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Hello everyone!

A cowboy rode into town and stopped at a saloon for a drink. Unfortunately, the locals had a habit of picking on strangers. When he finished his drink, he found his horse had been stolen. He went back into the bar and with a quick move of his hands, he flipped his guns into the air, caught them above his head without even looking and fired at the ceiling. Which one of you sidewinders stole my hoss!?" he yelled. No one answered.

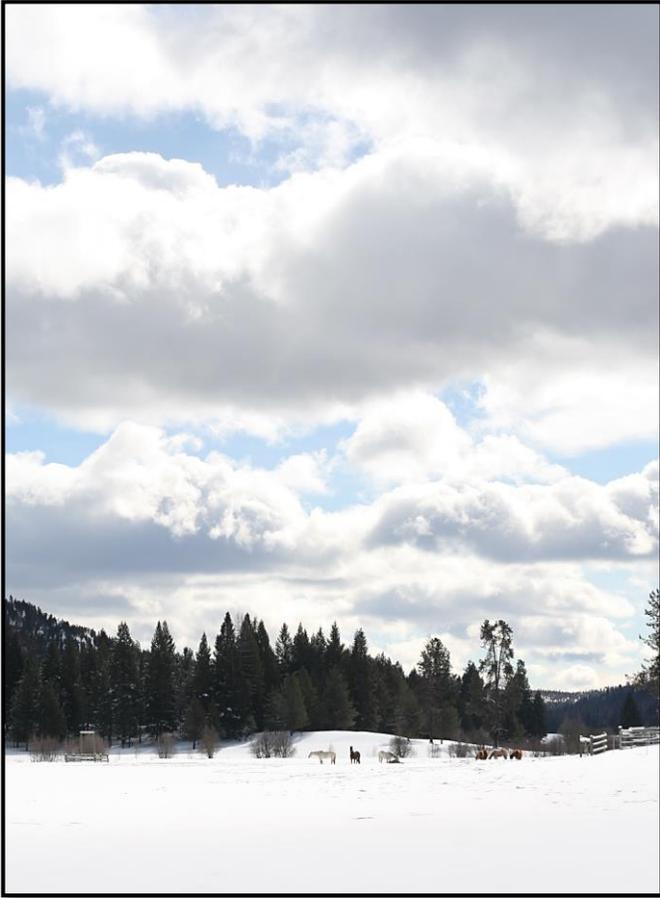
"Alright, I'm gonna have another beer, and if my hoss ain't back outside by the time I finish, I'm gonna do what I done in Texas! And I don't like to have to do what I done in Texas!

Some of the locals shifted restlessly. He had another beer, walked outside, and his horse was back! As he swung up into the saddle and started to ride out of town, the bartender ran out of the saloon and asked, "Say partner, before you go... what happened in Texas?" The cowboy turned back and said, "I walked home."

When I saw that I thought of Chris and knew I had to get it in the Highline! Chris's dog Sage took a fall last week and tore a ligament in her front leg. She'll be fine, but Chris is worried she won't be up to speed by the time we turn cattle out and *he* might have to climb off his horse at some point to search out some wayward steers.

Speaking of climbing...last Sunday Randy must have climbed 25 feet up a tree in his front yard in a daring cat rescue. Dori and Randy's Maine Coon Cat, Booger, had decided to climb this tree on Saturday and couldn't figure out a way to get down all of Saturday night. By Sunday morning Dori was pretty worried, so Randy volunteered to climb up after him. He climbed to the top of the ladder, then climbed another 10-15 feet beyond that! Some of those branches didn't look too sturdy but you know what Randy's motto is—"God





hates a coward”—so up he went and brought down Booger safe and sound.

We did something neat with the guests this week during horsemanship. We have a couple of those mini Flip Video cameras and set them up each day. In the evenings, the guests could re-watch what was demonstrated in the groundwork, and they could each watch themselves, be it riding circles or doing trot/lope transitions. It was a huge eye-opener for all of us, because a lot of times we'll swear up and down that we aren't pulling, kicking, staring down at the horses head, etc., but the video tells all.

It's something I think we'll be playing with a lot more during our winter weeks since there is far less picture taking, and far more down-time in the evenings to replay the day's events.

Randy and Jerry have been spending the past couple of weeks working on our hay baler. Randy is stoked

about it. Several different people have worked on our balers in the last couple years, and there hasn't been any consistency. Now, Randy has a system down and they're about finished up with all the repairs. Best of all, he knows exactly how to fix them if anything should go awry again!

Of course, no Highline would be complete at this time of year without a weather report. It seems like all of the snow that we should have had in December and January finally decided to fall down on us this month! The last couple weeks it has snowed all day, nearly every day. There's got to be at least a couple feet of snow outside right now.

Yesterday evening, Shayne got his toolcat stuck while plowing snow by the saddling barn. Nathan drove over with the J&S truck to pull him out. Once Nathan got Shayne out, he realized that he was stuck! So then Roby came along with some tow straps and got Nathan out. It reminds me of the Corb Lund song...Truck Got Stuck "The Chev got stuck and the Ford got stuck; But the Chev unstuck when the Dodge showed up; But the Dodge got stuck in the tractor rut; Which eventually pulled out the Ford..."

Have a great weekend guys,

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