

SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER



It was a rough winter and, for a little while, we were not sure when it would end. This year, spring made seven attempts to break through the blustery cold winter; but every time the Winter Man showed up with snow, rain, slush and the necessary mud that accompanies this change in seasons. We had given up hope of ever seeing the wonderful Spring weather, but

the days gradually got longer and the weather warmed up (Yes, 10 degrees to 42 degrees is warming up!).

It is shaping up to be a great season and the first guests arrived in April. Here is a look at what happened over the winter and what is going on into spring.

WELCOME YOUR 2011 HIDEOUT CREW!

We updated you in the last newsletter on the changes going on at The Hideout. With this newsletter we would like to take a moment to introduce and re-introduce your 2011 Hideout Crew. We have listed just a couple words about them, but please take a minute to visit our website and read the bios posted along with pictures! (<http://www.thehideout.com/team.html>)

Kitchen: Chef Sheena Ernst & Maricella Castro

We introduced Chef Sheena in the winter newsletter. Chef Sheena is looking forward to delighting you with all sorts of wonderful delights that will get your taste buds working overtime!

Mary is back for her 11th season with The Hideout. There is no better way to start the day than with breakfast served with a smile!

Office: AJ Templeton

AJ returns for her 3rd season with The Hideout. She is a busy little bee who tries to help out wherever she can.

Multi-taskers: Jessica McLavey & Janell McBride

Jessica, or Jessy, recently graduated from Colby-Sawyer College in New England. Jessica has a bubbly personality that is infectious and you will see her

helping in both the kitchen and the office. In her spare time she hopes to get some riding in, so you may see her out on the trails, as well!

Janell lives in Greybull and will be assisting in the office and kitchen this season. She grew up in Washington State and is a mother to four children. If you have questions on the area, she is the one to ask, as she loves enjoying the wide open spaces of Wyoming.

Housekeeping: Guille Sosa

Guille and her crew are back for another season. They kept busy over the winter with renovations and keeping everything in tip-top shape. Guille is in charge of making sure everything, from the cabins to the lodge, is sparkling clean and they do a great job!

Maintenance: Marco Chavez , Ever “Junior” Chavez & Horacio Pancheco

These boys are back! Marco and Junior will be joined this season by Horacio. Together the guys make sure that everything, from irrigation to the doors, is in working order. Give them a wave when you see them zipping around the property, as their work is never done.

Wranglers: Ramon Castro, Shawn Kelley, Marijn Werquin

Ramon, our head wrangler and trainer, has worked between the Flitner Ranch and the Hideout for a combined 14 years. He is known for his honesty, values, authenticity and as a humble and cheerful person who looks to get the best out of any situation or relationship. During the off season, Ramon trains and starts horses for outside horse owners and has a reputation for getting the job done, even with some pretty difficult horses.

Shawn is back for a fifth season with The Hideout. His smile is infectious and he is loved by all guests. Shawn has a gentle and easy-going way that instills confidence in beginning riders, and his army background means that he is a strict force to be reckoned with. Shawn is also a certified massage therapist and has course work in equine massage practices.

This will be Marijn's third season as a full wrangler. Marijn keeps busy working in the barn and managing the Hideout's general manager, Peter. She brings a calm, sunny, and confident disposition to the barn and is fluent in three languages.

Seasonal & Junior Wranglers: Sarah Trucksis, Katelyn Smith, Brant Lyman, Victor DeCabooter, Edward DeCabooter, Megan Smith



Sarah comes to us this season from Ohio and has recently graduated from Furman University in South Carolina. Sarah is an accomplished rider, in both English and Western, and has grown up on horseback.

Katelyn is originally from Maine, however she is a University of Wyoming alum, having majored in Communications with a

double minor in Equine Science and Psychology. Katelyn started riding at a young age and is an accomplished rider in both English and Western.

Brant is a local cowboy who grew up ranching and farming in Tensleep, Wyoming. Keep reading to find out more about Brant later in the newsletter.

