

**From:** Kimberli Fish, Region 4

**Sent:** Monday, June 09, 2008 8:28 PM

**Subject:** Clarks Fork ride (beware picture intense!!!)

Itchin' for that first campout, hope the moutains ain't to crowded for where I'm going....

Heading up Hwy 108 to check out the back side of the Dardenelle mountain range. I ride on the other side which is where Spicers Res. looks up to (all my snow rides.) I've heard about this place called Clarks Fork and lots of people go there, a horse campground. I've been researching on an old cabin I read in a "70's trail book and sound like a neat place to see, an old packers cabin, hope it's still there. The easiest and quickest route seems to be from a trail and Clarks Fork is where I need to stay. So with a 1 1/2 hour haul to over to Hwy 108 I reach Clarks Fork Fri. night. Figured I'd get up early and ride Sat. and have a chance to kick back after the ride and go home Sun. Yeah, first campout of the season. 4 rides in the sierras under the belt for 2008 and 1st campout!

With camp set up and Josie's pen up and her content I cooked up a quick Filet Mignon courtesy of the F2 Cattle Co.....



The road into Clark Fork horse camp is 5-6 miles back on a paved road so you can go 30 mph to get there with the curvey roads and the road to the camp is a nice dirt road with not too many chuck holes.....the road into the campspot in the horse campground.....



The view looking out my trailer door....



With dinner in my belly I set down early for the night so I could get up and going the next day as the trip I planned was to be a 16 mile trip but could be longer depending on the terrain and trees that may have fallen and made the trail unmanageable from the snow this past winter.

The first of many fords I come across on this trip, but this was to be the calmest of them all. The rest were like rushing rivers with the snow melt off being so high and had to get off for one to lead Josie across as it was pretty swift.....



and once I crossed a few more light fords we come into this gorgeous meadow and so green with the snow melt.....



We start to go up hill fast and a long haul of uphill up switch backs that get steeper and narrower.....The beginning of the climb going up into Jenkins Canyon.....



Once out of the switch backs and to a flat plateau we come into view of another beautiful small high mountain meadow.....good place to stop and let Josie munch down some feed!



We travel the trail that is less traveled by the looks of it, and hard to read. I look over a crest and see an awesome view of the back side of the Dardenelle range. It's spectacular back here! Great photo ops here!!!!!!!

Back side of the Dardenelle's is full of volcanic rock.....



What a shot of Josie TWH!!!! (so named by a board member buddy! and that ain't short for Tennessee Walker Horse as she is a reg. old blood quarter mare.).....



Had to get myself in one with her too as she packs my butt around everywhere up there, bless her heart for taking the hard trails!



The mules ears are just starting to come up and those that are already out are smaller ones.....



After a break behind the Dardenelles we continue to climb up and then down into Jenkins Canyon. Wow! It is really hard to find the trail or anything down in here! Thank gosh I've got the Gps to kinda read a trail and maneuver a little easier around the down trees and snow drifts of 4-5 feet still!

There is water rushing around everywhere and you can hear some big waterfalls running too. Here's a shot of one of the smaller ones I was able to get down to photograph.....



Ahhhh! finally we've come to Highland Creek, and it's pretty deep and rushing good! But I believe we can make it across just fine without getting off. As we ride across I have to keep Josie steady and going straight with my legs as the water with her looking at it is making her go sideways and all goofy. Just trust me this one time girl, I always put my faith in you, trust me to guide you through this one.

The pic. doesn't do justice to how deep and swift it is, but I've got another on below on what it looks like just up above from where we crossed.....

Highland Creek.....



and up above.....



the trail comes into Slaughter Canyon and I can see why, it's pretty granite like with lots of slicks.....





A view along the Highland Creek with Hiram Peak in the background.....



Shoot! We should be coming up onto Hiram Meadow soon and the old cabin should be just before it. Ahhh, but what through the trees do I spy?



The cabin!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Views around the cabin. It's such an awesome spot along the Highland Creek with views of Hiram, Airola, and Icerberg Peaks in the distance. Lots of lush grass and mountain cabbage plant too. I wished I would of brought hubby's mare and packed in as I don't want to leave I could stay here for the night easily!!! and well worth the catastrophe canyon trail!





Oh cool! and my favorite thing to photograph, outhouses!!!!!!



Josie chillin' out in the background while I eat a sandwich.....



After an hour stop I finally had to convince myself that we had to go back, as it was a 4 hour ride in, but should only be 3 out as I knew where to maneuver around the bad spots in the trail.

Views going back out that were behind us going in.....

