

FALL 2004



The Lone Mountain RANCHER

"Discovery is in our Nature"

Montana Is Great, But Our Crew Is Our Greatest Asset

Kelly and I have had a great first year managing the Ranch, and we want to thank you for all your compliments, enthusiasm and support.

Guests often ask me at some point during their stay how we maintain such a great, accommodating staff. This happens often enough that I thought it would be a great subject for the newsletter! In fact, a Ranch guest wrote us a letter after his stay this Summer asking how we consistently achieve a superior level of service. He questioned, "Is it the weather, something in the food, special training, or just living in Montana?" I believe it's a combination of the above, as well as the fresh air, spring water, and open spaces that are abundant in this area of the West. Many of our seasonal employees come to work here for the same reasons that make our guests decide to vacation here year after year. It seems that Lone Mountain Ranch attracts those adventurous types who are searching for that unique experience. Imagine your Winter or Summer vacation turning into a job!

Some of us, myself included, just couldn't resist the urge. The biggest advantage is that you are less likely to miss out on any freshly groomed trails, powder days, insect hatches, wild flowers, or any other seasonal highlights.

It seems that both our guests and crew are in search of that unique experience. As a management team, we strive to seek out the highest quality staff. Individuals who are motivated, cheerful, and interested in becoming a part of the Lone Mountain Ranch family fit right in. It is not just a cool job or a nice place to visit, but also a way of life. Our crew is invited to attend weekly events like

the Summer barbecue cookouts and Winter's popular family style dinner. We encourage crew to join all of the recreational activities that are offered here at the Ranch and experience first hand what makes this a special place. You may even see our crew huddled up in the Saloon next to the fireplace, along with guests, to listen to an evening of Montana folk music and cowboy poetry. It is this type of interaction that creates lasting friendships between guests and crew, which is truly one of the most rewarding parts of our jobs!

We look forward to seeing you on your next visit.

Take Care,

Yancey

Teambuilding...

One of the unique experiences that we offer both guests and staff alike is our teambuilding High Ropes Course. We began



the Summer season by having crew from all of our departments go through the Ropes Course, which helped to create instant bonds of trust and communication between co-workers. Through teambuilding our crew learns that there is always someone out there to help with each new challenge. During our Fall conference season, we utilize the Ranch facilities, activities, and our team building exercises to offer many compa-

nies the opportunity to create the same results with their staff members. If this can work for us, it will work for your company too. Call me anytime so we can discuss some ideas. I love talking about this stuff!

A few words from Bob...

It's already time to reflect on this Summer and on plans for the Winter.

Viv and I have worked with our youngest daughter, Laura and her husband, Chris to grow organic vegetables for the Ranch. Chef Ian has made a dedicated effort to use products from our farm and from other local producers to ensure freshness and quality dining for our guests. We have delivered corn, tomatoes, a variety of lettuce, radishes, cucumbers, shallots, onions, basil, fava beans, herbs, and peppers throughout the Summer.

It has been fun, challenging and a learning experience working with Mother Nature to produce healthful products for our guests to enjoy.

We have come to appreciate the importance of naturally grown, fresh

foods in our diet and are pleased that our chef shares in our enthusiasm. Viv and I are absolutely delighted with the quality and creativity of Ian's meals that emphasize the best natural foods available from local growers.

We have made it a point to visit the Ranch at least once a week this Summer and have talked with many of our guests. The reports we have had from our guests reinforce our confidence in Yancey, Kelly, our management staff and the crew to bring a very positive Ranch experience to our guests. Yancey and Kelly bring a warm and genuine sense of hospitality to the guests which enhances the experience. Hospitality combined seamlessly with quality food and diverse recreational experiences are the critical ingredients to assure guest satisfaction.

According to The Farmer's Almanac, we can anticipate lots of snow and cold weather this Winter. Bring it on! We all look forward to a wonderful Winter of skiing on some of the most predictable snow in the country. I encourage you to consider a Lone Mountain Ranch vacation this Winter. It's a beautiful time of the year and the skiing is outstanding. You will see us at the Ranch at least once a week in the Winter for skiing, visiting guests and enjoying the meals. I believe you will find a Winter vacation at the Ranch to be an outstanding experience rich with memories of wonderful food, camaraderie, and exhilarating fun in the snow. Join us.

