



Shell, Wyoming  
info@thehideout.com  
www.thehideout.com

# Hideout News

## Winter/Spring 2013

### *Greetings to all our Hideout friends,*

Our winter season is upon us and at The Hideout as we prepare for the upcoming season we would like to extend our best wishes to all of our friends and family. It has been a busy winter season here at The Hideout and it seems like just yesterday we were saying goodbye to our last guests of the fall. We know that this season is going to be better than ever and we can't wait to begin seeing our old friends and new guests this year.

~ THE HIDEOUT CREW & MANAGEMENT



©2013 Photo by Carol Walker

### *AH Clinic at The Hideout*

*AH Horsemanship is pleased to announce* that our spring horsemanship clinic will be held the week of April 28-May 4. We would like to offer our repeat guests a 20% discount for that week. We are proud to have BLM approved Mustang trainer Nick Mantle as our clinician this year. Nick Mantle is the son of Steve Mantle and trained under his father and continued to progress over the years into a great horseman and clinician. People always say that to know a great professional you need to know his mentor(s). The Mantles are one of the most prominent horse and cowboy families in the West.



TREY NEAL ©2013 Photo by Trey Neal



## *Casita Renovations*

Marco, Junior and our trusted contractors have been busy this winter completely renovating two of our Casitas. After weeks of demolition, Marco and Junior have begun the task of rebuilding the two downstairs Casitas. Using reclaimed wood from Shell Lodge, Marco and Junior are lining the walls of the Casitas to give them a rustic yet elegant look. Instead of the small kitchens, we are going to provide guests with a large King/sitting room and another bedroom with an additional queen sized bed. Marijn has been busy choosing custom and elegant furnishings to decorate the newly renovated Casitas. We expect the Casitas to be ready for our guests by the beginning of April. Please let us know if you would like to be some of the first guests to stay in our newly renovated rooms.



## *Upgrades to The Hideout Cabins and Lodge*

When you visit this year, you will be happy to see that we have upgraded all the vanities in The Hideout Cabins and Lodge. Gone are the green laminate countertops which have been replaced by custom granite countertops installed by local contractor Shane Catlin. Shane has been busy this winter measuring, removing and installing the lovely new granite countertops to all The Hideout Cabins and Casitas.

Once the granite countertops were installed, Marco and Junior installed the under mount sinks and new vanities. In some of the cabins we will add some new details using reclaimed barn wood.



## *Continuing work on the Old Shell Lodge*

Seated right in the heart of "downtown" Shell, the Old Shell Lodge continues to undergo major renovations. Many of our guests have had the opportunity to tour Peter's pet project and see the wonderful craftsmanship that has gone into the restoration of what was once a crumbling old building built in 1892 out of local sandstone. Our friend and contractor Roy Peterson has been hard at work this winter continuing the renovations to the Old Shell Lodge. With Peter's supervision, Roy is finishing out the upstairs great room into bedrooms, raised the dormer windows, is installing a new custom made hardwood kitchen, finishing the basement and adding new windows. When you come visit us,

please ask Peter or Marijn if you can have a tour of the Old Shell Lodge to view the renovations for yourself.





# Arkansas Transplants

Many of you have met Tom Bercher who has worked as a wrangler at the Hideout for the past two seasons. You may have also met Rebecca, his wife, who helped out in the kitchen in September and October. As of January 7, they have moved permanently to Shell and are working at The Hideout. Tom will be the Barn Manager and Rebecca will be taking over running the office. If you call, it will most likely be Rebecca who answers the phone and helps you out.

Tom and Rebecca visited The Hideout three times as paying guests prior to working as seasonal staff and finally moving to Shell permanently. They bring a unique guest perspective since they themselves were guests at The Hideout.

