



*Shell, Wyoming*

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# *Hideout News*

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## *Fall 2012*

### *To all who contributed to making this another great season at The Hideout*

The 2012 Season is smoothly coming to an end accompanied by great fall colors and tired by smiling faces of our staff, management and owners energized and fueled by the so many smiling faces of happy guests.

With a record of repeat guests and guests visiting us from around the world who mainly found us through word of mouth we can only feel blessed. It puts an even bigger responsibility on our shoulders to do better and not take things for granted. Trusting us with the one or 2 weeks of vacation you have is a responsibility we do not take lightly. We know this is your precious time away from what you do the rest of the year. Many of you are saving and looking forward to this precious time "hiding out from it all". Just know that at The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch we do realize this and will do everything within our means to assure you have the time ever out West.

Together with the owners, management, our staff and our partners we commit to going the extra length for you. No matter if this is your first or your 15th time at The Hideout.

*Thank you for trusting us with your vacation,*

*~ THE HIDEOUT CREW & MANAGEMENT*





## *Upon a Mountain Top*

*The Hideout is located in The Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming.* Did you know that The Big Horn Mountains are approximately 1,100,000 acres and is one of the first and oldest National Forest /Public Lands put aside by the government to protect its resources? The Big Horn National Forest was established in 1896 (around 20 years after our neighbor to the west, Yellowstone, was designated a National Park!)

At The Hideout we have recreational leases that allow us to ride in The Big Horn National Forest and Cloud Peak Wilderness area. The Cloud Peak Wilderness Area was named after the second highest mountain in Wyoming, which rises above this 187,000 acre Wilderness at 13,100 feet. The Cloud Peak Wilderness Area was set aside in 1987 and is home to several high-altitude lakes.

We also have many thousands of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recreational leases to ride on in addition to thousands of acres of private land we own.

While The Hideout has recreational leases, the Flitner Ranch has hundreds of thousands of grazing leases on both National Forest and BLM. Needless to say, there is endless land in the Big Horn region for us to explore.

Due to the acreage available to us, our repeat guests have the opportunity to see different terrain and areas to ride each year. This year the new popular ride was the beautiful, yet long ride to Willet's Lake in the Wilderness area. The ride leaves from Granite Creek behind the Antelope Butte ski area and takes you to pine forests, open alpine prairies, swamps and some of the most romantic trails through the forest. After a breathtaking ride you see all the way down the lake. We have never met any other people or riders in this area besides ourselves. On several occasions, Hideout wranglers and guests helped the cowboys move cows during part of the ride up to the lake.





## *Exploring More Trails: The Opportunities Are Endless!*

Many of our wranglers have only seen a small part of the property. This is partly due to the fact that we are a seasonal operation and it takes many years to get to know and explore this country.

With Tom and Rebecca Bercher moving permanently to Shell in January 2013, and with Tom entering his third season riding and exploring country, we will start to discover more trails. Some of this year's wranglers would like to come back next season, as well. This means that they will know already most of this year's country and are ready to explore more with the guests in 2013. This all means a great experience for both new and, especially, repeat guests!

## *Mustangs*

A couple years ago we started to work on our Mustang program. As you know, the Bureau of Land Management in the US (BLM) has a big challenge managing the wild horse herds on public lands. Horses keep breeding as they do not have natural enemies who prey on them. The round-ups of the wild horses have been very controversial in the eyes of the public and horse enthusiasts worldwide. As a result over 40,000 wild horses are living in captivity. Private and public programs such as The Wild Horse and Burro Adoption program, the Extreme & Supreme Extreme Mustang Makeover, etc. are initiatives set up to create public awareness of this problem.

