

# This Darn Load Will Not Line Up!

By Ed Haefliger

I have either been blessed or cursed with the privilege of tying on more pack loads than I can remember. But what I do remember is the battles I have had with getting the loads on exactly equal, in location.

“Ok! I have the first load or box tied on just where I want it, now for the second one.” That nasty box/load, almost every time, will resist lining up the same distance away from the cross bucks or hoops of the packsaddle, as the other side.

I would push the load around and pull myself blue in the face until I got it into place. Always wondering when I would get the formula figured out to tame this beast down. Then on a pack trip, early this year, I saw the combination of moves I could make, to finally settle this issue down once and for all.

The offending box/load will protrude out more at the back of the packsaddle. First, pull the sling rope, bar-tight, around the box/load. Second, get your hand and arm under the box/load and push up on its back corner. This will twist the box/load, angling the rear corner higher than the front corner. This is exactly what you want. Note: This will introduce the needed slack into the sling rope. Next,



*Above, Sue is in the process of tightening a contrary bear box. She is lifting up the rear corner enough to introduce the needed slack into the sling rope. Once she has enough slack, she will tie it off and center the loads.*

pull any and all slack this produces or until you make it squeal (that is really tight). Finally, pull the (now higher) rear corner down level with the rest of the box. Inspect the combination of both boxes,

making sure they are exactly the same in all distances from all points on the pack-saddle.

It is funny how a problem will challenge me for a period of time before I get it solved. But during that whole time, I am convinced some day, I will see something move and there will be the answer to this challenge. Bingo, there it was, pushing it up, and not just pulling it tight was the solution. I believe this is a key point to consider as a packer. Keep looking and keep wondering.

With this kind of mindset, the adventures of packing can only get better and at the same time safer.

Ed Haefliger

Co-author: “*The Mountain Canary Company Packers Guide Book*”

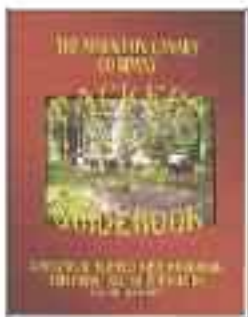
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The Mountain Canary Company

## Packers Guidebook



This book is a complete packing clinic between two covers. Ed and Sue Haefliger describe, in text and photo detail, how and why they use the packing systems and methods that they have come to rely on. They take the reader systematically through the process of learning how to pack safely. Folks that have read it have commented not only on the great information within for any packer, but also the friendly and complete presentation.

The Packers Guidebook is printed on 24# paper in black and white. The color card stock covers are protected with clear plastic overlays and spiral bound for usefulness and durability. There are 265 pages of instructions and information, along with 366 photos, most of which contain photo art instructions.

Mountain Canary Company at:

[www.mtcanaryco.com](http://www.mtcanaryco.com)

The price is \$46.00 shipping and handling included.  
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