Megan, Victor, and Edward are this season's "junior wranglers". Megan comes to us from a lifetime of being around horses. She is currently studying in North Carolina and has interned with horse trainer and bull rider, Brock Griffith. Edward and Victor, or "the twins," will be more hands-on this season both in the barn and on the trail. Many of you remember when these two were young boys, now they are young men and have spent the winter training in the arena under the watchful eye of Ramon and Shawn.

Management: Paula & David Flitner, Peter & Marijn DeCabooter

The Hideout wouldn't be the organization it is without the leadership and passion of its management team. Paula and David will be back from Florida once the snow melts and you'll be sure to see them during your stay at dinners, cocktail hours and who knows where else!! They are the foundation for the genuine western hospitality that the Hideout has come to be known for.

Peter and Marijn spent a majority of the winter in Wyoming, escaping once or twice during the winter for a break to "thaw out". They are both looking forward to the season starting, this is their fifth season managing the Hideout, especially Peter, as he is looking forward to getting out of the office to roam free among the guests. Under their guidance, encouragement and leadership, this season's 2011 team has been put together and made ready for a great 2011 season.

Food, Food, and yes FOOD!

Ok, enough playing around with all the people stuff – time to get down to business. After receiving complaint emails, harassing phone calls, and even some threatening letters, we recognize that there was no recipe in the last newsletter. Please accept this as our formal apology for the lack of food related information. With that said, we managed to corner Chef Sheena and, happy to please, she handed over what she calls “a recipe that is the epitome of spring: crisp vegetables, fresh flavor. Serve this as a starter or a side to any main.”

Green bean and almond salad

1 pound green beans or haricot vert (the skinny ones)
1/2 fennel bulb
1 stalk celery
1/2 medium red onion
1 Tablespoon lemon juice
1/4 cup red wine vinegar
1/4 cup water
1 Tablespoon kosher salt
1 1/2 teaspoon sugar
1/3 cup whole almonds
2 Tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons olive oil

Very thinly slice the fennel bulb, celery and onion. Toss the fennel with lemon juice to prevent them from browning.

In a small bowl, whisk together the vinegar, water, salt, and sugar. Add the onions and set aside for about an hour. If you don't have an hour, 30 minutes will still pickle them enough, but they will only get better with age.

Meanwhile, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Trim and tail the green beans. Boil the beans until tender (about 4-5 minutes). Plunge them into an ice water bath. Drain and pat dry.

Heat a small heavy skillet to medium heat and add one teaspoon olive oil. Add the almonds and toast until lightly browned. Toss them frequently as they will burn quickly. Season lightly with salt and pepper. Transfer to a plate and let cool. Roughly chop the almonds in half or thirds.

Assemble the salad: toss the green beans with the fennel, celery and the pickled red onions. Sprinkle two tablespoons of the red onion pickling liquid and two tablespoons olive oil over the mixture. Season generously with salt and pepper. Taste, adjust the seasoning and enjoy!

* The almonds could be substituted for hazelnuts for even more great flavor!

The Range Rover of Saddles

It is not uncommon for us to have guest requests for certain saddle numbers. This isn't too surprising, given the number of hours our guests want to spend in the saddle and on the range. Having a saddle that fits both horse and rider well is very important.

Last season there was a lot of mention to the saddle that Ramon rides in – it was the envy of both guests and other wranglers alike. (Marijn liked it so much she got one for herself!) A guest mentioned that he wished there were a couple of those “special” saddles available as he would love to ride in them, and would be willing to pay an upgrade fee. After getting similar feedback from other guests, we started researching on saddle makers and saddles. We looked at a variety of saddle makers and, considering that The Hideout manages and uses around 45 saddles, striking a balance between “the best and affordability” was a big challenge. We could buy the best of everything, but we are not sure that all guests would want the price increase for their stay. So we narrowed down our options and the first of the saddles arrived this Spring.



