

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

A time to be born, A time to die....

Today was the time for my beef cows to 'go to market', so to speak, which is a round-about-way of saying.....well.... you can figure it out. The butcher people come out and do it on my place, then take them away. I can't be at home when 'that' happens. Too traumatic. I always wonder how traumatic it is for all the other animals on the place too, so I pen them up as far away as possible from the 'killing grounds.' The only way I can have beef to butcher and sell is that I make a contract with them: I will raise them and feed them and take care of them and give them a nice pasture to live in instead of a mucky old feedlot, but then at some point, they have to provide for me, too. I guess that's the way it is for cows, unless you're in India. Cows provide for us in one way or another, either milk or beef. But it's still hard when it comes time for them to go. Turn, turn, turn.

A time to dance, a time to laugh.....

Packing season is right around the corner, and I am SO excited!! There's some good pack trips planned for this year, and I'm looking forward to loading up the mules and heading down the trail with some good friends. Get into the back country for awhile. A Time of Peace.

But before the pack trips happen we have a Pack Clinic coming up in April so we can all hone our skills and learn new knots. Or possibly how to pack *without* knots. With all the new gear available these days, you'd think you'd be able to load a mule without having to know how to tie all those danged knots! Whatever. Our Pack Clinic this year is going to key on Women Packers. I'm hoping us vertically challenged females can learn some more pointers on hoisting heavy things up on top of tall equines. If you're a vertically challenge female, a long, lanky female, OR a male of any sort (it's not limited to women by any means) that's interested in packing, this is the year to learn the ins and outs of it. Come out in April and join us at the Pack Clinic! [info on the web site: www.sbbchidaho.org]

A time to cast away stones.....

Or in the case of Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen, A time to cut away logs.....and other debris blocking all the trails into the back country. That's what we do, you know. This is also a Time To Laugh because we have a great time doing all this work. I've never been on a project when I didn't actually have fun doing all the work we do. It's been said that 'the Squaw Butte Chapter works too hard'. We DO work hard, and we work a lot. But we have so much fun while we're doing it! Then after the work is done we, of course, go back to camp and EAT

and have even more fun. Ann Landers or Dear Abby, one of the two, once said: "It's only work if you'd rather be doing something else." There is nothing else I would rather be doing in the summer than riding horses in the back country, and working hard alongside other good, hard-working people. This must be where A Time of Love comes in.

As we head into spring and the Time To Plant, let's make it a Time To Plan. Check out the calendar of events on the web page and plan out your summer. There are plenty of things to do, and we could use your help. We'd love to have your camaraderie along on the trail, too.

To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. Turn, turn, turn.

Speaking of turns, I'll see you on the next switchback!

Janine