

The Ridgway Reporter

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CODY, WYOMING, CHRISTMAS 2003

No. 22



Holiday Greetings and Ranch News

The Ridgway Reporter



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P.O. Box 1476
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*From Elk Creek Ranch
and the
Ridgway Family*

From the Family

The older we all get (and we occasionally admit that we are!), the more we seem to travel. Chip leads the clan with many trips, around the nation and around the world, as the President of the American Endocrine Association. We think he is even wearying of it; we know that Francine is! Eli is not far behind with a winter fellowship in Cuba and a fall visit to Bhutan. Betsy and Cliff traveled to France for a second time this fall after doing some summer sailing in the Northwest. Betsy and Cliff's and Hap and Susan's families made the second Christmas trek to Sun-

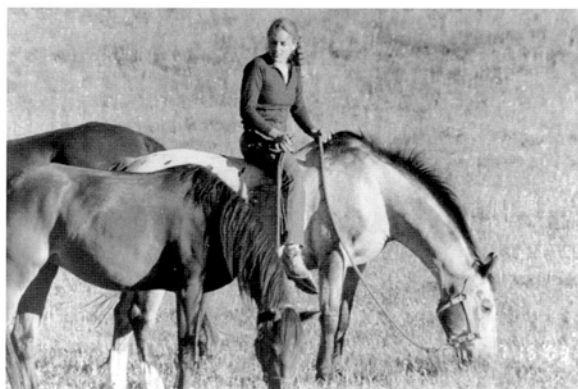
light for another great holiday in the mountains. Debbie let Paul travel to Utah during the summer to extend the range of his mountain climbing exploits. Hap and Susan's clan rendezvoused at the Disney Sports Center last spring to watch Kyle and Melissa open their lacrosse season. What fun it was to have them both score in one of the games!

Another family theme continues to be education. Emily is a neurological resident at New York University. Rob has started his teaching career as an English teacher for sophomores-not the easiest assignment-but he will have the benefit of Tina's experience in English classrooms. Abi is a junior at Dartmouth. Kyle is a senior and Melissa a sophomore at Connecticut College. Hap and Susan are in their 15th year at Berwick Academy, with only Grant and Alyson still at home. As a senior, Alyson is soon going to change that situation; she now is having all of the "fun" of going through the SAT-SATII-Early Decision-Regular Decision college placement process.

We are having fun with sports. Rob and Tina are doing all they can to keep up with Keenan's gymnastic career. The Maine Ridgways had a fun



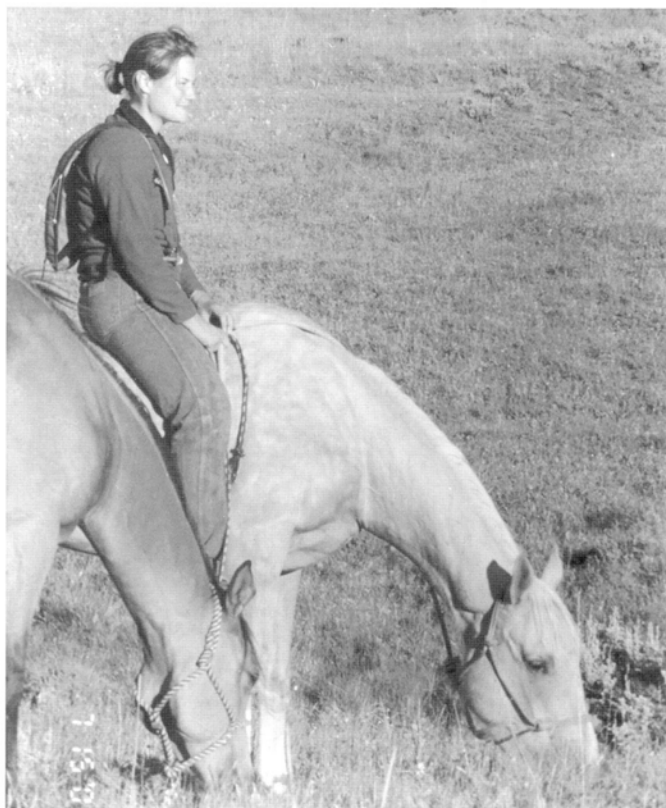
Debbie and Sean enjoy some gymkhana events



Melissa soaks up some sun while Zach gets a nibble on the pack trip

run-in with the fates this year. Kyle, after being away from soccer since high school, decided to join the Connecticut team as a back-up goalie. And, you guessed it, the goalie suffered a concussion part way through the season and there was Kyle in goal. Alyson has always been a field player, but an injury to Berwick's goalie put her in goal. In late August the last thing any of us would have guessed is that Kyle and Alyson would be the goalies for their teams! Grant is developing as a strong player on his junior varsity soccer team. The sports took on a group aspect during our Christmas time in Sunlight when we organized our second broom hockey game. The horses and the neighbors were equally amused by our athletic feats of derring do! Returning to that aging theme, no one was moving too fast the next morning. . . or two! Sean is still confusing us. At times he seems to take after his mountain-climbing father as he clambers over anything and everything with handholds; at other times he seems to take after his grandfather trying to figure out everything with wheels and gears.

