



# TRAILS & TALES

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August 22, 2011

## **NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT** **BILL BIRDEN**

Where is the summer going? The Golden Rod is telling us it is almost over. We still have a lot of trail work to be done and a **yard sale** to get ready for on **Labor Day weekend**.

We have our Club House clean and in order, but we need more **good stuff** to sell. Also we need more workers to help run the yard sale that weekend. With over a hundred members we should be able to get a few more workers even if it is just for an hour or so each day. Please come help us out. You may call Bill at 207-446-7874 or Richard at 860-508-8930 if you can help us in any way.

After our yard sale is over with we will be planning our **Annual Landowners and Members Pig Roast**. The **Sandy River Ramblers (Blue Green Band)** will provide our entertainment. They gave us a very good rate. They also support ATV's and Landowner relations. So mark your calendars for Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> for our Pig Roast.

Good news!! Our club won a Second Place Ribbon and Prize at the Wilton Blueberry Festival Parade in the Wheels Division. Thanks go out to the members who participated.

**Our next meeting is Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**, with a Pot Luck supper at 6:00 pm and our meeting at 7:00 pm. We hope that you will be able to join us.

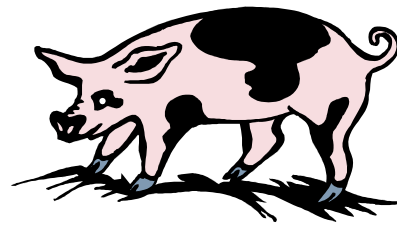
**Our club rides for September** are September 10<sup>th</sup>-Stratton to Rangeley via the Moose Loop Trail and September 24<sup>th</sup>-Strong to Mt Blue State Park. Call Eric for information on these rides at: 207-491-5232 or e-mail at [ecopeland@wildblue.net](mailto:ecopeland@wildblue.net)

The following Story is what some of us might relate to from the days before TV and Computers. It has absolutely nothing to do with ATV's or ATVing but I thought you might enjoy it.

## **Hog-tied**

Two wannabe cowboys hone their skills on the livestock available.

By Vince Kontny, Montrose, Colorado.



World War II was raging, and on our Great Plains farm, Jim and I--the eighth and ninth in our double-digit family--had to invent our own entertainment.

Dad had just bought a new lariat and hung it in the barn. It was beautiful! And it made us instant cowboys. Regrettably, every adult on the place could see our interest. They made it clear that the rope was untouchable, which to us simply meant we had to wait for an opportune time.

A cowboy needs an animal about his own height to perfect his roping skill. With no sheep around, the pigs won by default. So into the pigpen we went! Jim had the lariat. My job, once he roped the pig, was to throw it to the ground. Neither task was easy. After Jim tried about 20 throws, with 20 misses, he decided to change tactics.

We herded our target pig into the pig house, draped the loop over the doorway and waited for the critter to come back out. The pig, according to plan, put his head right in the loop. Jim yanked on the lariat at precisely the right time. And that's where the plan went awry.

The pig squealed and took off at a dead run. Jim clamped down on the rope and hollered for me to do

the same. Unfortunately, the pig not only outweighed us by about 150 pounds, he was smarter.

He headed for the open field, with the two of us bouncing along behind like a couple of sausages. Our options were to hang on and lose every square inch of skin on our bodies, then die a slow death in the field; or to let go and wait until Dad missed his new lariat, then die a quicker death at his hands.

We let go. Always better, we thought, to die later rather than right away. We never found the lariat. Within a week, however, Dad noted its absence. Everybody looked at Jim and me as the prime suspects, but with no material evidence, they couldn't declare us guilty.

At a family reunion 40 years later, Jim and I finally mustered the courage to confess. To no one's surprise, Dad was still upset. It was a good lariat.

This story is excerpted from *The Life & Times of Vince Kontny*, a 196-page chronicle of life on the Great Plains. To order a copy, call 970-249-2898 or email [parker@doubleshoe.com](mailto:parker@doubleshoe.com).