HOLIDAY GREETINGS
AND RANCH NEWS

From Elk Creek Ranch
and the Ridgway Family
FROM THE FAMILY

The BIG news for 1995 came in the shape of a bundle of joy called Keenan Elizabeth Moore. In the tradition of Sunlight Valley and Elk Creek Ranch, Tina and Rob's baby arrived in early June just as the horses were losing the last of their winter coats, as Elk Creek was cresting with its spring run-off, the Indian Paint Brush was blooming on the valley floor, and just as family and staff were rendezvousing in Sunlight to begin the ranch's 38th summer. Keenan is the first of the fourth generation, but she will soon be joined by Debby and Paul's child who may be with us by the time you receive the "Reporter."

The rest of the family is finding ample ways to stay occupied. Cliff and Betsy's cabin in Sunlight is nearly done. Rob has spearheaded the effort with the ranchers. Betsy has provided willing labor and the designer's eye. Cliff joined us for a week to start the electrical work. Chip finished up his sabbatical of study to return to his Endocrine Unit. The construction bug has struck in Evergreen also; Francine and he are working on plans to renovate their home.

Emily was graduated in May from the University of Virginia and is looking in San Francisco for work in the area of child abuse. She then hopes to move on to medical school. Eli transferred from Berkeley to Dartmouth this fall and will actually join Susan and Hap for a mini-reunion over Thanksgiving. Abby maintains a busy schedule in Jackson; juggling dance, skiing, French horn and skating.

Kyle spent her first year "on the Hill" at Elk Creek and now Melissa is demanding an "early release" from her parents "off the hill." Melissa, Alyson, and Grant are growing into great riders. They spent much of the summer catching some of the older horses and riding them bareback in the pasture. Susan and Hap continue to plug away at the Rocking Double R (speaking of the construction bug!), but have still not been bold enough to announce a completion date. Our best guess is that they will finish their work the very summer all four children are "on the Hill" making life interesting for Elk Creek and leaving quiet for them.

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!
BEARTOOTH TREK 1995

Day 1: Debbie and Grant drop us off near Huckleberry Lake. Jeep trail hiking and a thunderous downpour. Our first trekker dinner - yum! Goal setting and first aid.

Day 2: Mutt and Jeff Lakes. A challenging river crossing. Everyone takes personal time to reflect and write about the natural beauty surrounding them. Leonardo de Fettucini for dinner.

Day 3: BM 8778. Clouds give a false sense of ruin. Hot ramen for a change for lunch. Once there, some bathe, others should. Diane makes her annual visit.

Day 4: Silvertip. Rain and hail greet the day. Bear tracks in the nearby snow. A site for camp is dug out of the snow.

Day 5: Layover. Evil Richard makes his first acquaintance with the group. Evil Richard makes his first acquaintance with the group.

Day 6: Silvertip. Rain and hail greet the day. Bear tracks in the nearby snow. A site for camp is dug out of the snow.

Day 7: Stinking Water Peak. A sleep-in followed by a day hike up Stinking Water. Fresh cat tracks on the mountain face provide excitement and speculation for the group. Carter's first ascent in three attempts (Finally!). Trekkers find God at the top.

Day 8: Resupply! Empty packs let us cruise to Courthouse Lake. Fairly easy hiking gives extra time in camp to dry out our gear.

Day 9: Layover at Cow Camp. Sleep-in gives everyone the rest they've been needing. Some sun and heat for sporadic bathing. Hacking, writing, and general keocking out going on. Resupply, resupply, resupply.

Day 10: A quick hack after breakfast then onward to Courthouse Lake. Fairly easy hiking gives extra time in camp to dry out our gear.

Day 11: A wonderful, deliciously lazy day. A pancake extravaganza for breakfast. Once there, some bathe, others should. Diane makes her annual visit.

Day 12: An actual trail to hike on. A great view from Astral Lake. Several stream crossings get us to our campground.

Day 13: A beautiful day for contemplation and being alone in nature's most untouched and ruggedly beautiful cathedral in all the world. Everyone goes off to their spot. Without secluded natural wilderness accessible only by those who exert themselves, this world would be a desolate, cynical place.

Day 14: Solos! A beautiful day for contemplation and being alone in nature's most untouched and ruggedly beautiful cathedral in all the world. Everyone goes off to their spot. Without secluded natural wilderness accessible only by those who exert themselves, this world would be a desolate, cynical place.

Day 15: Trout Peak. We leave Damnation with regrets on having to depart our temporary Eden, yet consold in the knowledge that we will always have it preserved somewhere, in our minds. Lila leads the charge to get up Trout Peak - her first ascent in 4 (or is it 5) attempts. Romantic inspiration spearheads the (firs!?) midnight walkout. From 12 until 7, through witch and bear haunted woods, we sing, talk, and trip our way across 20 miles of mountain trail - but, oh, wasn't that breakfast worth it.

Day 16: Resupply. Nothing more really need be said. We love you Lorraine. We got everything we wanted and more. Susan's corn mysteriously disappears. Strange, indeed.