The ranch, as always, plays a huge part in all of our lives. Tina and Debby continue to run the program. Rob was able to fit half a summer in between work on their house and on his degree. Susan continues to manage all of our winter efforts and to join the crew to support during the summer. Cliff and Betsy commit the non-sailing half of their summer to the ranch, and Hap returns for the non-Berwick half of his summer. The old-timers provide a lot of wisdom, some of which is actually useful, ("we used to do it this way") and a bit of cheap physical labor, which is more useful than the advice, (work on cars, horse shoeing, hay-moving, and irrigating). We all meet at the end of the summer for a few days of great familyship-work closing the ranch down, laughter recalling great memories, and warmth watching the younger generations take their places.



We can't tell who is happier, Abi, Rick or Tucker?



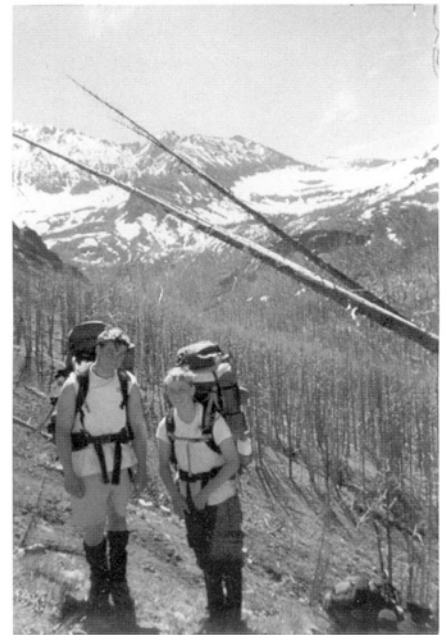
Keenan gets ready to "head home" on Suede

Absaroka Trek 2003



- Days 1, 2 and 3:** Arrivals, shopping, food and gear preparation and packing.
- Day 4:** Leader of the day, Rob. Cold and wet weather has everyone questioning the start. It is practically snowing, but we are psyched to get into the high country.
- Day 5:** L.O.D., K.B. Hardy cabins, over Galena Pass and into Hughes Basin. A long, hard day. It is still REALLY cold! Small bursts of sun give everyone hope.
- Day 6:** L.O.D., Grant. Snow, snow and more snow means a lot of kicking steps. At least there is glicading on the descent. Laura takes it very slowly.
- Day 7:** L.O.D., Laura. Somewhere under the snow is Grinnell Meadows. Hiking and kicking steps takes its' toll although no one is complaining. This is one tough group! A traverse across shale seems like a welcome relief. Tomorrows layover day will be appreciated by every one.
- Day 9:** L.O.D., Kyle. We awake to a beautiful mountain morning. Granola and jello for breakfast. We are now the worlds experts at kicking steps. An incredible vista from the top looking into Silvertip Basin. After lunch, a glicade down to an ancient, abandoned cabin.
- Day 10:** L.O.D., Rob. Another day, another adventure. Hacky sack to get the muscles moving. Rob power hikes. Lunch and a panoramic view from Stinking Water Peak. Setting up tents in gale force winds proves to be a challenge.

- Day 11:** L.O.D., K.B. Copper Lakes to Gravelbar seems like familiar territory. At least we don't have to kick steps. The wildflowers lining the trail are stunning. After a week and a half we see our first human, John Richardson, Elk Creeker from the early seventies. What a small world! Crossing a swollen Sunlight Creek causes some concern for Trekkers and dogs. Pizza for dinner. Yum.
- Day 12:** RESUPPLY. Family, mail, popcorn, artichokes and steaks. What more could a Trekker ask for? Was that the suburban that just passed us? Finally we gather as a group to eat and share ranch gossip.
- Day 13:** L.O.D., Laura. Gravelbar to Shangrila. Everyone is still relishing the resupply goodies. Hash browns and eggs for breakfast. Kyle and Laura forget their ice axes. Skittles for a high-low package.
- Day 14:** L.O.D., Grant. A day hike up Dead Indian peak. K.B. and Rob give their aching knees a rest. The canister names go back to 1981. Bagels and cream cheese were never so satisfying.
- Day 15:** L.O.D., Kyle. Shangrila to Damnation Basin. Climbing up a small chimney provides a bit of a short cut. Great elk sightings in both basins.
- Day 16:** SOLOS. A time for reflection. Brilliant stars make it hard to sleep.
- Day 17:** SOLOS (cont.). Present making and poem writing. Everyone gathers in the late afternoon for dinner and shared experiences. A few rounds of hearts and secret Santa exchanges.
- Day 18:** L.O.D., K.B. No one wants to get out of their sleeping bags after a more than usual cold night. A day hike up Dewey Peak for more incredible views. K.B. kills Kyle in hearts. The days are counting down.