Bob

Downhill Skiing at Big Sky & Moonlight Basin

Many of our guests like to combine Nordic and downhill skiing on their Winter vacation. The Ranch is situated near two outstanding resorts that are just a short shuttle bus ride away. We offer discounted lift tickets for guests.

Big Sky Ski Resort is consistently recognized in national ski magazines for short or non-existent lift lines: 3600 acres with 150+ named runs on three separate mountains. Average Annual Snowfall: 400 inches Skiable Vertical: 4,350 ft Summit: 11,166 ft Moonlight Basin is the newest ski resort in the U.S. 1650 lift-served acres with 76 mapped trails. Average Annual Snowfall: 400 inches. Lift Served Vertical: 2070 feet. Summit: 10,250 ft. 5 lifts with Montana's only high-speed six passenger chairlift.

Vacation Giveaway

You can win a vacation for two to Lone Mountain Ranch just by introducing us to your friends!

We have always appreciated the recommendations of our guests. This is our way of saying "Thank You."

Upon the referred guest's departure, we will enter your name into our Vacation Giveaway. The drawing will take place in April for a Winter vacation and in September for a Summer vacation. Good Luck!

Congratulations to Caroline and

Dave Lewis of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, winners of the fifth Lone Mountain Ranch Vacation Giveaway. The Lewis family was awarded a Summer 2005 vacation. Anyone can win; all you have to do is have your friends come join us (or, better yet bring some friends with you during your next stay!) to be entered in the next drawing. And, congratulations to Jim and Susan Henry of Waccabuc, New York, who were awarded a Winter 2005 vacation.

Please email us at reservations@lmranch.com or phone 1.800.514.4644 if you...

- have an address change. Please supply both your old and new address.
- would like us to send a brochure to a friend.
- would like to be deleted from our mailing list.
- would like to be added to our email list so that we can inform you of special discounts and other time sensitive Ranch information.

Visit our website

For updated information about rates, specials, activities, current Fishing Conditions and updated Ski Conditions, visit the Ranch website at www.lmranch.com

Nordic News

Women's Camps at Lone Mountain Ranch

Come join us for a positive, supportive learning experience that will boost your confidence on skis. You'll experience the camaraderie of women who share similar interests, and ski with a staff of certified instructors. Our Women's Camp will help you improve your downhill control on all trails and enhance all aspects of your Nordic skiing. The camp will have all day instructional sessions devoted to downhill control, classic skiing and skate skiing technique with video analysis. Accommodations, three meals daily, evening programs and airport shuttles are all included in the package price. In addition, we'll offer a Snowcoach Tour into the Interior of Yellowstone National Park with a variety of skiing opportunities and a backcountry ski tour into the Northwest Corner of Yellowstone. Evenings will be spent with our staff participating in a variety of ski programs (slide shows, videos and ski tuning) as well as a sleighride dinner. For those who are interested, we will have an optional day of telemark skiing at Big Sky Ski Resort. Dates for the camps are December 13-19, January 10-16, and March 7-13. Give us a call to find out more!

Experience Winter in the Backcountry

Join us for a magical ski tour into the backcountry of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. If you have not taken a Snowcoach excursion into the Interior of Yellowstone recently, this should be the year! With drastically reduced numbers of snowmobiles and more roads open only to Snowcoaches and skiers, Yellowstone is unbeatable. Frequent sightings of elk and bison, along with eagles, swans and otters always makes for a special day in Yellowstone.

Nordic Rentals

Tired of lugging ski gear in and out of vehicles and airports? Take advantage of the convenience of renting skis here at the Ranch. Besides being more convenient, you have the added advantage of having a variety of different types of equipment at your disposal. We can outfit you with the latest in cross country gear, from super light performance skating and classic skis to stable and maneuverable no-wax gear. If you join us for a spectacular backcountry tour into Yellowstone you can trade in your track equipment for more supportive backcountry boots and metal edged touring skis. For a different Winter travel experience, venture onto our snowshoe trails with snowshoe rentals from our Outdoor Shop.

Winter Outdoor Youth Adventures

Winter means another season for our Winter Outdoor Youth Adventures program! We'll introduce the kids to the fun and thrills of Nordic skiing in the morning, with sessions devoted to classic skiing, skate skiing, backcountry touring and improving downhill control. In the afternoon we'll explore gravity on our tubing hill, build snow caves and snow people, follow moose tracks in the snow and learn to understand and appreciate the incredible Winter playground we live in.