Day 17: Into the Ranch. Taking their time, the trekkers return to the ranch late in the afternoon, with light packs, light spirits and excitement for food, showers and the soon-to-depart trip to Jackson for climbing and general reverie... Did we say there was a lot of snow?

Day 18: The map lies again. Jasper to Crystal is longer than we think. Rain is followed by more rain. That rain is followed by snow.

Day 19: A day climb up Castle Mountain. Sausage, cheese and crackers for lunch - what a surprise! YMCA women check on us.

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Day 21: An easy day is a welcome relief. On to Farley Lake where left over food is gobbled up. A last night together bonding experience around the camp fire (sniff-sniff).

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Day 23: Erik terminals the (firs!?) midnight walkout. From 12 until 7, through witch and bear haunted woods, we sing, talk, and trip our way across 20 miles of mountain trail - but, oh, wasn't that breakfast worth it.

Day 24: Back to the ranch and on to Cody for a thigh slapping whale of a good time.

Lib Eden, Meegan Rucker, Lara Bonn, Christina Capone, Andy Blair, Michael Bryer.

ABSORAKA TREK 1995

Day 1: Lee City. High waters at the river crossing don’t dampen the high spirits; nor does the dead snake. Meet Bullwinkle, the Lee City moose. Kookiness at dinner leads to first aid talk. Maria is clinically insane.

Day 2: Copper Lakes. Snow School on the way up. Lunch, glissing and peaceful meditation at the top - hail, lightening and a quick descent. Bon Jovi rocks.

Day 3: BM 8778. Clouds give a false sense of ruin. Hot ramen for a change and for lunch. Once there, some bathe, others should. Diane makes her annual visit.

Day 4: SilverTip. Rain and hail greet the day. Bear tracks in the nearby snow. A site for camp is dug out of the snow.

Day 5: Layover. Evil Richard makes his first acquaintance with the group.

Day 6: Silvertip. Rain and hail greet the day. Bear tracks in the nearby snow. A site for camp is dug out of the snow.

Day 7: Stinking Water Peak. A sleep-in followed by a day hike up Stinking Water. Fresh cat tracks on the mountain face provide excitement and speculation for the group. Carter's first ascent in three attempts (Finally!). Trekkers find God at the top.

Day 9: Layover at Cow Camp. Sleep-in gives everyone the rest they’ve been needing. Some sun and heat for sporadic bathing. Hacking, writing and general keocking out going on. Resupply, resupply, resupply.

Day 10: Resupply. Nothing more really need be said. We love you Lorraine. We got everything we wanted and more. Susan's corn mysteriously disappears. Strange, indeed.

Day 11: Aikorn. The big day comes and everyone is up for the challenge. Blankets of snow covering the mountain make for an interesting hike up. Lunch on top consists of skittles, cream cheese bagels and Lila’s delicious cookies; entertainment are two prancing and jumping mountain sheep. Edenic views of the lush green valley below make all realize their luck.

Day 13: Damnation. Hike up through Shangri-la basin and snow and sun. Uphill to the highest point of the trek with packs on. Damnation! This place is beautiful. Photo shoot for patagonia and geographic history lesson at the top; “It’s a little known fact that...” More cat tracks in the basin.

Day 14: Solos! A beautiful day for contemplation and being alone in nature's most untouched and ruggedly beautiful cathedral in all the world. Everyone goes off to their spot. Without secluded natural wilderness accessible only by those who exert themselves, this world would be a desolate, cynical place.

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Day 17: Into the Ranch. Taking their time, the trekkers return to the ranch late in the afternoon, with light packs, light spirits and excitement for food, showers and the soon-to-depart trip to Jackson for climbing and general reverie... Did we say there was a lot of snow?

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Sitting: Matt McKeen, Lila Musser, Maria Rose, Pete Sughrue.
Standing: Emily Reaser, Emily Tynan, Katie Lichtenstein, Philip Hunsaker, Carter Jackson.
THE SUMMER

Lee and Vanessa's gravity defying pig tails . . . Spencer, but no sign of the "slickster" . . . Emma and Laura in their superhero costumes . . . Kate L., life is not like a box of chocolates . . . Laura S.'s creative dancing . . . Matt Mc. you have no shame . . . Emily V. is going to play ping pong because she has a life . . . Maria H., another California connection; it must run in the family . . . Joanna "Park-it" right now . . . Cindy Prohling for the imaginary Griffin . . . Beccas corn rows . . . Are you sure that's your piece of chicken? . . . Christina, the knitting maniac, treks like a ballerina-NOT . . . Alicia the weasel trapper . . . "Liberator" Eden . . . Where in the world is Ramon Casanova? . . . Meegan the veegan, complete with sarcasm . . . Sarah L. and Dave M. the devil sticks champs . . . Captain A. saves the day. Where the heck is he anyway? . . . Truth or Dare . . . Backpack accents: "I'll meet you at Marios Salon" . . . Kyle hits the hill with baby powder in tow . . . Seth T. the fishless fisherman . . . Maggie the newest in a long line from Brearly . . . Alex, there are no timid people here . . . Eleanor, the latest Jackson addition to E.C.R. . . . Claire and Olivia - power twins activate . . . Seth Fettered . . . David Gibbs the littlest cowboy . . . Andy and 1995's...
OF 1995 WAS...

