

## **Winter 2010 – 2011 Newsletter**



So far Father Winter has taken pity on Shell, WY and life has not been too bad. Sure we had some days with -36 F and snow, but all in all we have had an easy winter, however there are still a couple months left! We are warm compared to Laramie where temperatures reached – 50F. Those cold days, it is a challenge to keep the heated water devices in the corrals working. Shawn had to buy an extra set of heaters to put in the water.

Luckily Trapper Creek does not freeze down, so the horses in the pastures still have plenty to

drink, despite the ice building up on the creek banks.

### **What is happening at The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch in Shell, WY these days?**



They say the one constant in life is change and so there are some changes here at The Hideout to report on.

Natalie and Ben have returned to New Zealand where Ben is going to be leading clinics in Western Horsemanship. We wish them all the best and, of course, are jealous that they are soaking up a great summer south of the equator! AJ, not being tough enough to make the full winter season, has retreated to her Florida office where she is working together with Peter on

reservations, follow ups, bookkeeping and other office duties. The wonders of technology to make this all possible!

Ramon has been keeping busy with horse training and the continual stream of horses coming is taking up much of his time. Ramon, Shawn, Marijn, Edward and Victor are riding The Hideout horses to correct and fine tune them for the season. They utilize the indoor arena and the plan is to work all of the Hideout horses several times during the winter, this assures that they will be in tip-top condition for you this season!

Instead of playing football or basketball, Victor and Edward spend the evenings after school being trained by Ramon. What an opportunity and the improvements in their horsemanship skills are already noticeable!

In case you didn't know, our ever charming Cowboy Shawn is engaged and to be married in May! His beautiful bride-to-be, Devin, is surely a lucky girl and most certainly the envy of many! Guille is making sure that the lodge and cabins remain spic span and did a deep clean that would put Martha Stewart to shame! Marco is wintering in Mexico, but his brother JR is keeping an eye on things. We are very excited for JR and his wife, Denise, as they will be welcoming their first baby in February!

### **New Hideout Chef for the 2011 Season**

Chef Chris Dalin, our beloved local chef, was approached by his aunt to become partner at her restaurant in Greybull. A great opportunity for Chris and we wish him well. We also would like thank him for his years of loyal and passionate culinary service at The Hideout. This new position will keep him a little closer to home and offer the opportunity to spend more time with his family. We will miss him greatly but wish him all the best in his new career.



Chef Sheena Ernst, will be the new face in the Hideout kitchen this season. Due to our culinary reputation, she had inquired previously with us regarding employment at either Trapper Creek or The Hideout. After some extensive interviewing involving both Robb and Chris, cooking up a fantastic meal for 14 of us at The Hideout, we all believe she will not only fit the Hideout kitchen very well but also our Hideout team. In addition to being a good chef she is also a good writer with regular food

related write ups in newspapers and magazines which is why we suggested she wrote her own introduction to The Hideout Guests. Here is what Sheena has to say.

*“My culinary interest began in my mom’s kitchen, where fresh meals were prepared daily using the ingredients supplied from our own garden, eggs from our chickens and beef from a local farmer. It was both from her and from my grandma (who worked in a bakery) that I gained an interest and appreciation for cooking, creating and experimenting.*

*However, it wasn’t until after I received a B.A. in psychology that I decided to change directions and pursue my real passion: cooking as a full-time career. I moved to London and attended the Tante Marie, Le Cordon Bleu culinary school, and after graduation was hired by a former BBC Master chef winner as sous chef of her new restaurant.*

*During this time I was able to intern at several celebrated restaurants in London and work in Italy for a month picking olives and cooking for the olive picking crew. My passion for cooking and food expands to learning and experiencing as much as I can from other cultures and the food and ingredients that are unique to them.*

*I am excited to join the Hideout team, not only because I was raised locally, but because of their interest in good-quality food and service. This area of Wyoming offers so much in the way of food: local beef, lamb, game and produce, and I endeavor to share the beauty of these things through my cooking this season.”*

We are looking forward to a great season and as always filled with wonderful delights coming out of the kitchen.

### **Truck Tune Up by Master Shawn**



Aside being a super wrangler, the most patient person in the world to teach people how to ride, a certified massage therapist our Shawn is also the best in detailing and tuning up the Trucks. Shawn is taking every truck inside for a full detail job, give the beds a new coat of black paint and check everything. We also brought in the trucks to Downtown Auto Clinic the most professional workshop in the area for

the yearly safety inspection and preventative maintenance service. Wondering why all of a sudden everybody else is starting to clean up their vehicles at The Hideout..... What did they say? Lead by example?

### **Hideout Pooches**



The dogs are all in great shape. Charlie and Poeffie very much missed Marijn while she was gone for approximately 5 weeks travelling to Florida, Argentina and Uruguay visiting family with Paula and David. Brindy is still the "Queen" of the barn, but is getting used to two little toy Yorkies running around at home. (Some of you may remember "Tex" from the Fall photo-shoot with Joseph Van Os).

### **At the Flitner Ranch**

It is calving time and at the ranch the crew is very busy day and night to assist our cows to deliver their babies. Can you imagine being born in -36 F. Like David said the other day "What a welcome to the world!". Every year some of the little calves and fousls have their ears frozen off. That is why some of the little horses go by the name "Croppy".

### **Paula & David**

Paula and David travelled with Marijn and a friend to Argentina and Uruguay visiting friends & family for 2 weeks. They really enjoyed the trip but of course Marijn would have loved to go visit some of the Argentinean Ranches to go riding. It would be a great opportunity to take a riding vacation in Argentina headed by Ramon who worked as a Charro and speaks the language.

### **Hiring season**

It is hiring season for the seasonal wranglers and we want to be early and organized ahead of the season. We have seen some great candidates however as usual mostly girls.

Where are the cowboys??? Ramon made sure the word is out that we are looking for some real cowboy types to assist in the cattle work and ride with the guests.

### **The Shell Lodge & Shell Cabin on Shell Square...**

The restoration works on both of these old buildings in the centre of town are approaching an end. The Shell Lodge just needs a new hardwood flooring which is currently being worked on and The Shell Cabin is being chinked in side.

The centre of town in Shell looks wonderful with these 2 old ladies being tuned up again. The cabin and the guesthouse at Trapper will be rented as vacation homes.

### **The Trapper Creek Lodge & Restaurant**

Trapper Creek is becoming more popular every year. The restaurant was really busy throughout



November and December, the rooms are being rented out more and more and this week alone Heather got 4 requests for weddings at the lodge.

Operating a business in an area with a population density of 2,1 per square mile is a challenge but we are making headway. As benchmarks the US has a population density per square mile of 74 people and Wyoming 6,2. To tease Marijn and Peter I will throw in the population density of Belgium which is close to 400.

### **Bookings, Branding Week and Horsemanship Clinics...**

Bookings are starting to come in and there is once more an ever increasing contingent of Europeans seeking to adventure at The Hideout. With the positive reactions from the fall **the horsemanship clinic we will be offering a second clinic the week of April 24.** Don't forget that **branding week is April 10!**



No matter what dates you are thinking of get in touch with either AJ or Peter about getting your spot confirmed, the weeks are filling up quickly!!! Looking at the inquiries and telephone calls we are getting it seems people are surely more confident about the economic outlook than last year.

There is probably more news but we want to keep some news for the next newsletter...

***Greetings from your Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch***