



Shell, Wyoming
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Hideout News

Late Summer/Early Fall 2014

Summer/Fall Season is in Full Swing at The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch in Wyoming

It has been a while since we have posted a blog and mailed out our Newsletter. This was supposed to be the Summer Newsletter but we are a little late and so it has become the Late Summer – Early Fall Newsletter.

~ THE HIDEOUT CREW & MANAGEMENT



Our Guests

We would like to start out by thanking all our guests from this season. The 2014 Season filled up very early and is nearly booked up through the end of the season. Every year more familiar faces return to The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch. A growing trend is that existing guests bring their friends and family and also a growing number of new guests visit based on their recommendation. This makes us a little nervous as our guests build up their The Hideout experience and friends and family visit with very high expectations. Because we always try to exceed our guests' expectations, the entire team works hard to make it all happen.

This season with the cooler weather and rain many more guests opted for half day rides in the valley and returned to the lodge for one of Sheena's great lunches. This summer we only began riding in the mountains in late June because of the cooler weather and the snowpack still present. At some altitudes we enjoyed spring flowers until August.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of our guests for your ongoing trust and support!



Our Horses

As you know we take pride in our horses and consider them valued employees. We saw some of the Mustangs we bought at The Supreme Extreme Mustang Makeover coming in to the guest string for the intermediate and advanced riders. These new horses scored high in terms of guest feedback.

Of course our new Quarter Horses also received very good feedback from our guests and wranglers. One of the new

Quarter Horses, Sheridan ran off a couple weeks ago when a tree fell and spooked the horses. It was lunch time, and all the horses were hobbled but she managed to slip her hobbles and run off, not to be found. Even with an entire team of guests and staff searching for three days in one of the most challenging areas in terms of terrain, we could not find her.

Thankfully, after three days missing, Sheridan returned unharmed to one of the horse corrals in the mountains which was a Monday morning. We must assume she was ready for her next week's work. Unfortunately, Marijn's very nice AH saddle, saddle bags and tack did not come back with the horse. It remains a mystery to us all.

Most of you probably remember the little blue foal (True Blue) that was accidentally born last year out of a Mustang mare and a well papered Quarter Horse stud. The Mustang mare (Little Blue) took a plane to Austria where she now resides after taking a crash course in the German language. True Blue is now over a year old and is a well-built, sound and bossy little filly that bullies around the big horses in the pasture. She leads well, is easy to halter and will even follow you around the pasture or when walking with her. We have put a saddle and blankets on her back and when the saddle fell off her back or slipped while she was trotting she did not spook. Needless to say there was no rider in the saddle, we are just trying to make her used to these things early on in her life.



Our Hideout Staff

Tom and Marijn were fortunate to have several of our wranglers from last season return for the 2014 season. To our own and the guests' delight Mel, Kelly, Trece and Daniel returned to The Hideout for another summer. Some will even return for a third summer next season. Unfortunately, we saw our friend and guest-favorite Mel return home in late July because of personal matters. Hopefully he can make it back some day. There will always be a spot for such a great individual.



Mel getting ready to rope Hideout steers.



Daniel holding a steer.

Daniel plans to return for a third year to The Hideout and Kelly would love to join us for a third year but she is getting some pressure from her parents that after receiving an expensive college education she should look for a "real" full time job. Tom and Marijn are considering a phone call to Chicago to convince Kelly's parents that one more year as a Hideout wrangler will look great on her resume.

As with all years, we have some new wranglers and staff coming on board. One big favorite was charming old-style cowboy Mark Prows who is the identical twin

brother of Greg Prows who was a wrangler at

The Hideout some 12 year ago. Mark and Greg have become well known faces as they have both participated in our fall and winter photo clinics. Mark sings and plays the guitar and has quickly stolen the hearts of many a guest.

For the summer season we had Carly who is a student in the Equine Program at Montana State University in Bozeman.

Carly's knowledge of horse training helped her work with a few of our young three and four year

old Mustangs. Carly has taken two of our young Mustangs up to MSU to be used in their training and colt starting program. They will be returned to us in November. Carly graduates in May and is also planning on joining us next season as a wrangler.

Christina Kearse is also a new wrangler, but a familiar face to us here at The Hideout. Just like Peter and Marijn and Tom and Rebecca, Christina and her parents visited The Hideout as guests.

Christina is a prospective medical student and started working as a wrangler early August. Christina is a very accomplished Cross Country/Eventer and competed on the Clemson Equestrian Team.



Kelly out on a ride.



Mark and his thousand mile stare.



Katie, Trece, Cristina and Makenzie at the weekly BBQ.