This season the Hideout will feature eight custom saddles under the “Authentic Horses” brand. The “AH” brand represents superior quality and was introduced last year featuring a line of “AH” horses. (More on the AH brand on our website and in the next newsletter.) These saddles are custom and handmade to be comfortable for the rider and the horse. They feature a

“*Guadalajara style*” horn, a big horn with a high pitch, making it easier for roping and giving the rider a bigger horn to hold onto. The larger surface also means that it is safer when the rider bounces in the saddle, making this one of the safest saddle designs on the market. The leather of these saddles comes from the highest quality American made and the saddle is lined with 100% pure wool.

This saddle will enhance your riding ability, because it is comfortable and you will be more relaxed. These saddles are also narrower in the front, which increases your balance. Most western saddles, even the very expensive ones, are wider - but the narrow design of these saddles is fueled by cowboys who literally live in their saddles, using them for more than just a competition on the weekend. These saddles are truly the “Range Rover of Saddles.”

Given that there are only eight saddles, and due to the high quality and individuality of these saddles, they are not going to be put into the every day riding string (plus, we don't want guests arm wrestling over who gets to use them). They are available at \$250/week for you to ride in and use during your stay. If you are interested, make sure to mention it when you make your reservation!

For more information on these saddles, including pictures and a more detailed description, visit our website under the soon-to-come AH Horsemanship section.

“Going the Extra Bite”

The Friends of Arizona Photography Group was at The Hideout in February for a photo shoot. The weather was spectacular and the photographers called the week a success. One request that the photographers made was for a cowboy with a unique look. Peter knew just who to ask, The Hideout's neighbor Irv. However, Peter wasn't sure where Irv lived, so he went door to door in the cold trying to locate the correct home of Irv.

Almost out of options, Peter knocked on the door of a house that seemed promising. Concerned about getting shot, Peter didn't pay attention to the dog that was sitting on the porch. After the first knock, Peter felt a strong pain through his leg and looked down to see the dog locked in with a death grip. It took two men (one of them being Irv) to get the dog off of Peter's leg – luckily Peter was wearing two layers of clothing, super-thick socks, and very thick winter jeans. After all of that, Irv was more than happy to serve as a 'cowboy model' for the photography group – and proved that at The Hideout, we go the “extra bite” for our guests – no matter what!

Accommodation Upgrades



Just because winter hits doesn't mean the Hideout crew goes dormant. This winter Peter, Marijn, Guille, Marco and Junior were busy testing shower heads, trying out iPod docking stations, better radios, alarm and sound systems, dual chrome showerheads, installing wooden blinds and picking out bedding (well, that was more Marijn than the boys).

The results are in and there are a few upgrades to be seen in both the cabins and casitas. All of the units now feature new showerheads and iPod docking station/alarm clocks. The casitas have been refurbished to include new window treatments, new king mattresses in

select units, contemporary Western bedding trimming, and wooden headboards – all of which make the casitas more of a Western home-away-from-home.

Hideout in the News

You never know where you might see an article or pictures of The Hideout – here are a couple places we recently showed up!

Blogger Peter

We managed to pin Peter down, put his feet to the fire and get him to write a blog! It turned out to be a durn-tootin good blog at that! Peter took the time to talk about the guest ranching industry, its relationship with the government and how it affects the bottom line. Not to give too much away, here is a peek (to read the full story visit our blog! <http://www.thehideout.com/blog/>).

“We have to maintain and manage assets, people and horses year around for a season that provides income during 6 months of the year at best. Many guest ranches only operate 3 months a year.

This means we are real independent entrepreneurs juggling a lot of different skills to offer you a memorable vacation.

To keep things in perspective, we are talking about the guest ranch industry. The ranch & farm side (non hospitality) of a guest ranch does enjoy some of the above mentioned subsidies; however most guest ranches are separate entities operating on their own even when owned sometimes by the same owners or partners.”

“True Grit” – Conde Naste Travel Magazine

About a year ago, Susan Hack, a writer with Conde Naste magazine visited The Hideout. Her visit was followed by some photographers from the magazine and low and behold the Hideout appeared in the April 2011 issue of Conde Naste! Conde Naste is a top tier travel magazine, and The Hideout is honored to be a part of the article that featured a total of three guest ranches and great information on the West. Go pick up a copy of the magazine or visit their website to see the article.