Getting Ready for Skiing

Here are a few things to try as you prepare yourself for the coming ski season:

1. Get Aerobic. If you are not currently involved in some form of aerobic exercise, add 30 minutes of continuous exercise to your daily routine. This can be as easy as parking your car and walking an additional 15 minutes each way to work or going for a brisk walk at lunch. It's amazing how energized your day becomes after a little aerobic kick. (As usual, always consult your physician before beginning any exercise program.)
2. Start to fine-tune your balance. Begin by standing on a rug or mat barefoot. Balance on one foot for 30 seconds. Switch to the other foot and balance for 30 seconds. Repeat 4-10 times per foot, depending upon how much time you have to spend.
3. Strengthen your stance. As you feel your balance improving with #2 above, increase the time spent on one foot to one minute or more. Add some gentle flexing at the ankle and knee, like a shallow squat, to increase your range of motion while balancing. Keep your ankle and knee supple as you flex up and down. As this becomes comfortable, add to the resistance by holding 5 to 10 pound barbells in each hand as you flex.
4. Watch as many Nordic ski videos as you can get your hands on. My current favorite site is <http://www.xczone.com/> for exciting, contemporary videos on Nordic skiing.

Have a great Fall, start preparing for your ski holiday and we look forward to seeing you all on the trails this Winter!

Herb



Kids' Corner

Outdoor Youth Adventures has a great Summer season

Well, we've just finished the season and I finally have a chance to look back on all the fun we've had over the Summer. I'm not sure who had more fun, the kids or the staff. Whether we were canoeing the waters of Lake Levisky or camping in Yellowstone, everyone had fun and carried new experiences home with them that will be remembered for years. It was awesome to see so many kids challenge themselves on the ropes courses and climbing wall. The teens also enjoyed mountain biking at Wapiti Creek. It was a new activity that proved to be successful with both kids and parents alike. Coming into the Winter season, we'll have plenty of sledding, skiing, and snow fort building for everyone to enjoy. A special thanks to all the families and kids that joined us this past Summer. As always, you can



look forward to your favorite activities as well as some new ones each season. Come join us next year for fun in the sun!

Brad

Counselor Hunt: Where are they now?

Katie Ahrendt: Columbia, South Carolina.

Kyle Tiberg: Bozeman, Mt attending Montana State University.

Jennifer Turcotte: Right here at Lone Mountain Ranch and attending MSU in Bozeman.

Brad Donaldson: Montgomery, Alabama-attending all the SEC football games!

Joe Troyer: Screeching down the slopes in Big Sky, Montana.

Erica Martling: Big Sky, Montana serving dinners in the dining room and leading kids down the slopes at Big Sky Ski School.

Suzannah Reaves: Big Sky, Montana-leading kids down the slopes at Big Sky Ski School.

Best New Experiences on the Ranch

- Practicing Archery
- Riding a Pony
- Creating drawings of creatures you found in the North Fork Creek
- Floating down the Madison River in an inner tube
- Camping at the North Fork cabin
- Challenging yourself on the High Ropes Course
- Making new friends from all sorts of different places
- Canoeing on Lake Levisky
- Finding a way to the top of the Climbing Wall
- Taking a hike with the Llamas
- Finding out about Bird Banding with naturalist Leslie Stoltz
- Riding the barrels in the arena at the Kids' Rodeo

Vacation Package

Winter Short Stay Vacation Package

Lone Mountain Ranch is pleased to offer a short stay package during the regular Winter season (holiday weeks excluded). This opportunity is meant to enable folks to get away for a long ski weekend or mid-week retreat. There is a four night minimum stay required for the package, which includes airport transportation, unlimited Nordic skiing, meals, and gratuities.

Western Hospitality at the Ranch

We continue to upgrade and remodel our cabins during the short time we're closed between each season. Our returning guests are enthusiastic about the new lighting, re-modeled bathrooms, new furniture and the Dining Lodge makeover. We always try to maintain our historical integrity while keeping modern guest comforts in mind. All of the beds are covered with patchwork quilts; the furniture is what you might have seen in the old days and the walls are decorated with replicas of the Navajo rugs and artwork that adorned the original Ranch (called the B-K). The Dining Lodge has a wonderful display of some of the artifacts from the collection of the Butlers and Kilburns, who built the Ranch in 1926. Every guest seems to have their own favorite cabin—whether it is a beautifully maintained cabin built 78 years ago or one of our newer accommodations. Our goal is to create a warm western ambience for your “home away from home.”