Another new wrangler, Makenzie also joined us in early August. With the sweetest smile and very serious about her job, she has become an instant favorite of our guests. Senior Wranglers Kelly and Treece, who really know their game, have done a great job teaching her the do's and don'ts at The Hideout under the watchful eye of Marijn and Tom.

In the office, smiling Katie joined us for another season from Chicago after assisting and supporting Rebecca last season. Katie's very special, one of a kind dog Strudel, also joined her for the trip out West. All the staff has fallen in love with that little fluffy fur ball. When Tom and Rebecca "Strudel-sat" for a weekend when Katie was gone, Tom even let her sleep at the foot of his bed. Not even Lucy gets that honor!



Talking about dogs, they are all doing great. The main dogs at the barn these days are good old Charlie, Gilleke and Lucy. Lucas, the palomino cross-breed Chihuahua/Pug dog of Jr. is still, despite his size, "Top Dog" at The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch. In June, we said goodbye to Tom and Rebecca's old black lab Ebony who at 15 years had a nice long life and was happily wagging her tail until the day she died.

In the Maintenance Department Marco, Jr and Hector keep things running smoothly despite more intensive use of the infrastructure and challenging weather which impacted the farming side of The Trapper Creek Ranch.

Housekeeping under the supervision and leadership of Guille was again present in full force and brought many compliments each week that everything is so clean and organized.

The kitchen under the supervision of Sheena had and still has a really great crew on board including some returning faces like Biri and Leslie Gallegos. Of course Sheena's mom, who looks much more like Sheena's sister, was present two days a week to help out and support this great team.

For the first time we also had an international student from Lithuania joining our team. Ugne, a veterinary student, stayed with us for three months and proved to be a most eager worker carrying an eternal smile and loads of energy. At the end of August she returned back home as did sweet Jenna who went back to California. Sonya our dishwasher who lives right here in Shell (yes, she is one of the 83 people living in Shell) is a delight to work with and always cheerful and happy.

Sheena has brought in Griffin and Jill to help through the remainder of our busy fall season. They are a welcome addition and are happy to help out cooking and in the dining room.



Our fabulous kitchen crew.



The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch is looking for an Executive Chef and Sous-Chef for the 2015 Season

Talking about the kitchen and our Chef Sheena, we are both sad and happy to announce that for the time being, this will be Sheena's last season at The Hideout. We are of course sad to see our beloved, creative and great chef leaving us after four years of delightful food and loyal service.

However, we understand that Shell is a remote place to work and live and that being young, vibrant and with the desire to grow and learn in her profession, talented individuals like Sheena want to continue to explore the world.

So for this reason we are excited and happy for her that a new world will open full of new adventures. Sheena loves this area and working at The Hideout and hopefully one day she will return to this region bringing even more culinary talent and experience with her.

If you know a talented, trustworthy, creative, professional and seasoned executive chef and sous-chef, please let us know or have them submit their credentials to us. Of course whoever applies needs to realize that the only people on vacation at The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch are our guests, not our staff. As Sheena can tell you, the executive chef position carries much responsibility and the work involves long hours throughout our guest season. Also, Shell is a remote area in which to live. However, with the guest season at The Hideout getting longer and longer this position has grown from a very seasonal job to a nearly year-round position of approximately 10 months.

Fly-Fishing

We have been gradually building up our Fly-Fishing activities over the last several years. Whereas last year we had outside fly-fishing guides coming in two days a week, this year we hired a full time fly-fishing guide to have fishing more available to our guests. Matt took on that challenge and he did and is doing a great job. Both experienced and novice fly-fishing guests enjoyed his professionalism. While fly-fishing is about fishing, which does not always mean catching a fish, Matt was able to help most of our guests reel in a few good trout on each trip out.



A good example of the trout in our streams.



Painting and oiling the old barn at Trapper.

Projects

Of course there are “The Projects”. Each year along with the usual and exceptional maintenance challenges, we always take on some new projects at The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch. As we operate in different areas they may vary widely.



New bridge decking.