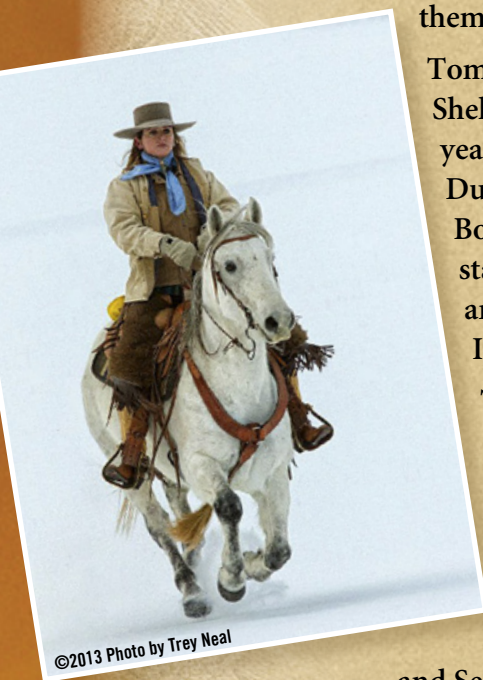
Tom and Rebecca and their two boys Augustus, 12 and Seamus, 10 moved to Shell from West Fork, Arkansas where they lived on a family ranch for many years. Tom is retired from the U.S. Army and the United States Postal Service. During Tom's service in the Army he was stationed overseas in Germany, Bosnia, Azerbaijan, Iraq and Afghanistan before he retired in 2006. While stationed overseas, Tom was able to travel and visit many different countries and cultures. His international riding experience includes riding in Jordan, Iraq, Afghanistan and even a memorable camel race in Jordan.

Tom says that some of his first memories are of his uncle placing him on a horse and teaching him to ride. When Tom was a teenager, he would spend all his vacations with his grandmother in Arkansas on the ranch. When Tom wanted to ride, his neighbor would tell him to pick a horse out of the field and if he could break it, that would be his horse for the summer. Tom learned at a young age to gentle a horse and continued riding and training horses for himself, friends, neighbors, and especially for Rebecca, Augustus

and Seamus to ride. It is very important to Tom that the horses he rides and trains are able to be ridden safely by his family. Now, at The Hideout, he feels a great responsibility to make sure all the horses are safe and well-trained for our guests.

A native of Washington State, Rebecca loves to ride and over the years improved her horsemanship skills under Tom's instruction. In fact, Tom bought Rebecca her first horse the day after they got married. After leaving the active duty Army in 1995, Rebecca finished school and worked a legal assistant while serving in the U.S. Army Reserves for four more years. Seven years ago she decided to put her education to practical use and became a secondary history teacher teaching 8th grade world history for over six years. Rebecca's Army service served her well, as she was able to travel in Europe extensively and even met Tom while on a deployment to Bosnia.

As for Augustus and Seamus, they attend school in Greybull, but this summer, you might see them out on their horses riding and working cattle with the guests. Like Tom, they have been brought up in the saddle and are confident riders.





## From Chef Sheena's Kitchen

*The Hideout is pleased to announce that Sheena Ernst will be returning for her third season as head chef at The Hideout. We know you love Sheena's cooking and she is always good about sharing her recipes. Enjoy!*



### Hot Toddy

Coat the bottom of a mug with 1 Tablespoon of honey. Add 1 oz. of whisky and the juice of 1/2 of a lemon. Fill the mug with hot water. Serve.

The cold, snow and flu season continues to rage, but I have found a cold-weather tippie that warms and soothes - the medicinal hot toddy.

I've always been confused as to what a hot toddy actually is: is it simply any hot liquored drink, or is there a specific recipe? The truth is, there's no right way to make this drink, only that it include a spirit, a sweetener and a warm base. As the New York Times has observed, "once you start digging, you realize it's not really a drink but more a loose family bonded by heat". Toddies can be made from tea, coffee, apple cider, sugar, syrup, brandy, bourbon, or rum. But the most traditional toddies are made from honey, lemon, hot water, and whisky.