From The Flybox

Fishing

Summer 2004 saw the emergence of several new programs at the Ranch, which will hopefully develop over the next couple of years to better meet our guests' interests. The first program to get started was our Youth Fly Fishing Program. We are developing a progressive learning program which will introduce children ages 8 to 16 to the many different aspects of trout fishing. This past Summer we were able to introduce several children to this program and hopefully excite more interest for next year. Another program we got underway was offering all day and overnight horseback trips to fly fish some of the alpine lakes scattered across the Spanish Peaks. We teamed up with Cache Creek Outfitters here in Big Sky to provide this service and are looking forward to this program growing in popularity. We also worked on the restoration of the North Fork Creek, which flows through the Ranch. This wonderful little creek holds a surprising number of trout and with some restoration to the habitat we hope to provide better access for our



guests to fish on their own. I would like to thank all of those who fished with us this Summer and hope that you all return another season to try it again. We had a wonderful Summer of fishing with cooler temperatures and the much-needed rain. Until then, Tight Lines!

Ennion

A Step Back In Time

Over the past year we have had many guests return to vacation with us who had not been back in many years. After they settled-in and visited the new lodge (new since 1989), they remarked that they were impressed with the changes we have made over the years. By the end of the week, they were all grateful that the Lone Mountain Ranch vacation experience they enjoyed in the past is still available today. If you haven't been back to visit us in a while, please plan on joining us sometime in the next year. We would love to see you again!

Love Mountain Ranch Romance

Romance is in the air once again at Lone Mountain Ranch! Long-time crew members Robbeye Hunt and Michael Samardich tied the knot September 18, 2004. They had all of their family and friends here in Big Sky for the big event. Many of you know Robbeye from the dining room where her smile lights up the evening wait staff team. Previously the lead bartender in the best watering hole in Big Sky, Mike is currently our dining room and saloon manager. Congratulations to Robbeye and Mike!

News Bites

Baby Foal Expected this Spring!

We are patiently awaiting the arrival of the newest member of our horse herd. This one should weigh in as the smallest by far, at least for a few years. This past June we, arranged to have Tex introduced to Lilly. Tex is a beautiful black Percheron and Shire mix stallion owned by a local Big Sky horseman. Miss Lilly, who is a gorgeous, dappled blue roan Belgian and Tennessee Walker mix is expected to foal in mid to late May. Lilly is known to guard the gate of the Ranch's corral and run the pecking order in the herd. It will be a lot of fun to have a baby foal around the Ranch next Summer!

Hungry Montana Moose

Kelly found that there are many challenges a gardener faces in the mountains of Montana. Not only do we have to contend with a short growing season and unpredictable weather, but we have to outsmart the resident wildlife too! The moose are the most voracious eaters, browsing on any shrub, Aspen, or young conifer that they find. This past Spring a moose had the audacity to yank a freshly planted wild rose out of the top terrace in front of the dining room and place it abruptly on the sidewalk! Kelly discovered the mangled shrub and replanted it. Miraculously, it survived the brutal munching!

Family Reunions

The Ranch has had the opportunity to be a part of many wonderful family gatherings throughout the years. Facilities like the B-K Guest Lounge and Ridgetop Lodge are great gathering places for family groups. Your family will have the opportunity to connect in our serene mountain setting without the distraction of television, phones, or computers. We'll help arrange family tours of Yellowstone National Park and many different types of adventure outings to make your Lone Mountain Ranch family reunion a trip to remember!

From the Kitchen

Did you know that many of Idaho's famous potatoes get their start right here in Gallatin County? Manhattan, Montana is one of the major seed potato producing areas of the United States. All of the potatoes we serve at the Ranch are from these local farms. Kimm Brother's Farms and Spring Creek Farms in Manhattan provide us with Russet, Yukon Gold, German Butterball, All Blue, and Red Creamer varieties of potatoes. Both of these farms are major seed potato operations, but sell a small percentage of their crop to local restaurants and grocery stores. This area is an ideal seed potato growing



area due to the rich healthy soil and cool climate. Because of the unique growing conditions and an innovative composting program these farms are able to drastically reduce the amount of fungicide and fertilizer required to raise a healthy crop. This translates into potatoes that are more nutritious, healthful and tasty for you! I hope you enjoy the many potato dishes we prepare here and also enjoy many of the other excellent locally produced foods we serve. Bon Appetit!