At The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch we created our Authentic Horsemanship (AH) concept to work with horses in general but especially with the Mustangs. At present, we have 11 mustangs for guests to enjoy in our guest string. The mustangs have become quite a draw this season as we rolled out the program. We have already had some television and documentary makers visiting us to highlight the program and we will continue to develop AH as an open-minded platform and culture to work with horses and riders. [www.ahhorsemanship.com](http://www.ahhorsemanship.com)

In addition to a string of new gentle Quarter Horses, we have seven new Mustangs in the pipeline. We also have two mustangs owned by Erich Proell in residence before they are shipped to Austria. Proell is a world-renowned Austrian film and documentary maker specializing in sharks, underwater diving, and nature documentaries. Over the last 10 years he developed a passion for Mustangs and horsemanship. He is currently working on a three-part documentary series on his mustangs and their trip from the US (from round-up, training, flying, etc.) to his farm near the Danube River in Austria. This documentary will feature Monty Roberts, Pat Parelli, Lorenzo the Flying Frenchman, the head of the Spanish Classic Riding School in Vienna and The Hideout and our Mustang program.



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# *People Here, People There, People Movin' Everywhere*

Let us say this about this year's staff: they have been wonderful and are still going strong.

At one point during the season, our kitchen counted no less than three culinary-trained chefs headed by Sheena Ernst and there was always at least two chefs working at each meal. The barn has done a tremendous job with the many guests we have seen this year and they came up with new rides for the increasing amount of repeat guests. Tom Bercher is in his second summer season and will move here to Shell, with his family next year January, to work permanently at The Hideout as Barn Manager. His wife Rebecca, a teacher, is currently training in the kitchen and will be trained also in the office. They are both wonderful assets to our Hideout Family.

## *Maintenance*

Marco and Jr's team of maintenance are rock solid, as usual, and in between mowing lawns, oil-treating all of the cabins and barn, irrigating, repairs, etc., brought in a huge harvest of the best alfalfa grass hay we have ever seen. With the current trend in hay prices, this is wonderful because we can sell approximately 100 tons at market record pricing and still be able to feed the herd throughout the winter.

## *Housekeeping*

Housekeeping has kept busy and, as usual, has done an outstanding job. We salute the fearless housekeeping leader, Guille, who has been managing the team for 8 years now. We have seen new faces join the ranks of our outstanding housekeeping team and they are doing a wonderful job.

*We take a moment to give a big shout of thanks and praise  
to both the housekeeping and maintenance departments,  
they aren't in the limelight but keep The Hideout  
running smoothly!*

## *Office*

Last year AJ left us, after 3 wonderful years, to take a job as a professor teaching hospitality management at a small university in Ohio. AJ was instrumental in setting up and streamlining the office systems, processes and procedures. Before she left she trained Jessica to take over from her. This season the office was under the watchful eye of Jessica, who has juggled all the guest demands, needs, changes, etc. with a smile. Richelle, who came in as a seasonal employee and had a hand in many departments, was a great help this season.

As this is a seasonal business, located in a remote location, staff tends to come and go, as you know. Although The Hideout has many people who work here year around, as a seasonal business we are no exception to the rule when it comes to staff coming and going. Jessica and Richelle will be moving on to grander adventures at the end of the season. We wish them all the best and thank them for their hard work this season.

AJ will be returning, briefly, this winter. She is ready for a break from the crowded country and will come back to The Hideout to further train Rebecca, Tom's wife, in all things 'office'. AJ will also bring us some new ideas and thoughts on the organization, given her experience in both industry and, now, in academia. As you know, we like to remain critical as an organization and bringing in the opinions and insight of past employees with whom we worked well. We think this is one of the ways to stay in tune with what is happening in the industry and to make sure we continue to give the best service possible to our guests.

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## *The Kitchen*

Mid-September we said goodbye to Laura, our pastry chef, who flew to France for further training, and Megan, our busy bee in charge of the dining room, who flew to Australia to go diving. At the same time we welcomed Kieran, our third chef stepping in with Laura's departure. Kieran comes to us from California and has studied and worked in Switzerland, California, Las Vegas and other places in the culinary arena. He loves the outdoors, is a fanatic road biker and hiker and, much like Sheena, he loves working in The Trapper Garden where we grow our fresh vegetables.

