

Meanwhile, back at



All the news that fits.

THE RANCH

SPRING 2012

Tradition and history are alive and well at the 7D

Greetings! Andrea and I hope that this finds all of you and your loved ones doing well. It is hard to believe that the first month of 2012 is nearly gone.

As we gear up for another exciting year at the 7D Ranch we feel that it is important to explain what inspires us to manage this unique place. The main thing that motivates us is all of the great people who contribute to the ranch each year. YOU, the readers of this newsletter, are these people, and whether you have visited the ranch as a guest or worked at the 7D, you have contributed. This awesome gathering of people has gone on now for 53 summer seasons. That amount of time is powerful because it has not been an easy 53 years, yet the 7D continues to survive. The longevity of this historic place would not have happened without of the people who believe in what the 7D is trying to accomplish. Andrea and I believe in this and that is why we agreed to take over management in March of 2010.

In order to describe what the 7D is trying to accomplish I will pull from the mission statement of the 7D Ranch that my family formally recorded in the mid 1990's. First, the Dominick family wants to continually improve and maintain the ranch, the property and all that encompasses the 7D. We want it to be a safe, comfortable and beautiful working dude ranch in Sunlight Basin, Wyoming. We want the ranch to continue for many future generations as a place that everyone visitors and workers — can enjoy. The Dominick family wants to run their ranch in a way that minimizes the impact on the land and the region, and to be good stewards of the Sunlight Basin Ecosystem. We also want to foster a developing knowledge and respect for the history, ecology, and wildness of the region.

For the past 53 years we have been aspiring to do this by running a for-profit business, that most years has allowed us enough profit to maintain this his-

toric place. Like so many other worthy things in life maintaining the 7D Ranch is not an easy task. However, it is a very rewarding one.

For Andrea and me, it is incredibly rewarding to share this place with all of you and to strive to improve it for future generations. Andrea and I believe in the 7D and what sets it apart from other dude ranches. In our time as managers at the ranch we want to do our very best be guided by the mission of the Dominick family. Here's the Bottom Line: we need the support of our guests not only to keep the 7D going, but to maintain and improve this great old place for the future.

Therefore, Andrea and I ask that you consider spending a memorable and terrific week with us in the summer of 2012. We look forward to our time with you and we are excited to continue to improve this wonderful place with your support. Thanks for all that you have already made possible and thank you in advance for your continued support and all of the great things yet to come. We really hope to see you this coming summer.

All the best, Meade and Andrea Dominick



Winter still lingers in Wyoming but the next months will bring warmer weather and hints of spring and summer.

Having spent the last 15 years working at guest ranches, I've been asked many questions by many people. Here are a few: "What's the weather going to be like today? Am I going to get too hot (or cold) if I wear this? Should I bring my slicker? Are the bugs going to be bad? Will we see any wildlife on this ride? Does my horse like me? Which is the best ride to go on?"

I would love to have all the answers, but I think people sometimes mistake my ten-

dency to be somewhat *psycho* for being *psychic*. I might make a good guess and may even be right on occasion when I attempt to deliver an acceptable or reassuring response. It is only if you trust my opinion that you trust my answers.

Some questions can only be answered by first asking more questions. For example, someone may ask me, "When is the best time to come to the Ranch? Before answering, I have to ask them some questions: "What are you most interested in (other than the riding, which of course is always great)? Do you like warm or cool weather? Would you like great fly-fishing opportunities? Are wildflowers of interest to you? Is this going to be a family vacation or are the kids staying home this trip?"

Then there are questions I can't answer just because I don't have an answer: "Who is your favorite dude

horse? Which is your favorite ride? Where is your favorite view or overlook? Where's your favorite water to fly-fish? Which is your favorite season? Who's your favorite guest?" I might be able to name my top five, but there are too many great ones to narrow my answer down to just one.

However, there are some questions I am able to answer without hesitation or thought. One of them is "When is your favorite time to be at the 7D Ranch?" For me, hands down, it's the adults-only weeks in September. The weather is great – warm days, cool mornings and nights. So crisp, it almost crunches air. Fly-fishing at its best. The colors of fall are appearing. Adults are enjoying the company of other adults. Just as in the summer when you can do as much or as little as you'd like, the ranch takes on a whole different ambiance during adults-only weeks.

For those of you who have enjoyed these last weeks of the season, you know what I'm talking about. For those of you who haven't, you should come and find out. One final question you may be asking yourself: Is there any better place to be than 7D Ranch, Sunlight Basin in September?"