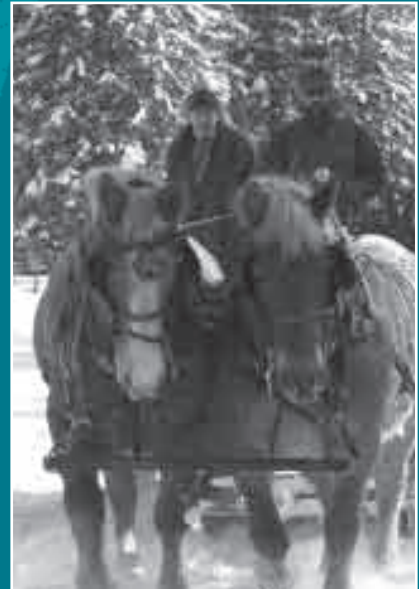
Chef Ian

Corral Roundup

It is getting cooler outside which always gets the riding horses a little frisky; they know Fall is drawing near. This Summer, the Ranch purchased a new wagon from Shiloh Wagon Works out of Vining, Minnesota. It's a beautiful wagon that we will use for parades and taking our Summer guests on wagon rides. The first time we hitched Brandy and Star (one of our draft horse teams) to the wagon all the riding horses in the corral ran to the fence with ears perked. They

were excited, too! Our guests were busy with many great rides, which included seeing a lot of wildlife. Many guests noticed how happy and healthy the herd looks. As we wait for the first blanket of snow we will be preparing for a busy season of sleigh rides. We'll keep the sleigh trail nicely groomed so our guests won't spill their hot apple cider on their way up to the North Fork Cabin!

The Wranglers



Guests are saying...

“The horse program was our favorite part. All the wranglers do a wonderful job! We also like the kids' programs. It's a treat to have a ranch where the children can run around by themselves and be safe.”
G. C., Summer 2004

“We love all aspects of the Ranch, especially the riding and hiking. Our favorite element of the Ranch is its laid-back atmosphere, where we all feel free to do our own thing all week. Your kids' pro-

gram is fantastic. Don't change a thing about it, please!”

W. B., Summer 2004

“We loved the setting of the Ranch—the convenience of getting around. The cabin was cozy and well kept, the meals were delicious and the evening dining a wonderful experience (gourmet). The attention to detail (everything is so well maintained).”

D. & J.B., Summer 2004

“We loved the beauty of it all! The day trip to Yellowstone with Leslie was amazing. The time we spent skiing followed by relaxation in our cabin with a fire aglow. Beautiful Snow!”

S. & R. L., Winter 2003/04

“We enjoyed the unlimited opportunity to ski combined with the genuine friendliness of your staff. This was a wonderful experience and we will return—it's hard to decide on Winter or Summer!”

D. & R. C., Winter 2003

Naturalists' Niche

This year we were treated to one of our "good old days" Summers with cooler temperatures and greater precipitation, which kept things green here at the Ranch throughout the season. The wildflower displays were spectacular, with many varieties increasing in size and number. Numerous tall varieties of lupine at over four feet in height graced the slopes of Crail Creek. Our Wintering herd of elk finally moved to higher ground in late June and was replaced by unusual numbers of mule deer, including a pair of spotted fawns that claimed the Ranch as home. Late in August we were visited by a young black bear that took a liking to the Ranch, The bear became a bit of a celebrity and was eventually relocated after becoming a little too comfortable here. Hard to fault the bear for wanting to hang out here! In addition to our hikes and canoe trips we also offered sea kayaking on Yellowstone

Lake and took advantage of our newly acquired mountain biking permit to lead trips up Wapiti Creek and Tee Pee Creek.



Next Summer we plan to expand upon the mountain bike offerings with more rides into Red Canyon, Tee Pee Basin and Cabin Creek Basin. Some things to keep in mind when venturing off in the woods on your own:

1. Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Show them on a topo map and carry the map with you.
2. Carry a cell phone and regularly check your coverage. Give the phone number to the same person you let know where you were headed.
3. Carry a compass or GPS unit with you and keep track of your route.
4. Bring extra clothing, waterproof matches, small amount of fire starter, a lightweight headlamp and a first aid kit. If you are traveling in bear country (not recommended to go it alone in bear country!) bring along bear spray.
5. Plan to head back in time so you are not out after dark.