Rebecca and Charles joined as wait staff, to pick up where Megan left off. Rebecca is learning all about the kitchen and dining room because as she will be manning the office as of January and it is important to know how the other departments work. Charles comes to us from Oregon and is a professional in dining room management. He has worked in some pretty high end restaurants and hotels and not only knows his job but also looks the part. (Bonus fact about Charles: he is a pro behind the bar and mixes a mean cocktail)

This is the team that will ride out the season with us in the kitchen. Sheena will be returning for the 2013 season to man the kitchen but leaves at the end of October to travel to Italy & France to pick up some new ideas. (We can't wait for her to come back and "practice" her new dishes, with us as taste testers!)

## *The Barn*

At the barn we would like to thank Chris for his work. A special thank you also goes to Ginny, who returned to Texas. Tom and Rebecca have returned with the family to Arkansas to prepare their move out West in January and we continue in the barn with Marijn, Michelle and Joel through the end of the season.



Always enthusiastic and smiling, Joel will stay with us through the winter and has already signed up for next season. Both The Hideout and the Ranch are very happy to have Joel stay on because he is not only great with the guests, he is also a great horseman and one of the wranglers that has the best understanding of cattle work, having worked as cowboy on other ranches.

Ever talkative sunshine, Michelle will enroll in college again but will return next season after the college season. Her little dog, Kara, has become the most popular dog we ever had at The Hideout. If we were to have 15 of these dogs, they would all be sold. She is a cross-breed between a Pomeranian and a Collie but looks like a little Fox-Coyote.

## *Owners & Management*

Paula and David are as active as ever, and are buzzing around the place working on new and existing projects. They have their hands full at the moment with their new "kids". After their beloved dogs, Tiger and Bear, passed away Paula, as usual, did not sit back for a long time before taking action. She bought 2 young apricot colored poodles, Rusty and Rocky, who are some of the most entertaining dogs we have ever seen at The Hideout.

Marijn and Peter saw their sons Victor and Edward off to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and will only see them back at Christmas. They did not have a lot of time to miss them with the season still



going strong. Marijn will travel back to Europe mid-November but will return early December to prepare a warm, winter homecoming for Edward and Victor. (They have both lost approximately 12 lbs. while at college and are looking forward to some great home cooked meals and full fridges. So much for the “freshman fifteen”!!!)

Peter, after almost 3 years, is still waiting for his 50th anniversary birthday present, which is the restoration of his 1965, 220SE Coupe Mercedes. In the meantime he managed to lay his hands on another vintage Mercedes that he has been eyeing for the last 3 years. This one does not need restoration and is a daily driver (summer only). Aside from this, some of the restoration of the old guest ranch buildings at Trapper has been finalized and a big clean-up of old junk, building materials, corrals, etc. at Trapper was finalized as one of the projects on a 5 year ‘to-do’ list. This is a big place so setting priorities is key!



## *From Our Kitchen to Yours*

*– By Executive Chef Sheena Ernst*

*Chef Sheena took a break from conjuring up gourmet goodies to share this yummy Fall treat with you.*

It has been a beautiful fall in the Shell Valley: bright, sunshiny days, crisp mornings and evenings and brilliant hues of colored leaves adorning every tree.

In the kitchen, the fall weather has inspired me to cook unctuous, warming soups and stews - something warming for these brisk days. This week alone I've made: roasted apple and squash soup, ham and pea with fluffy dumplings, and elk and pinto bean stew. And to accompany each one, there is nothing better than my mom's Angel flake Biscuits; light and fluffy batter, golden, crispy edges. There is nothing better to soak up any of the last juices left in the bowl - or to have as a cheeky dessert with loads of butter and honey.

### *Angelflake Bisquits*



5 cups flour  
1 3/4 cup shortening  
(or butter)  
1 tsp baking soda  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp salt  
2 cup buttermilk  
1 package yeast  
(or 2 1/4 tsp)  
1/2 cup warm water

Cut the shortening into the flour. Mix in the dry ingredients. Stir in the buttermilk and warm water until just combined. At this point, the batter can be stored in the fridge until ready to use, and can last for up to a week in the fridge.

Mound by large teaspoons full onto a pan and bake at 350 until puffy and golden.