While whisky is the historical choice, it would be sacrilegious to use an expensive Scotch when its peaty nuances would be overshadowed by the other ingredients. A Scottish friend of mine is so particular about anything polluting his Scotch, he would often say to me, "When you open the bottle, you ruin it once, add ice and ruin it twice". Irish whisky, like Jameson would be a fitting choice, keeping it within the British Isles, Bourbon would bring smooth vanilla notes, American whiskey (like Jack Daniels) a bit of bite and rye whiskey, my favorite, would add a subtle butterscotch flavor.

The first mention of the cocktail was in the 1700's in Scotland, but how and where it was created is much debated. Some argue the name "toddy" originates from an Indian beverage that was made from fermenting coconut tree sap. The drink would have found its way to Scotland via the East India Trading Company. Others claim the name derives from a freshwater Todian spring (called Tod's well) that supplied Edinburgh, Scotland with its fresh drinking water, and since whisky derives its name from water, it could be that "Toddy" was a facetious name for whisky.

Whatever crooked path of history the Toddy actually followed, it is agreed that it is a delicious alcoholic beverage and can also be a home remedy for the cold and flu. As Victoria Moore puts it in *How to Drink*: "The vitamin C for health, the honey to soothe, the alcohol to numb."

And numb it may do, but my theory is always, "everything in moderation" and this medicinal home-brew is sure to warm you up on these chilly winter nights and soothe any lingering, unwanted flu symptoms.



## New Members of The Hideout Herd

The Hideout has several new members who have joined the herd this winter. Many of these horses came from Arkansas to replace members of the herd who have been retired over the last year or two. It is very important at The Hideout that we have horses for every level of rider from beginners to advanced riders. Some of the new horses were tested out to work as guest horses for our newer, less experienced riders.



Cheyenne, Flash, Lorena and Hawk on a snowy day

**Hawk:** Hawk is a 13 year old registered paint gelding. Many guests have already enjoyed Hawk's calm demeanor and smooth gait as he was part of the Hideout herd in 2012. Hawk is a graceful horse and is calm and good for children and guests who are inexperienced, but has enough spirit to be enjoyed by experienced riders also.

**Cheyenne:** Cheyenne is a six year old palomino quarter horse who is being groomed to take our more inexperienced riders out. Cheyenne is a sweet tempered mare who we know will become a guest favorite.

**Lorena:** Lorena is a big grey mare who is eight years old, gentle and nearly bomb proof. With a little riding this spring, Lorena will be ready for guests to enjoy this summer season. Lorena is a tall girl, so be prepared to give a little jump to get your leg into the stirrup.

**Flash:** Flash is a 12 year old registered Quarter horse and is a cowboy's dream. Flash has been used to rope, work cattle and has one of the softest mouths a horse can have. With just a "whoa", and a shift in the saddle, he will go into a smooth sliding stop. He reigns beautifully and works cows like a champ. After testing him out this spring, our wranglers hope that Flash will move into our guest string for our more advanced riders who are used to handling a sensitive horse with a soft mouth.

**Deets:** Deets is a five year old dun quarter horse who will be a wrangler horse this year until he gets the hang of the trails, cattle work and other aspects of living and working on a Wyoming ranch. Deets is calm and mild mannered, but is a younger horse and needs a few miles of trail under him until we can turn him over to the guests. When you see Deets, check out the vivid stripe that runs down his back.

**Clara:** Clara is a nice solid black and white 8 year old paint mare. Clara is the boss of the little herd of horses that came from Arkansas and likes to keep them separated from the rest of the main herd, but when she is under saddle, she is as gentle as can be. Clara will be used for our guests who need a nice gentle mount.

**Chief:** Chief is 12 year old red and white paint gelding who is a big gentle giant. After being ridden by our wranglers this spring, we will put Chief into our string of guest horses for our guests who require a bigger, but very gentle mount. Chief is also so calm that he is being trained to become a pack horse for when we need to put panniers on him and take loads up and down the mountain. With his dramatic coloring and mask-like face markings, we are sure he is going to be a favorite for photographers who visit the ranch.



