \$2.50 an issue), advertise your name, address, and goat related items that you offer, such as equipment, pack or breeding animals, stud service, outfitting services, artwork, ANYTHING relating to working goats. Even if you don't have anything to sell, this is a great way to just let other working goat enthusiasts know that you are out there. There is a 15 word limit (address and phone count as one word). Underline key words and they will be highlighted. Listings will be organized by state.

ARIZONA

PURPLE MOUNTAIN PACKGOATS

Family Adventures. Day Hikes, Cookouts, Campouts
120 S. Houghton Rd. #138, Box 222
Tucson, AZ 85748, 520-403-4056
AZ Packgoat@aol.com

GRANDMA'S PACKGOATS

Kids for Sale - CAE Free or Return
Box 308, Aguila, AZ 85320, 928-685-2476
powell@tabletotelephone.com

CALIFORNIA

BUTT-HEAD PACKGOATS & EQUIPMENT

Packgoats bred for packing:
Toggenburgs, Oberhasli, Alpine mix
CAE Prevention Program
Best quality goatpacking equipment
PO Box 333
Rough and Ready, CA 95975
530-432-0946
bhpackgoats@hotmail.com
www.ButtHeadPackGoats.com

SHUTEYE PACKGOATS

Rodney York
Packgoats for sale-CAE Free or replace
33721 Bonnie "B" Road
North Fork, CA 93643
559-877-2701
Nfspanky@gmail.com

IDAHO

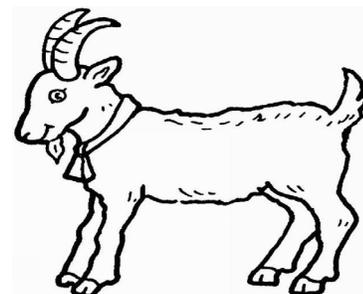
NORTHWEST PACKGOATS & SUPPLIES

Saddles. Packs & Pads Saddle kits & Economy 4-H kits
147 Wilson Rd.
Weippe, ID 83553
1-888-PACKGOAT
www.northwestpackgoats.com

OREGON

Eagle Creek Packgoats and Publishers
Kids & Trained Yearlings
Books for goatpackers and goat owners
CAE prevention program
PO Box 755
Estacada, OR 97023
971-230-4338
ecpg@peoplepc.com

4F Packgoat Club Terry Ryan 8099 N Beaver Road Seal Rock, OR 97376 541-563-5385	Cloverleaf 4-H Club Judy Bevaart/Sandy Roberts 27316 - 145th St. E. Buckley, WA 98321 253-850-3065
Four Seasons Goat Trekkers Club Kim Buechel/Donna Semasko 7244 40th Ct. NE Lacey, WA 98516 360-491-4528/360-923-1451	Frederick County 4-H Packgoat Group Frederick, Maryland www.4hpackgoats.org 4hpackgoats@gmail.com
Glacier County Kids 4-H Club Chuck Taylor PO Box 190623 Hungry Horse, MT 59919 406-387-5012	Pollock Pines Mountaineers Lori and Dan Mobley 3062 Castlewood Circle Pollock Pines, CA 95726
Siskiyou 4-H Packgoats Dave and Peggy Nicholson 11524 Big Springs Road Montague, CA 96064	Sheboygan Co. 4-H Goat Ruth Van Sluys W4791 County Rd. PP Plymouth, WI 53073 920-893-0662
Lake Co. 4-H Packgoat Club Rende and Bruce Burns PO Box 1194 Cobb, CA 95426 707-928-4519	Jest Kiddin' Around Danielle Fear 959 E Jones Creek Rd. Grants Pass, OR 97526 541-471-0838



GOAT TRACKS:
Journal of the Working Goat
13 Norwood Place
Boise, ID 83716-3283



Goat Tracks Magazine
The only magazine
dedicated to packgoats.

GoatTracksMagazine.org

Took the baby goat to church today she was good and let me know when she had to potty also