*If you make any of the dishes we post in our newsletters, send us a picture via email or Facebook – Chef Sheena loves to see people enjoying her food!*



## Winter Work

*The winter is a time for us to rest and reflect* on the past season and get ready for the upcoming season! The horses may go out to pasture but that doesn't mean they have the entire winter off! As the winter turns into the spring, each of our horses will get some one-on-one arena time. We want to make sure they stay in tip-top shape even over the winter.

Various departments use the time to train either on property or somewhere exotic. Some of the staff will return to school and others will do a bit of traveling.

The winter is a busy time for the maintenance and housekeeping departments as they have projects that can't be completed with guests on property. One of the big projects that started in the Spring and is just finishing up was oiling all the cabins, the main lodge, casitas, Hideout homes, and barn. (Whew!) Most of the logs got 2 or 3 coats of oil, all applied by brush. (We don't spray the oil because it doesn't have the same quality and consistency as by brush.) Many of our visitors are surprised to find out that our cabins are over 20 years old! This is because of our maintenance program at The Hideout. We oil our logs every 3 or 4 years to make sure our buildings remain in prime condition.

## Cattle Work and Tons of Riding

*There has been tons of cattle work in the last couple of weeks.* As with every fall, when the first snowfall blows in all the cows, bulls and calves want to rush off the mountain, down to warmer and greener pastures. However these first snowfalls always melt off and we try to keep the livestock up on the mountain as long as possible. If not, we need to start feeding them hay or they start grazing away the winter pastures too early. So the job of cowboys, wranglers and guests has been to keep them up on the mountain and/or drive those back up that have wandered down.



Needless to say the guests have seen some very long days in the saddle. A couple weeks ago a group of guests rode up Black Mountain Road at Trapper, all the way through the Molly Cropsy to Bald Ridge. Only to find they needed to repeat that the next day as more cows came down (sneaky little 'doggies'!) Another day we left from The Ranger Station, or Snowshoe Lodge, at 9,000 feet, crossed the 9,300 foot mark and rode all the way across the mountain down to White Creek Canyon. Yet another day, the trip went across Bald Ridge, The Molly Cropsy, Black Mountain Road to Trapper. There are days we start sometimes at 4,200 feet, ride up to 9,300 to herd cattle, after which we ride all the way down. Or we start in the morning riding in the snow on the North East side and end up at the South West side in the desert and red dust.

One guest told us when she booked that she wanted to be in the saddle longer than 3 hours a day. She got several days of 14 miles in snow, dust, forest, prairies, canyons and rode between 6 and 8 hours, all this eating her sandwich in the saddle.

As you know at The Hideout we do the cattle work that is needed for the ranch. Some weeks there is a lot of cattle work and cattle driving, some weeks less. However one thing is for sure....what we do is the real deal and "not made up for the guests".





# Photos and Fun

*For the past several years, The Hideout has welcomed the Joseph Van Os Photo Safari group.* The Hideout switches gears and for a week The Hideout is at the command of a group of photographers. This year's trip leader, Jeff Vanuga, was kind enough to give his perspective on the Fall 2012 Photo-week.

This was my 6th year coming back to the Hideout Ranch in Shell, Wyoming for the Icons of the West Photography Tour for Joseph Van Os Photo Safaris. For me, coming back to the ranch is a warm welcome with exceptional western hospitality, impeccable service and this year was no different than past photographic trips to the ranch-exceptional! This year's photographic tour was led by myself and co-led with Terry Eggers. Together with our 15 participants it was an epic week of capturing the spirit of the west.

Our busy week of photographing the cowboys and cowgirls concentrates on being at prime locations for sunrise and sunset shooting aggressively during those magic hours. During the middle of the day we download images, recharge batteries and prepare for the evening shoot. Since the ranch includes an infinite amount of scenic vistas, we choose our locations based on the best scenic backdrops which surround the 250,000 acre ranch. We work in places like the Painted Desert, Chimney Rock, Five Sisters, Bighorn Mountains, Trapper Creek and Shell Creek to name a few. These locations vary from dry desert to high elevations of the Bighorns with fall colored aspens as backdrops.