Deets



Clara



Chief





Comanche and Apache lead the herd

## *Apache and Comanche in Retirement*

Last fall it was decided after many faithful years of service to The Hideout, to retire Apache and Comanche. At the ages, of 20 and 21 respectively, they served a combined total of 23 years to our guests. You may recognize both of these horses, not only as guest horses, but as members of the crew of “loose” horses used during numerous photo shoots that have taken place at The Hideout. With Apache’s dramatic coloring and pattern, he was a favorite of many photographers.



When the Hideout crew decided to retire Apache and Comanche, they wanted them to go to a place where they will live out the remainder of their years in comfort, but still maintain their health and fitness. Rhonda Bohannon, a friend and fellow horse lover of Tom and Rebecca met all those criteria. Rhonda and her husband Todd have a small farm in Arkansas and Comanche and Apache have joined Rhonda’s two other horses along with five dogs, a cat, three ducks and a small flock of chickens. Rhonda has a large family in Arkansas who love to come to her farm and ride. Rhonda’s sisters, cousins, nieces, and nephews all get to enjoy Apache and Comanche when they visit. The mild climate, leisurely trail rides, and Rhonda’s exceptional care of the horses will provide both those faithful horses many more years of comfort and health in their old age.



Spoiled boys in retirement



Apache with his new Arkansas herd



# *Horsemanship Training at The Hideout*

Authentic Horsemanship at The Hideout is very open minded to different training methods as long as they provide a low-stress, natural method of training. Even though our wranglers are some of the best horsemen/horsewomen around, they can never learn enough about training and working with horses. This winter, Marijn, Peter, Tom, Joel and Rebecca have been studying Clinton Anderson's Down Under Horsemanship videos and practicing his technique on some young untrained horses. Having also studied the natural horsemanship of Pat Parelli, Buck Brannaman, and other trainers, the staff decided that Clinton Anderson's principals were in line with the training philosophy of The Hideout and Authentic Horsemanship. When you visit us this year, make sure to ask the wranglers about what they learned this winter. Hideout wranglers are always eager to talk about horsemanship with our guests.

In addition to horsemanship, the wranglers are busy taking care of the horses so they make it through the winter healthy, strong and ready for the upcoming guest season. In addition to caring for the horses, the wranglers make sure all the tack is cleaned and repaired and if need be, replaced for the upcoming season. They go through a lot of oil and saddle soap cleaning and oiling all the bridles and saddles used by our guests. They also clean up the barn and organize and inventory everything from horses, to bridles and saddles.

The wranglers also use the off season to tune up any horses that may need it. Whether a horse has developed a bad habit or just needs some refresher training, The Hideout wranglers, using AH horsemanship principals, take this opportunity to give them one on one attention. This winter Tom is working on a young horse named Tiger. Tiger is a five year old buckskin gelding with distinctive tiger strips on his legs. Joel has two young mares in training, Sheena and Miss Kim. He is already riding Sheena out in the arena and is getting ready to move Miss Kim from riding her in the round pen to riding out in the open arena. Tom and Joel have been using techniques learned from Clinton Anderson's Down Under Horsemanship videos with great success on these young horses. When you visit, you might see Tom and Joel riding their newly trained Hideout horses.



Marijn, Tom and Joel watching  
Clinton Anderson videos







## *What is happening at The Flitner Ranch?*

The calving season has started and in the pastures you can start seeing the cute little black calves hopping around with their moms in the snow. We have had more snow than last year which makes it hard on these little babies but it does make it easier to spot them everywhere. This is a very busy time for the cowboys and ranch hands as they need to ride the herd 24 hours a day to assist in calving, make sure the calves are ok or bring them inside if they are in trouble in the cold. At The Flitner ranch we calve early on in the season because unlike many other ranches we also have a big farming operation. This means that the ranch likes to have most of the calving done before spring so they can concentrate on the farming side of the operation.

