

Meanwhile, back at



All the news that fits.

# THE RANCH

SPRING 2014

**Building on a great year...looking ahead at the 7D**



Carol Bachmann Photo

Dear Friends of the 7D,

It is a beautiful day here in Northwest Wyoming as spring is starting to show itself. Andrea and I wanted to reach out to all of you and let you know about some of the exciting things that have happened and are happening in Sunlight Basin. For the two of us, far and away the most exciting thing in our lives was the birth of our son Lash Demasi Dominick on December 26th, 2012. We know that many of you are seasoned parents and grandparents, but having a child has been a new and great journey for Andrea and me. Needless to say, the last 15 months have flown by for us as we embrace parenthood and the running of the 7D.

The 2013 season at the 7D was a huge success. The ranch business had one of its best years. This of course

is only possible because of the awesome support of all of our loyal guests and patrons. You all made it happen so give yourselves a pat on the back. Business years like 2012 and 2013 have allowed us to accomplish many different projects around the ranch in our mission to maintain and improve our buildings and grounds. A few of the things that you have all made possible are an automated sprinkler system, new round corral, new bleachers, metal roofs on ranch buildings, skylights in the main lodge, many fencing projects and some new furniture in different cabins.

On a bigger front Antler cabin experienced a major renovation last winter ('13) accomplished by the incredible carpenter David Rawlings. David, his wife Erin and their foster son Stephen Daly are long time residents of

Sunlight Basin and friends of the 7D. These last two winters they have lived at the ranch and carefully watched over it. We were able to hire them to accomplish the work of both the Antler renovation and now the huge Fireplace cabin project. David has been overseeing a crew and working himself on the Fireplace cabin since September of 2013. We are excited for all of you to see this amazing project when you visit us next. We have gone to great lengths to keep the feel of the old historic Fireplace cabin, while at the same time restoring it to last for several more generations.

Some other very exciting news is that we have about 70% of our staff from 2013 returning to be a part of the 7D team this coming summer. We feel very fortunate to have such a great staff and we are thankful for all that they do each summer for the 7D. Oh, if you were wondering, our horse and mule herd is thriving this winter. All 98 of them are enjoying some new pasture land that the ranch was able to get a grazing lease on. This has

worked out incredibly well and we can honestly say they are all fat and happy. That also goes for our giant cattle herd of two.

The first guest week in June will be here before we know it. As usual we are both anxious about getting everything done on time, but somehow it always seems to work out. We cannot wait to share another wonderful summer with any of you who are coming to visit. In closing, think about a spectacular ride up to Memorial or a hearty breakfast at the brunch ride, maybe a hike up Windy Mountain, or catching a beautiful brook trout on Sunlight Creek. Whatever it is, we hope that you think of the 7D Ranch and Sunlight Basin and that it brings a smile to your face. Hope to see you soon and thanks for your support.

All the best,  
Meade, Andrea, Lash and entire Dominick Family

## **Absaroka Mountain Adventure Trip offers incomparable wilderness views, fishing and hiking**

New this year to the 7D outfitting schedule is this custom trip offered by Sarah Dominick and husband Will Sweetser. Hike with Sarah and Will through the wilderness of the Absaroka Mountains for the fast-packing trip of a lifetime. It's horse-supported camping at its finest. Spend five days in some of the most remote mountains and valleys in the lower forty-eight, and marvel at the mountain views, snowfields, fantastic fishing, and stunning photography opportunities—all without carrying a heavy pack. Return each night to a comfortable camp complete with gourmet meals and camp-fire storytelling.

This trip will be customized to the clients' abilities and interests; however, participants should be in good physical condition and interested in strenuous hiking at high elevations. Trip cost is \$2500 per person (discount for a full group of six booking together) and the trip is limited to six.

At the moment, the schedule is not set. Call us if you have a specific set of dates in mind.

Day 1\*—Arrive in Cody and use the day

Day 2\*—Go sightseeing in Yellowstone or Cody

Day 3—Meet at hotel (TBA) for orientation, gear review, and shuttle to short hike on Cedar Mountain for day-pack assessment. Buffalo Bil Center of the West tour, dinner, hotel (tba) included.

Day 4—Shuttle to trailhead, pack gear, head in to camp for fishing, photography, etc.

Day 5—Six-mile and ten-mile hiking options

Day 6—Four-mile and seven-mile hiking options

Day 7—Twelve-mile hiking option or rest day

Day 8—short morning hike and hike out from camp (preferably alternate option from first day)

\*Days 1+2 are strongly suggested but not included in trip price.