For most of the week we photograph cowboys and cowgirls riding hard on the ranches well trained horses and include free running horses through majestic landscapes and rivers. Since we time the tour for prime fall colors we choose many locations based on leaves turning on cottonwood trees, Technicolor river bottoms and aspens in the high country. When the cowboys take a break from hard riding photographers shoot details of spurs, boots, saddles and the decorated Conchos that are worn by the cowboys in their western attire. One day is dedicated to portraits and the ranch uses their staff and other cowboys from the area to add to the diversity of the shoot. Overall we have a great mix of men, woman, children and real classic cowboys for our portrait shoots.

This shoot is considered the best in the West and I have heard comments from clients that have been on as many as 15 cowboy shoots in the Western United States say that is shoot blows the competition out of the water. The shooting is so good that I received comments from clients after the first day that "I did so well in one day that I could go home right now and be happy with my images." Fortunately they all stayed the rest of the week. In general, people shoot an average of 10,000 images in a week which is a testament to the quality and interest of this shoot.

Due to the popularity of this trip we are planning another return in 2013. If you are interested in photographing the "Icons of the West" I recommend you book soon since this trip fills quickly. Further





information can be obtained at Joseph Van Os Photo Safaris <http://www.photosafaris.com/>. In the meantime, a picture says a thousand words so enjoy some of the images obtained on this classic photographic shoot and wet your appetite for 2013. Saddle up and see you there!

A big thanks to Jeff for his words and photos! If you follow us on Facebook, you probably saw some of his pictures posted, but we have included a couple more in the newsletter for your viewing pleasure! Thanks also to Terry Eggers for his work as co-leader and great photos! We are also hoping to welcome the Photo Safari group for a Winter 2014 shoot, stay tuned for more information!



©2012 Photo by Terry Eggers

## *Shootem' or Reelem' in; It's all going on in the Big Horns!*

*Powderhorn Outfitters is back at it for another season of deer and elk hunting in the mountains.* The season is in full swing and the long-term vision we adopted, in conjunction with Powderhorn Outfitters, in regards to the managing of our hunting properties and lands is paying off big time. The work can be seen with an ever increasing number of big trophy game that can be seen residing on our properties.

The greater Big Horn Basin area, which stretches from Cody, Meeteetsee and Lovell towards Shell and The Big Horn Mountains and Wilderness Area, offers great fly-fishing in streams, ponds and lakes. Last year we teamed up with The Humble Fly, in Cody. Much like Powderhorn Outfitters, who manage our elk and deer hunting properties in the mountains, The Humble Fly manages our fishing properties at The Hideout and Trapper. They are truly great gentlemen-fly fishers who do it the right way with respect for the fish, waters and environment and with a long term view in mind. This year we took the partnership one step further and a Humble Fly Guide, Rick, lived at The Hideout. Rick was available to take guests out fishing or teach them the basics of fly-fishing and it was great having Rick a stone's throw away. We had a lot of beginners this season, but even more very experienced fly-fishing guests, who told us they had some of the best fly-fishing days of their life during their stay here at The Hideout. Way to go Team Fly-Fishing! Needless to say, we will be continuing our partnership with The Humble Fly next season.



©2012 Photo by Jeff Vanuga



©2012 Photo by Jeff Vanuga



# Thoughts for the Season's End

As the fall comes to an end, we reflect on what a great season we have had. Bookings are already starting to come in for the 2013 season, so if you want to get a certain week and/or certain cabin we recommend you book early. As always, we are keeping our weeks at a max of 25 persons, to ensure that each and every guest gets the experience of their dreams.

We have spent a part of this newsletter giving a big thanks to all of our staff but we would be remiss not to thank a very important group of people. You, our guests!!! We know that you have lots of choices when it comes to a guest ranch experience, and we are honored and humbled that you choose to stay with us. THANK YOU!

We love hearing from our guests, so please send an email or drop us a line on our Facebook page.

ON BEHALF OF ALL HERE AT THE HIDEOUT:

## Happy Trails!



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