## *The Highline Canal Ditch – David's Pet Project*

This is dry country and The Hideout would not be The Hideout if it did not look lush and green for which we need a lot of water. Several irrigation canals bring water through the valley to water our pastures and fields. Some of these canals are over a hundred years old and the use of water is regulated by water rights supervised by the Irrigation Canal Board, the water commissioner and the water master. David has been worked for 10 years to get a grant to "pipe" the main irrigation canal that brings water to The Hideout and the ranch which is called The Highline Ditch or The Highline Canal. This year they started with this giant job bringing in a fleet of heavy equipment, gravel, concrete structures and huge blue pipes to bury underground and through which the water will flow. This pipe will decrease the loss of water due to evaporation and water seeping away through the gravel, rocks and cracks in the canal. Marco and Jr. will have much less work unplugging the canal as beavers love to make dams in these structures, or plug the holes that rats and other critters dig in the canal banks resulting in multiple floods across fields and in some of the houses.



It will be easier to regulate the water and there will be more water which means less "fights" over water during dry seasons.

Part of this big job is installing a waterwheel that will produce hydroelectricity.

We all have "pet-projects" and this has been David's project for the 2012–2013 season. We have suggested that once the project is finished the canal should be renamed in to The David Flitner Canal for his continued efforts.



## *What is Paula doing?*

While David is travelling back and forth from Florida to Shell, Paula would not like to be caught spending a week in the cold Wyoming winter. She and the two new puppies enjoy the Floridian sun. She and David took a cruise to South America and Paula will also do her usual European trip to visit her brother (Peter's dad), Peter's brothers and sisters and other family and friends. Paula is fitter than ever which means she will march in this spring with a big bang to inspect all the projects, initiatives,

etc. The Casita Renovations and the cabin improvements will be major points of interest.

Paula also bought a new car which she and David will drive this spring from Florida to Wyoming. We can all take an example from these youngsters who are alive and kicking despite getting older.



# Walker/Hagen Winter Photo Clinic at The Hideout

This winter we were fortunate enough to have wildlife photographer Judi Hagen and renowned Mustang photographer Carol Walker put on a winter photo clinic at The Hideout. The Hideout hosted a very gracious group of amateur and professional photographer while they participated in an equine photo shoot. The year-round crew along with a few special guests rode, wrangled and led multiple members of The Hideout herd so

they could be photographed by the clinic members. With the beautiful scenery of Shell and the surrounding areas as backdrops for the pictures, the photographers captured some beautiful images of horses, cowboys, cowgirls, dogs and the gorgeous natural beauty of the area surrounding The Hideout.



Wrangler Joel helping load up the photographers



Setting up the shot



Charlie supervising the photographers



## The Hideout and Flitner Ranch on American Cowboy!

The Hideout and Flitner Ranch are honored to make their 7th cover of American Cowboy Magazine in the last three years. Former Hideout wrangler Ben Swartz is photographed by renowned photographer Jeff Vanuga moving Flitner ranch horses in the Big Horn Mountains. Make sure you pick up a copy when it hits the newsstands in early March! horses, cowboys, cowgirls, dogs and the gorgeous natural beauty of the area surrounding The Hideout.

## The Hideout on Facebook

Make sure you go to The Hideout Guest Ranch as send us a friend request. Also go to The Hideout at Flitner Ranch Page and like our page. It will keep you updated with the latest happenings, newsletters, pictures and items of interest at The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch.



Find us on  
**Facebook**





ON BEHALF OF ALL HERE AT THE HIDEOUT:

# Happy Trails!



*Shell, Wyoming*

P.O. Box 206, 3170 Road 40 1/2  
Shell, WY 82441

Reservations: 800.354.8637

Office: (307) 765.2080

Fax: (307) 765.2681

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

[info@thehideout.com](mailto:info@thehideout.com)



*Living Images*  
by Carol Walker

©2013 Photo by Carol Walker