### **Book your stay today! Our schedule is filling up.**

Here are the available dates: June 8-15 (four cabins), June 15-22 (one one-bedroom cabin), July 6-13 (one one-bedroom cabin, August 3-10 (one one-bedroom cabin), August 10-17 (two one-bedroom cabins), and September 7-14 (six cabins).

Call us soon. We don't want to miss you this summer!

# There's nothing like a 7D pack trip

In the *Lonesome Dove* epic, Gus, the romantic, says to Newt at the start of the 2500-mile cattle drive, "There's nothin' like going into new country on a good horse."

We know he was describing the cattle drive adventure from the Rio Grande in Texas to the upper Missouri-Milk River country of Montana and not a pack trip. Yet, it has always seemed to us that "nothin' like going into new country on a good horse" is a great description of what packing is all about. And, pack trips always have been the high point of our summers in Sunlight. We are flattered by Meade and Andrea's invitation to contribute to this newsletter, especially since most of our trips in the past decade have been with them and Chris. In our exploration of the high country in Sunlight, the Park, and the Shoshone, the 7D crew and Dominick family have been our outfitters and guides, and there is no one better.

After packing for several years in the Gallatin Valley of Montana and the four corners of Yellowstone, we went up Sunlight drainage into the Hoodoo Basin of Yellowstone from the 7D; that was around 1976. Even though we now have a cabin about five miles down Sunlight from the 7D and can look at the Sunlight high country from our porch during morning coffee and evening wine, packing is the only way to see firsthand how the high-country rivers, streams, sweeping mountain basins, and spectacular peaks all fit together. I guess we just need to be as up close as we can. And, since the rivers and streams form the mountain highways, our favorite trips are to explore those drainages from their ends to their headwaters. You

probably know the Western saying that "a place is yours when you know where all the trails lead." You don't own the place—you KNOW it. When you look up at the mountains from our front porch, you know how the country fits together—the little black dots on the maps come to life, carrying with them a vision of what the country really looks like. Nothing like it!

It is difficult to say enough about the 7D, Meade, Andrea, Chris, and the other pack trip people. The destinations are unmatched, and the food is great. Where else can you experience the solitude of not encountering another human being for several days (except your own party) and being part of the wilderness that the late author Wallace Stegner called "the geography of hope"? You are likely to

see animals in their native high-mountain habitat since you are usually with expert hunting guides. And there is nothing like seeing your camp take shape in one afternoon and then several days later watching it all disappear with no trace that you were there.



Carol Bachmann Photo

In all this, safety is first. We just took a look at our old calendars, and we think we have packed around 140 days since 2000; there must be over 2,500 animal days in all those trips, and we have never had or seen an accident. That says something about the great skill and caring of those you pack with.

We can already smell the horses and mules in the cool mountain air, and we can hear the animal bells ringing as they graze. Come join in the experience—nothing like it!

- Bob and Bette Jaedicke



## 7D RANCH

P.O. Box 100, Cody, WY 82414  
888 587 9885 [www.7dranch.com](http://www.7dranch.com)



### Chickadees Are Common Birds

Chickadees, classified as Paridae, the genus *Parus*, remind me of “Paradise.” Though traces to the Pleistocene Age

I prefer to think of them in Eden; they are a garden variety bird, social (remember how they sat on Adam’s head? How they ate from his hand?) talkative-

they call more frequently than any other bird, have thirteen different songs, and hiss like a snake if the nest is approached. (Oh, where did you learn to do that, little Eve?)

Monogamous, they nest in tree cavities, their tiny eggs are white with rusty speckles on oval ends, a sprinkle of paprika stars against unblemished skies. Familial,

the father carries food to the mother and chicks, whom the parents continue to feed, even after they leave the nest. Thrown out of Paradise with the rest of us, they live

on average for six years. This does not concern them. As Queen Gertrude said to Hamlet, “Thou know’st ‘tis common; all that lives must die,

passing through mature to eternity.” Gertrude wanted to comfort her son upon the death of his father. She did not know of the murder of brother by brother,

the poison, the greed, but Shakespeare still puts before us what we cannot help but know every day; the common sorrows of humankind. This morning I look out

on fields of unblemished snow. What blessings I have done nothing to deserve are mine: a warm bed at night, coffee in the morning, family, friends, food,

Music, laughter – chickadees of home, comfort and joy

Mary Chivers - 2013