Absolutely not – if you ask me.

- Carol Bachmann

Ask Me about Adult Weeks

The 7D is on Facebook.

Here's a recent **Facebook** conversation:

Nancy Newell Gilmore:

I was raised on 7D and spent many an hour in Uncle Dewey and Aunt Lee's cabin. Aunt Lee used to entertain my sister, brother and me in the wood shed.

7D Ranch:

Hello. I am Andrea Dominick and now my husband Meade and I live in the Newell cabin. Meade mentioned that it was named after your family.

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Nancy Newell Gilmore:

Yes indeed it was! We were at the ranch from 1960 to 1972 I believe it was. My dad and mom were there even longer. Dad (Ralph Newell) was head wrangler and Mom (Maggie) head cabin girl. In 1970 a son of one of the guest families (fluerta?) filmed a movie called Ranch Girl in which I was ranch girl and rode a welsh pony called Dandy. My dad had a small role in the film in which he was paid \$1! Oh the memories I have and would love to share with you all. By the way the Newell cabin was built for my family - incentive to keep coming back I would imagine :)



Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman entertained the world and brought to light the concept of a “Bucket List.” It’s an idea that is not only realistic, but thought provoking – imagine the creative possibilities. Everyone should consider indulging in as many pleasures life has to offer as they can. Rumor has it the travel industry, including guest ranches, has had a boost in reservations as a result of this innovative film. Why guest ranches? Because they are a unique vacation, all-inclusive, suitable for families, couples and singles. If you’ve had the pleasure of experiencing a week at the 7D Ranch, you would probably agree that even though you weren’t sure what to expect (first-time guests), your stay far exceeded any expectation you may have had.

My point is – you undoubtedly thought it might be something you’d like to do, and discovered it was. You took a chance and were well rewarded.

Have you ever considered a pack trip? Ride into the wilderness and spend up to ten or more days in some of the most spectacular country most people have never laid their eyes on. Country that is the same now as it has always been. Ride, hike and fly fish or just relax in camp. Enjoy delicious meals cooked in the great outdoors along with appetizers and even dessert. Experience a new relationship with the horses and mules as you get to know them not just on their backs, but in their own social setting after their work is done. Spoil yourself, not with the luxuries of modern conveniences, but by abandoning them and allowing nature to indulge you.

Obviously, a back country pack trip is not for

everyone. I compare it to sky diving. These are two totally different types of activities, but the desire is either there or it’s not. For example, I had always thought I would like to sky-dive. I finally had the opportunity and I loved it – so much I did it again. These unique experiences only lasted a few minutes each time, but the thrill lasted for hours and the memories, a lifetime. However, anyone who really feels they would not like sky-diving should spend their time pursuing another adventure. In my experience, if you think that a pack trip is something you would like, you owe it to yourself to do it. It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that you will love and remember all of your life.

If a pack trip is on your bucket list, don’t let time go by without checking this one off. Or, if your curiosity is aroused and you’d like more information about one of life’s greatest adventures, talk to Meade and Andrea about customizing a wilderness trip for you. There’s a lot of beautiful country to see and so little time to see it. Maybe it’s time to put on your big cowboy or big cowgirl pants and enjoy the ride.

- Carol Bachmann

Latte on the Sunlight

It’s the seasonal raging rush hour,
filled to the brim,
creamy, brown, and foamy.

Stand back!
The Sunlight’s in a big wide hurry
to get home
Like the rest of us.

We are the river in spring,
gathering ourselves up,
plunging forward,
crashing over boulders,
trying to get some living in
before winter comes
and we are spent and silent.

by Bette Jaedicke

Put yourself in this picture
this summer.

THERE IS STILL TIME
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

We have some dates available.
CALL US.



Horsemanship Clinic with Spencer Dominick – September 2-9, 2012

We are offering it again! Bring your own horse or ride one of the wonderful 7D ranch horses to improve your horsemanship techniques. You will also gain real mountain experience and meet many new challenges. Spencer will teach group horsemanship clinics and lead scenic trail riding adventures while giving one-on-one attention to each participant. Picturesque mountains, rivers, and valleys offer the perfect setting to work on a partnering relationship with your horse and to practice practical skills. This is a special opportunity with one of the country's top horse trainers on the very ranch where he grew up. If you are at all interested in improving your knowledge about horses and horsemanship abilities, you will not be disappointed in this amazing week.

7D RANCH

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