God bless thy year
Thy coming in,
Thy going out,
Thy rest, thy traveling about.
The rough, the smooth,
The bright, and dread.
God bless thy year!



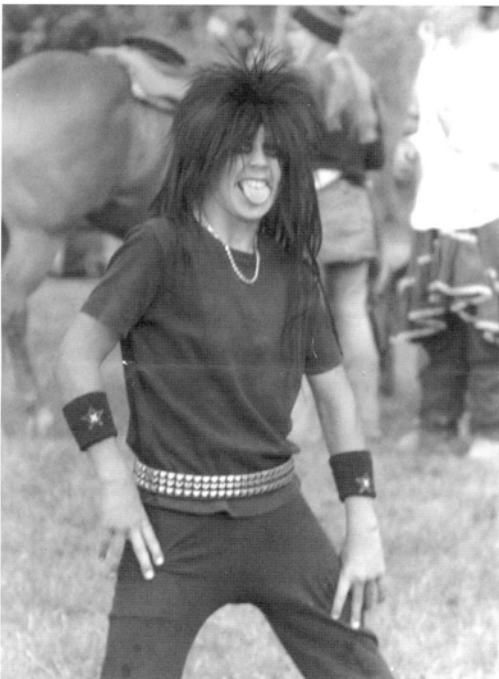
Trekkers on top of the Grand Teton: Laura Stanley, Grant Ridgway, Exum guide, Tim, Kyle Ridgway, K.B. Epstein. (missing Rob Laveland)

- Day 19:** LO.D., Grant. The resident Trout Peak grizzly bear makes an appearance and hasty exit. Grant sets the pace up Trout Peak. More elk on the way to lunch. Down, down, down. Almost a 5,000 foot vertical descent. Trekkers power walk. Mixed emotions for everyone anticipating tomorrows return to civilization.
- Day 20:** Showers, food, and friends. Reunions for people and pets.
- Day 24:** On the Grand Teton. Tim, the Exum guide, is hilarious. Climbing by moonlight. Who needs a headlamp anyway?
- Day 25:** Homeward bound. Trekker skit and a final sing.

