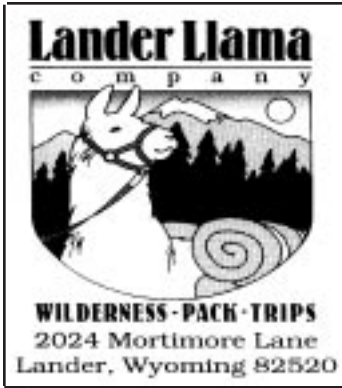


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Issue 1

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BEARS, NO TROUBLE FOR LLAMAS!

The black bear encounters for llamas and llama handlers were significantly down compared to the packing season of 1993. No reports of negative bear encounters were received by patrons of L.L.C. in 1994. Although L.L.C.'s bear encounters were down, the U.S.F.S. Washakie District reports that negative bear encounters for the general public as a whole were at an all time high!

MOUNTAINEERING COURSES KICK IN FOR 1995.

L.L.C. will be offering a limited amount of beginning and intermediate mountaineering courses deep in the Wind River country in the month of August. The participant to guide ratio is 2 to 1, which will offer safe and educational mountaineering. The llamas will be the gear porters, and Bob Branscomb will be your guide. Bob is a veteran mountaineer and instructor who has numerous ascents in the U.S., Canada, Alaska, and Mexico. Call or write for your Mountaineering brochure today!

WANTED!!

Writers. No experience necessary! Any stories relating to your backcountry travels will be considered for publication in the *Llameros* Bi-Annual. Write or fax L.L.C. today.

"BUNK HOUSE"

Grand Opening May 1st, 1995

For some time now L.L.C. has been sending people to the motels and bed and breakfasts throughout Lander and Western Wyoming. Starting May 1st, 1995 L.L.C. will open the doors to the "Bunk House". The "Bunk House" is a western rough look bunk house that sleeps 1 to 6 people, and is nestled on the peaceful Little Popo Agie River. It will have a bathroom & shower facility, and a complete kitchenette. Best of all, the back door of the "Bunk House" will let you see close up mother llamas and their crias (baby llamas)! WOW! Early reservations are highly recommended! \$65.00/night and \$55.00/night for trip guests. Call 1-800-582-LAMA!

L.L.C. T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

100 % Cotton

Peppercorn white w/dk.green logo

\$ 12.00

shipped

L, XL



Brave Belly-Boaters!

By Scott Woodruff

Bellyboat \BELL-E-BOAT\ 1: an old car tire inner tube converted to a floating device. 2: a float device which causes addiction. 3: a fly-fisherman's dream come true. Yes, they are the rage of the west for many anglers to reach the "other side"! About 10 years ago I remember watching some Sunday afternoon fishing channel. You know! The ones that are endorsed by the best darn fishing lure you'll ever try! Garoanteed! As I casually glanced at the screen I noticed a gentleman enthusiastically describing how his bellyboat works, and he proceeded to launch it from the shore. I remember thinking, this guy's nuts! He's in a rubber tube, with Red-Ball would catch a wave over the top pocket knife. Fortunately, this water sport. He started catching that garoanteed lure, and caught to go, I'm thinking. This guy sure compared to today's deluxe Belly-Boater"! Well five years good friend Mike had two floater! Not to mention an expert gave me my first opportunity to buy my own stuff very shortly, and for the core with a valve that needs



them up partially then haul them on the llamas partially filled so that there is no need to spend an hour pumping them up when you get to your destination lake. The problem is, that it is very bulky and cumbersome. The boats I bought have a durable vinyl inner tube that you can blow up in a couple of minutes. The best part is, it easily collapses and weighs less than 10 pounds. With my neoprene waders the whole package fits into one llama pannier at about 25 pounds! Not bad! Of course the foot flippers are essential and will always be cumbersome, but are a far cry better than no flippers and a paddle. Which brings me back to the subject of "Brave Belly-Boaters". Dave Hoefler, a close relative of mine was invited to go on a 5 day high mountain fishing excursion with me and his brothers and nephews Phil, Jon, Mark and Todd. I told them that we were going to be using bellyboats. Phil, Jon, Mark and Todd thought that was a great idea and looked forward to using mine as they did not have their own. Dave said he was fully equipped and was a seasoned "Belly-Boater"! Great, I thought, 3 belly boats and 6 people. We will have plenty of time each sharing the 3 bellyboats. Well, not exactly! You see, we should have figured that Dave's bellyboat was for "Brave Belly-Boaters". As we were preparing our gear to load on the llamas Dave brought out his fully inflated prototype bellyboat. We gasped! "You're not going to use that, are you?" I asked Dave. "Well yeah why not?" Then we all shrugged, and laughed! Dave said, "I picked it up at a rummage sale and it works just fine!" I don't know about you but some things you just don't buy at rummage sales, and I think bellyboats are one of those things. It's like buying a used toothbrush which leaves the question, why is someone selling it? Well I guess it was a deal for \$3.00! Then Dave brought down the rest of the gear that goes along with this prototype bellyboat. Yep, a paddle and some Red-Ball waders, the old rubber type with boots. I was having instant de`ja' vu. Dave is going to die, he's nuts! Dave said "Don't worry, I have a tow rope and will tow my life vest behind me as I paddle." Yep, the life vest was orange in color! Need I say more! Now I felt safe! When Dave would sink rapidly to the bottom of a very deep and very cold glacier fed lake, at least we would have an orange marker where he went down! We finally got to these high mountain lakes a couple of days later, with all 3 bellyboats. We watched with much scepticism as Dave prepared for his launch off the slippery submerged granite. Phil and I were discussing what the easiest way would be to remove Dave's body from the wilderness when the time came. We agreed, and asked Dave if he wouldn't mind if we quartered his body up, so we could fit all of him on the llamas for the long mournful trip out. Dave just grinned and launched his miniature Titanic. The bellyboat was barely 3 inches out of the water. Any wave action would surely sink him! Thank God for a calm day, as Dave spent the next few hours in his bellyboat catching Cutthroat and not even worrying about death just around the corner. I guess that is what fishing is all about, taking your mind off every thing in life and simply enjoying the moment. Dave is a great fisherman, a true pioneer, and a "Brave Belly-Boater"!



Note: Dave and Jon are retired U.S.F.S. Rangers enjoying life.