Francisca Matteoli – travel writer

Francisca visited The Hideout in 2010 as part of a journey across the West. Her visit was brief, but made a lasting impression. Take a moment to read Francisca’s blog, her first story is on Marijn and she has since posted additional blogs on her tour of The Hideout and her trip to the West. To sum up in the words of the author “If you don't read French, it's about how she [Marijn] welcomes the visitors, her calm, her kindness, and how wonderful it is to have her and the Hideout team when you come for the first time like we did.” (The blog is in French, so use your translator feature!) www.franciscamatteoli.com

Cowboy in Wyoming – Jo Franssen, Belgium writer

You may remember us writing about Jo Franssen, a Belgian journalist who toured the Western U.S. and stayed at The Hideout last season. His article is up on the website (the link can be found in the “press room” link). You may not be able to read it, but check out the great pictures! The article was well written and has been well-received abroad, covering six pages in the leading Travel / Week-End Magazine.

The Newest Cowboy



Brant Lyman, a native of Wyoming, joins the team this season as a wrangler. Brant grew up ranching and farming in the Ten Sleep area and has a passion for all things cowboy. Like many Western ranchers, he has grown up around horses and cows and is looking forward to providing guests with a hands-on guide to the area. He is excited about the opportunity to improve his own horsemanship

skills, share his knowledge with others, and draw on his experience this season to improve himself as a horseman and a person.

When Brant is not out on the range, he enjoys indulging in the art of fly fishing. He is a professional fly fishing guide and looks forward to teaching guests the art of fly fishing on the blue ribbon waters in the majestic Big Horn Basin. The Hideout is happy to welcome Brant to the team. When asked why he wants to be a part of the Hideout team, Brant said, “I always heard if you wanna be the best, you gotta be with the best. That is why I wanna be part of the Hideout team.”

Well, shucks Brant, we can’t thank you enough for the compliment and look forward to having you for a rockin’ season!

Herd Update

The herd has acquired three new horses from a sale in Meetetsee, WY. Two of the three new horses are gaited! Specifically, they are Kentucky Gaited Horses, named *Hershey* and *Snickers*. (More about them in the summer newsletter) The third horse, an 11 year old gelding, has yet to be named but we are sure that a good name will be found for him. Ramon and Shawn are working with all three of the new horses, and they should be introduced into the string sometime this summer!

The Hideout Mustangs

Our Hideout Mustangs, purchased after last year's Extreme Mustang Makeover, are doing well and living the good life, compared to foraging for food on the open plains.



Just because we paid for these horses last year didn't mean that they were 100% ours. The BLM reserves the right to reclaim the horses, should they find that they are not being well taken care of. One year after the adoption a manager is sent out to make sure that the animals are being treated well. The BLM Wild Horse and Burro Manager came out and we

passed our inspection with flying colors. The manager could not believe her eyes at how we have really taken the reins and excelled with our mustang program. As a result of all of the above, we are now a Certified BLM Mustang Training Center.

The string of mustangs is available for our guests to try and ride. They are incredibly light and comfortable little horses.

Mustang Love

Castro, the subject of last year's Extreme Mustang Makeover, has taken a big liking to Santee, Peter's Quarter Horse Arab crossbreed, over the winter (to say they are "twitter-pated", for those of you who remember Bambi, would be a good description of spring love in the air). Being out with the herd all winter made Castro "feel his oats," so-to-speak, and the naughty little boy tried to show off to Ramon by misbehaving. However after a couple minutes he quickly understood that leadership had not changed over the winter. When he is not out to pasture romancing Santee, Castro is at work in the guest string and has already been ridden by several of our guests.

2011 Supreme Extreme Mustang Makeover Mustang

A brief mention was posted on Facebook about the Supreme Extreme Mustang Makeover. Here we tip our hats to Ramon Castro, our head wrangler and horse trainer, for having been accepted as one of 40 trainers for the 2011 National Supreme Extreme Mustang Makeover. The event takes place September 15-17, in Fort Worth, Texas. (<http://www.extrememustangmakeover.com/index.php>)

The Supreme Extreme Makeover is a little different than the Extreme Makeover in a couple of ways: 1) The competition is much fiercer 2) The purse is bigger

and 3) The mustang must be purchased (in the prior event the mustang was assigned randomly).

