

BOY SCOUT TROOP 354

By Alan Fry

On a beautiful sunny Saturday in October, Randy Witt and Alan Fry entertained 10 boy scouts of Troop 354, along with their parents, to a packing clinic at the Clovis Rodeo Grounds. Randy brought his two mules, Jake and Dee Dee, and his riding horse. I brought my pack mule Pride, my riding horse Louisiana and a 55 gallon dummy mule. We spent the early part of the morning defining terms, explaining equipment and demonstrating the box hitch on the 55 gallon dummy mule.

The boy scouts then practiced doing a box hitch on the dummy mule before we turned them loose on Pride , Jake and Dee Dee.

We showed them how to saddle a horse, put on a bridle and check the horse's hooves. Parents of the boy scouts participated as well. They all had a chance to ride the horses and most did. We all had a great time and the boy scouts were very appreciative of our efforts. They are hoping we will take them on a horse packing trip in the future.

This was a great event with the community and a way youths can become acquainted with horses, mules, packing and the backcountry.