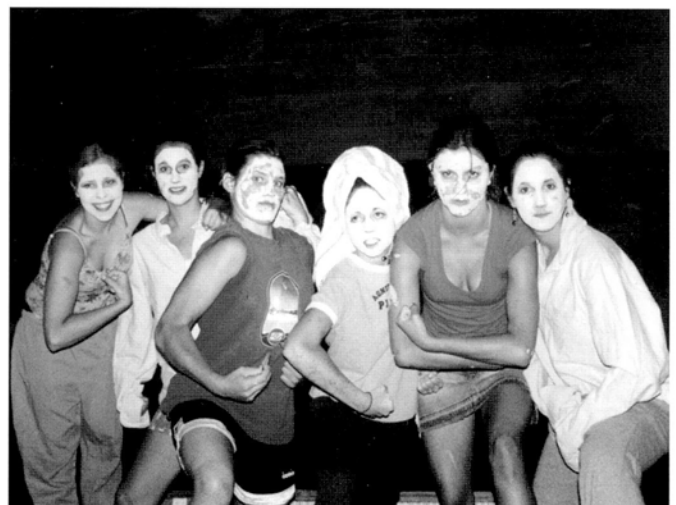


The Summer

Charlie, pass the mike...Amy being Doctor free....Eli and Gypsy otherwise known as the blaze. Sorry about the Bo Sox...Louisa, what is so smelly?...Pete Hill doing "Foxy Lady"...No, M'am. I love you Daddy...Linda Starr, Sean is only six years old...Lafe's kitty eyes. Are they what make him the great picket pen hunter?...MacKenzies Mason-ry work...The Stanislaw sibling war. Henry pranking Katrina with the lizard...Caroline 'G.B.' Gibson...Amy Fine just chillin' with the oat brigade...Is that first bell?...G-unit....Tali, is that a bear in your window?...Hillary's inner competitiveness. She is going to fight in Tibet right after playing some killer volleyball...Clay, what cost \$13.00 on line?...Clara's pre-season football warm up playing keep away...Josh and Charlie doing the sweater song...Lauren 'Poo-Paw' Miller. How did the Big House window break?...Sarah, the new captain of the varsity irrigation team...Ty Shae and Emily as Wayne and Garth. What's up Dude?...Oh, Booyo....Ellie's wipeouts, with and without a horse...Emily, Caroline, Brittany and Ollie go Ninja...Can you hear me?...Are you cryin?...Caroline, what is your "Funchion?"...Nezi, the professional masseuse, opera singer and belly dancer...Clay trying to find the boys bathroom on the pack trip. Was that a new dance routine or was he just wiggling?...Caroline Tall's obsession with Utah's truck. Did she ever figure out which mountain she was on?...Charlie's ad lib stories...The Ford truck went where?...Psychiatrist on the caravan...Rob and



Come on Pete, open up, I promise it's good



It's not quite Elizabeth Arden, but spa treatments hit the big house

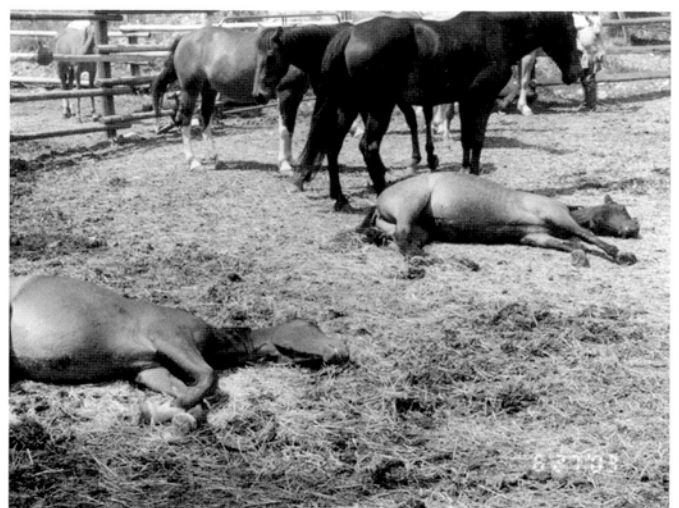


of 2003 Was . . .

Grant's punishment dance...Sarah drinking hot sauce and Gatorade...Casey the mafia boss. She, Melissa S. and Lolo tie as the motor mouth queens...The girls sunbathing trip in Damnation Basin...Nature therapy during irrigation.. Iris, the crazy French girl. Aren't American boys cute?...Melissa S., the country music juke box...Mason, the horseshoe marathoner...Andi's run in with a log...Gabby, "Hey, what's up, how ya doin?"...Lafe's morning face after sleeping too close to the fire pit.. Dara the tool mistress. It is not a Leatherman, it is a Gerber...Cyndle's baby mouse in her duffle bag.. Kyle, the dog snatcher...The S.C. turns into a sorority...Celeste, the lights out enforcer. "It is bed time now!"...Keaton, tell us when the sparks start flying...Milf...Jackie teasing Ross unmercifully...Colleen, you say "crazy" like it is a bad thing... Who aaare you?..The pink volleyball team...Sha-sha-sha-booda, role call...Utah's tree of love...Siiir...Katrina's trunk hanging from the front gate...Table topping in soccer...Rob's tree trimming technique. What gauge did you use?..The back popping incident...Girls spa night vs. the boys macho ride...Charlie's angels...Upper decking...Kaya's Fourth of July outfit gives new meaning to waving the flag...Aly, Lizzie and Gretchen getting dressed up for a new arrival...snizzle on the rizzle... Louis and Pete M. having a new glicading style...The big house goes Hawaiian and Waikiki meets Elk Creek...Aloha



Nap time for the Carolines...