So here are some of the projects we finished or are currently finishing:

1. The Upper Casitas Remodeling – The guests love it!
2. A brand new Archery Range (long bow, compound bow and cross-bow),
3. Replacing some of the broken asphalt paths to the guests’ cabin with concrete pads.
4. Planting new trees due to losses each year because of wind and several other reasons.
5. Remodeling the ugly building at Trapper made out of OSB which we are covering with rough cut wood and adding some side wings to improve aesthetics.
6. Oil all the cabins and buildings at Trapper and the south sides of the log buildings at The Hideout.
7. Replacing many leaking irrigation and city water pipes and installing valves to enable us to isolate buildings and detect leaks without cutting water off to all the buildings.
8. Finished remodeling The Old Shell Lodge and putting it up for rent.
9. Currently we are in the process of breaking ground on a 60 x 80 hay barn at Trapper to protect and stock our hay. This will make it also easier for Tom and his crew to load hay in the winter when it snows.
10. We continue to clean up unkempt areas and took down some old buildings while reclaiming the wood and building materials.
11. Deepened our fishing ponds and adding more fishing spots.
12. Replace / Repair several miles of wire fence at Trapper, The Hideout and around The Hideout Home.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Each year we try to get some projects and work done for the Shell Community. This year Marco and his team connected the town of Shell to the irrigation canal which meant that after many years the irrigation water is flowing back to town. We also had a team oiling the Shell Community Hall which now looks much better.

New Equipment & Infrastructure

Our guests and especially our repeat guests are increasingly interested in what new equipment we bought to improve the guest and farming operation.

Along with new saddles, tack, high quality saddle blankets, new horses, etc. we also invested in:

1. Two brand new 2014 GMC Diesel trucks replacing our two 2000 Chevy Silverado’s.
2. A new 10 foot Brush Hog.
3. New office computer.
4. Upgraded three queen beds to king beds along with new Pendleton blankets and bedding.
5. Planted 25 big trees and many hundreds of smaller trees and shrubs.
6. New Freezer in the basement.
7. Two new heavy duty water pumps (for irrigation and the fishing ponds) which will be much more energy efficient and offer more capacity than the 22 year old pumps.
8. A new bridge below The Hideout across the irrigation canal. Most of the wood was reclaimed from the old barn and other structures we took down.
9. A new super duper dog house for Charlie and Gilleke out at Trapper.



Charlie & Gilleke’s new dog house.

Riding Activities at The Hideout

Along with the usual trails we ride we explored some new trails. As our numbers of repeat guests grow each year, we need to come up with new trails and areas to ride. Having access to approximately 650,000 acres in a diversity of terrain and altitudes this is only a matter of taking the time to go explore.

- The most popular half-day rides in the valley were Devil's Leap and the Trapper Creek Canyon ride.
- In the mountains Copman's Tomb and Willet Lake were the most popular all-day rides so far this season.
- In the Basin the wild life viewing with a chance to see some wild horses was a popular ride also.
- More and more guests asked for riding lessons, clinics and team penning which offers the opportunity to use our competitive outside arena and covered inside arena.
- For cattle work we enjoyed some great days moving cattle for Greg at The Flitner Ranch, moving and working our own 30 Hideout steers and taking on more and more cattle work for other ranchers in the valley.



Moving The Hideout Steers to Trapper.



Happy guests loading up for an all-day ride in the mountains.

Non-Riding Activities

When it comes to non-riding activities Fly-Fishing was the most popular new activity keeping Matt pretty busy most weeks. But the half-day activity combining our excellent Trapshooting range with the new Archery Range was also a big hit. The 4x4 Off Road and Photography tours were popular spring and early summer and will increase again in fall. This summer the Cody Nite Rodeo trip on Wednesdays was a big hit and our new Kayak experience on Shell Creek is also gaining popularity.

One non-official activity that is getting more and more interest towards the end of the week is touring the property and visiting all the different projects, building, farming, community initiatives we are working on and which we share in this newsletter. One guest called it “the behind the scenes tour of The Hideout”. Guests are surprised how big the operation is and all the different pots we have on the fire.



The New Archery Range looks great.



Trap Shooting is a fun half-day activity.

Paula and David

Paula and David are doing well and keeping busy with a number of projects. As with each year, they will begin packing their bags soon to head to Florida for the winter. The weather so far this fall has been sunny and gorgeous, but as we are finalizing the last words of this newsletter on October 27, 2014 a sudden cold chill reminds us King Winter is knocking on the door. Paula is especially ready to pack her bags and head south, as are Rocky and Rusty.

More News...

There is of course more news to come
but we will save that for later...



Book Early for Next Season

Not to pitch a hard sale, but each year we are booking our weeks earlier and earlier. For next year some weeks are close to being full. Some guests believe we are joking or trying to put pressure, but quite the opposite. Each year more repeat guests are disappointed that we could not fit them in the week that they prefer or disappointed that their favorite cabin was taken.

Although we can sleep 32 guests on a weekly basis, we only book approximately 25 guests each week to keep it personal and customized.

Call
307-765-2080 or 800-354-8637
or e-mail
info@thehideout.com
now to make sure you secure your spot.

ON BEHALF OF ALL HERE AT THE HIDEOUT:

Happy Trails!



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