Have a great Fall! We look forward to seeing you all on the trails next Summer!

Herb

Massage Accelerates Altitude Acclimation

Did you know massage immediately stimulates the production of more red blood cells, the oxygen carriers in your body? This shortens the time it takes to acclimate to the altitude here at the Ranch, which is 6600 feet. Massage early in your visit also increases your enjoyment of activities and helps prevent injuries by improving joint and muscle flexibility and function. And of course, it feels great, instantly bringing

you to that vacation state of peace and relaxation.

Nicki and Leslie use a variety of techniques to help make your visit as enjoyable, relaxing, and rejuvenating as possible, so book early to get your vacation off to a great start. For further information check our website at http://www.lmranch.com/lmr_content/accom/other/massage.htm

Holiday Magic

Holidays are a wonderful time, especially at the Ranch. The Dining Lodge and B-K are festooned with garland, lights and bright holiday decorations. Special get-togethers and holiday meals are festive and fun. What better way to spend time with your family and friends than a holiday vacation at the Ranch? Please give us a call to check on availability for this upcoming Winter. We would love to share our western holiday season with you.



Airfare Deals

Lone Mountain Ranch has a special arrangement with Northwest, Delta, United and Horizon airlines, along with Montana Travel to bring you the lowest prices for travel into Bozeman. To qualify for these rates, you must make your reservations with Montana Travel at 800-247-3538. Tell them that you are staying at the Ranch and give them your reservation confirmation number to receive this special deal. Remember that this is only available through Montana Travel. There will be a direct Horizon Air flight from Los Angeles in February and March, 2005.

Travel lighter. If you want to make your trip a little easier, send some of your luggage or gear to the Ranch ahead of your arrival. Send it via UPS or FedEx to Lone Mountain Ranch, 750 Lone Mountain Ranch Road, Big Sky, MT 59716

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Dear Ranch Friends,

The busy Summer of 2004 is over. The weather has been so pleasant with more rain and cooler temperatures than last Summer; a welcome respite from our multi-year drought. More normal weather prevented forest fires, but the downside is the garden didn't grow as quickly as we expected.

Laura, Chris and Sage moved over from Dillon in May to help Bob with the garden. Our Grandson, Sage, promptly broke his left arm and was in a cast for 6 weeks. When he finally got the cast off and was able, he took 7 weeks of swimming lessons. He made great strides in his comfort in the water and swimming. June 14th his little sister, Lily Maya was born.

Oh, she is a cutie and surprised us all by sleeping through the night right away. Aunt Judy, Aunt Nancy and Uncle Peter are delighted to spread more love around to another little one. So you see, between raising veggies, raising kids and feeding everyone this farm has been a beehive of activity.

Nancy and I took a quilt class the last of August, in conjunction with the annual quilt show put on by Quilting in the Country. It was a fun class and now we have the goal of trying to finish the quilts we started within the year. The quilt show was spectacular again, with almost 500 quilts. Then if that wasn't enough, a quilt shop in Bozeman, called Patchworks, had a beautiful antique quilt show on the same weekend. Those of you that are quilters, or enjoy that form of art might like to plan your future Summer vacations at the Ranch during that time, spending a day or so at the shows.

On September 18th, we attended the wedding of Mike Samardich and Robbye Hunt. They have both been long time members of our Ranch crew. Another one of those Ranch romances! Ranch weddings are always so much fun because past crew members attend and it is almost like a reunion.

Bob and I haven't made any big vacation plans for this Fall and I doubt that we will. We will enjoy the area in which we live, beginning with camping a few days in the Lamar Valley in Yellowstone Park. The Fall is a great time to watch all sorts of animals, especially wolves and grizzly bears. We try to spend some time there every September. The colors are always so crisp and beautiful.

It's hard to believe Winter is so close and that we'll soon be sliding around on our skis again. We'll never be like those "snow birds" that head for warmer weather in the Winter. The Winter is just too beautiful and too much fun! Meanwhile we hope you have a wonderful Fall and are looking forward to a Winter that includes some time in the Big Sky snow country. Throw another log on the fire, have a glass of your favorite wine and enjoy life.

Love and Good health to you all,

Vivian