and nap time for the yearlings

Sunlighters



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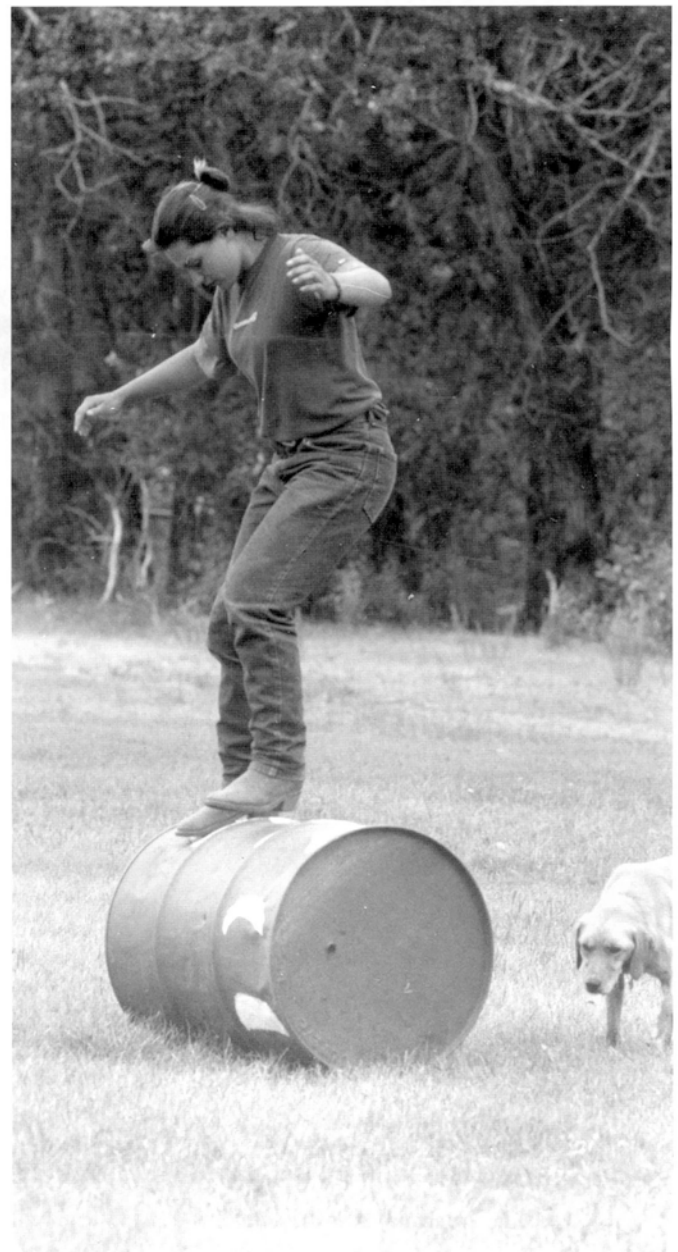
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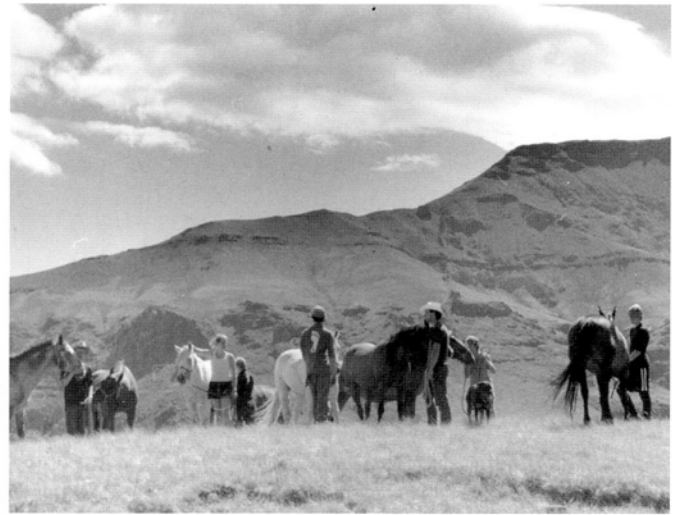
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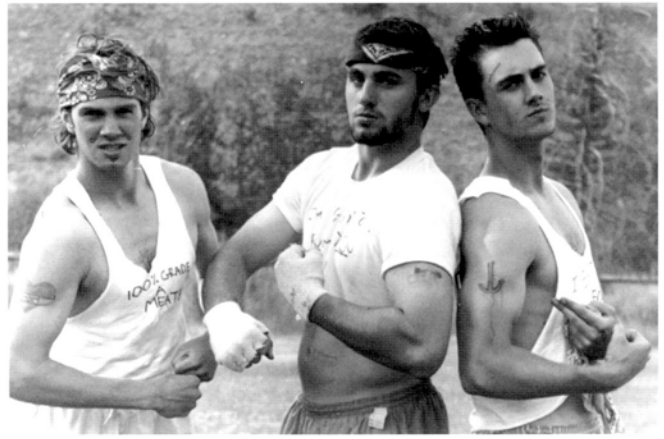
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