A very boggy meadow with mountain cabbage plant just waiting to pop up through the snow.....



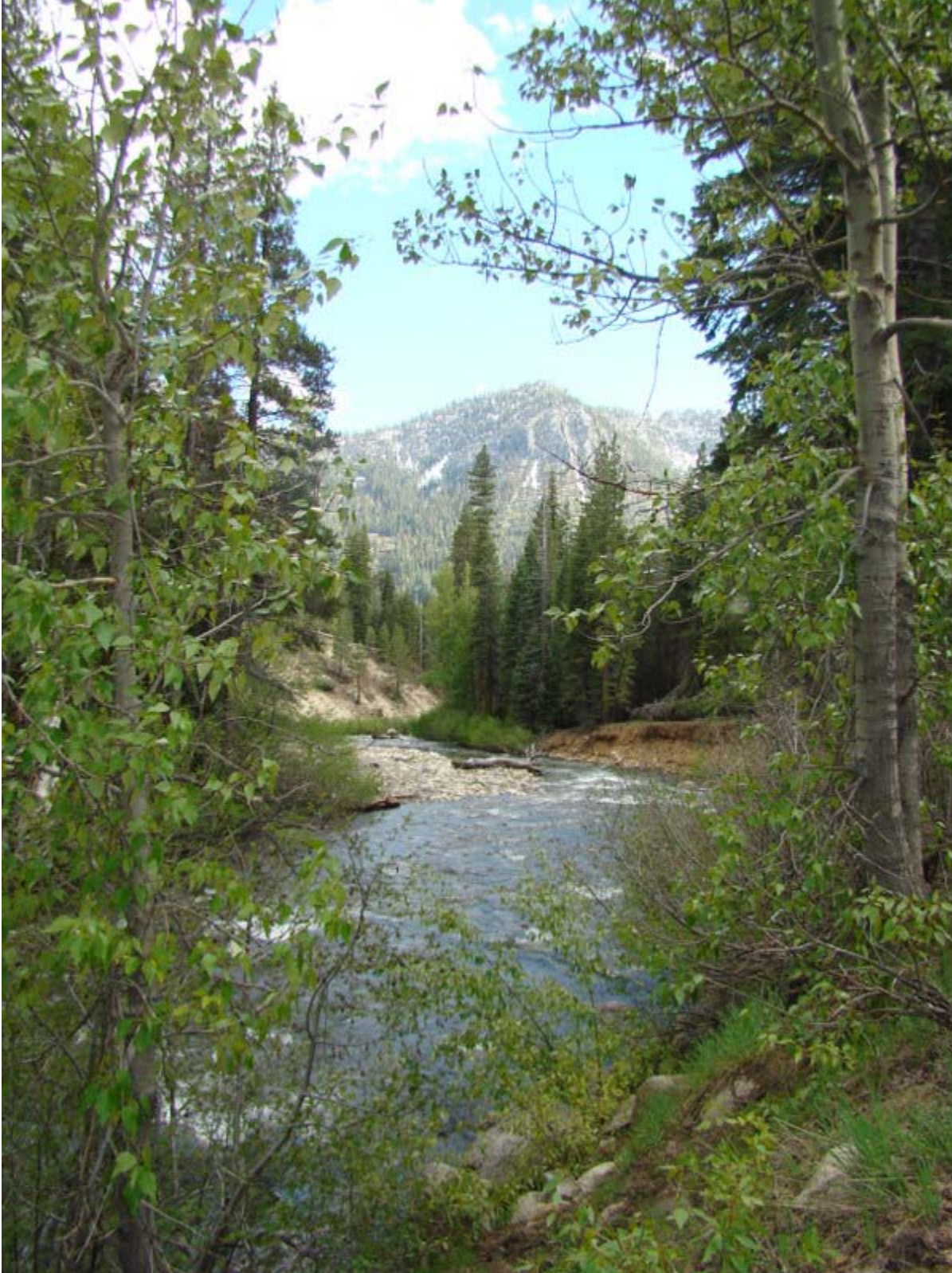
A very cool cornice!





And finally after a 20.7 mile round trip with all the maneuvering around the trail to get to the trail we come back down into Clarks Fork camp.

A view of Clarks Fork itself.....



Along the paved road going back into yet another trail head into the sierras was this neat rock wall along it.....



Too tired to cook and eat and too tired to care. Think I'll take a shower, brush and feed Josie and settle in early for the night and watch "Young Guns", should make for a nice campout movie.....



Hope all enjoyed the ride to the Hiram Meadow Pack cabin.....

kimmy