French connection ... Jordan, can you please tell us about the marshmallows? ... Wendy, here comes the whaaambulance ... Neil the polar bear - too bad cold water doesn't prevent chicken-pox ... Adrienne's vampire tale at the sing ... Philip, how's your appetite ... Alison taking a walk in the Strawberry field ... Emily R. wanting a tub of lard after the Trek ... Leila M., the original motor mouth ... Emily T. Just kidding, only if there's enough ... Aurelie and her daily correspondence ... Ian, tell us about your gangster friends ... Warren the evolution man ... Mike G., did you really want to say that? ... Beechers nightly sugar fix ... Matt and Jon R., like fencing with Einstein and Steve Hawking ... Jon Arsts braids ... "What was that, Tim?" ... Beth, where did your booty go? ... Do you have a little something-something? ... Zooropa ... The penguin dermatone ... Rambo rolling down the hill ... Eli caught by the wild-cat ... Abby's juggling act ... Charles and Pete the "Who, me competitive?" Soccer players ... Loraine's Cooke City adventure ... The Bargain Box brigade ... Dave's winking cabin decor ... Carter and Abby going to Vegas ... Emily, they're getting younger ... Mike B., a.k.a. Spam-boy ... Shamu and Kathy ... Bonn, Lara Bonn ... The arrival of Keenan - Elk Creek, the next generation.

The G.Q. Jackson boys modeling the latest from the Bargain Box

You can come out now, Meegan. We promise it has stopped raining.
Lib Eden
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

Nick Ferrer
Darien, Connecticut 06820

Seth Fetters
Waban, Massachusetts 02168

Warren Gardiner
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

Julie Gervais
Avignon 84000 France

David Gibbs
Kamas, Utah 84036

Michael Gilligan
Mansfield Depot, Connecticut 06251

Michael Green
Greenbrae, California 94904

Emma Hallowell
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Mariah Holdsworth
31947 Arrowhead Trail
North Fork, California 93643

Philip Hunsaker
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

Eleanor Jackson
Bedford Hills, New York 10507

Vanessa Klvecka
New York, New York 10028

Katie Lichtenstein
Chester, New Jersey 07930

Sarah Lichtenstein
Chester, New Jersey 07930

Katie Loring
Beverly Farms, Massachusetts 01915

Jordan Luskin
Baltimore, Maryland 21208

Lee Mather
Greenwich, Connecticut 06831

Matt McKeen
Giford, New Hampshire 03246

David Mitton
Marion, Massachusetts 02738

Irene Antoli-Candela
Monteclaro, Madrid Spain 28223

Jonathan Arst
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945

Elodie Baer
Gif Sur Yvette 91190 France

Spencer Byrnes
Reston, Virginia 22070

Christina Capone
Sherborn, Massachusetts 01170

Alison Clark
Portland, Maine 04102

Tim Clark
New York, New York 10021

Wendy Cohen
Newton, Massachusetts 02168

Alicia Davis
Weston, Massachusetts 02193

Ian Durrant
Harvard, Massachusetts 01451

Philip Hunsaker
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

Eleanor Jackson
Bedford Hills, New York 10507

Vanessa Klvecka
New York, New York 10028

Katie Lichtenstein
Chester, New Jersey 07930

Sarah Lichtenstein
Chester, New Jersey 07930

Katie Loring
Beverly Farms, Massachusetts 01915

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Baltimore, Maryland 21208

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Greenwich, Connecticut 06831

Matt McKeen
Giford, New Hampshire 03246

David Mitton
Marion, Massachusetts 02738
I started out green broke
Full of spunk and youth
Needing plenty of guidance
discipline - to tell the truth
I figured I'd get there
Though the trails were new
After all, I was smart
and I thought that would do.
But smart mostly got me
proved wrong and out done
'cause success in these mountains
isn't so easily won.
So I learned my first trick:
Watch those who have been here
They know how to do it
That was perfectly clear.
I watched and I listened
and I did what they did
And soon I was hearing
"you're alright kid."
Soon I saw that there was room
For giving what was mine
Though rough around the edges
and not at all refined.

Another year and it was time
For me to join the string
To learn the skills of leadership
and a hundred other things,
And then it was my turn
To teach others to ride
The job wasn't easy
but I did it with pride
So now I look back
on the riders and the trails
all the times I got lost
when my memory failed.
And the times when I got there
The rough, the heat and the rain
And though some may be fiction
The memories remain
of sweat and dust
and miles of smiles,
it's all been a pleasure
and well worth the while.
Now to you who are just beginning
to hear the trails call
watch those around you
and give it your all.

-David Schubert