For this event, all trainers were required to bid online amongst a total selection of 206 mustangs. Ramon, Marijn, Shawn and Peter studied the 206 – one-minute videos of each horse and selected seven to bid on, with LOT 3 horse being the primary target. Peter and Ramon, pumped up on coffee and adrenaline and having never participated in an event where bidding takes place in a coordinated internet/phone experience just about panicked when Lot # 1 sold immediately for \$3,400. It was only a matter of seconds later that Lot # 2 sold for \$ 5,400 (remember these are completely wild mustangs)!

The damage was limited to \$2,400, still a lot of money for a horse has only been seen over the internet, is entirely wild and is four years old. Add in four months of training, boarding, veterinary inspections, logistics, etc. to the buying price, and it is sufficient to say Peter is expecting Ramon to get this horse to open the fridge and fetch everyone beers after a long day of working cows to show that the investment was worth it!

However, it is a nice palomino gelding that is leggy, fast, pretty tall and shows good potential, as it turns naturally on its back legs. We believe that the combination of luck, and the fact that the first two horses sold at a rather high price, Ramon and Peter immediately bidding a high amount on Lot 3 scared some other potential bidders away (who said they didn't know what they were doing!?!). Ramon and Peter will pick up the mustang at the Canon City Prison Center in Colorado on the 13th of May. After hearing about how much paperwork they would have to fill to be allowed on the grounds, Ramon remarked that he never knew it was that difficult to go to prison!

So, congratulations Ramon, now the heat is on! Guest visiting us as of May 22nd through September 15th will have the opportunity to see Ramon training the mustang using AH Training Methods.

Spring AH Horsemanship Clinic at The Hideout Guest Ranch

As we wrap up this Spring Newsletter it is also the last day of our Spring Horsemanship Clinic at The Hideout under the leadership of Ramon assisted by Shawn, Marijn and a special equestrian guest from overseas Annabelle who works a lot with Arabians.

Much as for the participating new and repeat guests, each clinic is also a learning opportunity for us and our horses.

This week was once more a success and all participants booked their next stay. One of the repeat guests who have been coming for many years told us that he should have started out his first time taking this clinic.

The participants had the opportunity to try out and work with the AH horses and ride the AH saddles. Everybody clearly noticed the difference which we believe is very encouraging. Because after all, we can develop and work on many new initiatives we might believe make a difference, the ultimate test is if it adds to the guest experience and if guests notice the difference in a positive way.

More on this in the next newsletter.

Happy Tails

The Hideout dogs made it through the winter and, just like everyone else, will be glad to see winter go. This season will find Brindy, Charlie, Panda, Whiskey, and Regalo all out on the trail wagging their tails in happiness. Poofie, the dachshund, continues to pretend he is “big dog on campus” and, as long as he doesn’t get in the way, the rest of the pack indulges his fantasy.

There will be a new member to the Hideout dog family this season, her name is Ruby. Ruby, an 8-year-old red merle Australian shepherd, comes from Florida and is AJ’s faithful friend and sidekick. Ruby’s original family lost their home in a foreclosure last October and was forced to give up the little girl. The angel in charge of dogs worked some magic and, through a series of fortunate events, Ruby found a home in December with AJ. The pair has spent the winter in Florida, putting in lots of time training and bonding. They are both looking forward to getting out of the city and back to Wyoming.

Short on time? Wanna Get Away?

If you want to come visit us but don’t have lots of time, June 12 is the perfect week for you! We are offering a three night stay for this week only. Touch base with the office to get more details.

All For Now

It is amazing how time flies! All of us here at The Hideout, are excited about the season being underway. If you haven’t confirmed your space, please get in touch with the office! We already have several weeks that are booked out! info@thehideout.com or office@thehideout.com.

Until next time....

Happy Trails!
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