



Herding cattle on the ranch



The Royal Gorge



Royal Rush Skycoaster



Fly Fishing



FIBark White water rafting

Maytag Mountain Ranch takes pride in offering something for everyone. Whether a person wants to quietly unwind by sitting on a covered porch watching the sun set over the spectacular Sangre de Cristo Mountains or whether he would rather help herd the cattle on the back of his favorite horse or maybe the person would like to ride an ATV to Rainbow Lake and then hike to Lake of the Clouds in the Sangres; there are plenty of adventures for owners and their guests.

Adventures off of the ranch are plentiful as well. Located in the southern mountains of Colorado, the ranch is close to a variety of adventures such as skiing at Monarch Ski Area, shopping in Florence-the antique Capital of Colorado, visiting Indian ruins in Taos or Mesa Verde, or gambling in Cripple Creek. A few minutes from the ranch flows America's best recreational river: the Arkansas. It is a wonderful playground offering a variety of adventures.

Three million years ago, the Arkansas River was kind enough to start the construction of the Royal Gorge. It is now an amazing ten mile long canon that is unusually deep and narrow. The world's longest suspension bridge was constructed over the canon in 1940. The engineering marvel helps the visitor appreciate the beauty of the thousand foot canon walls. Take the aerial tram, ride the Royal Rush Skycoaster, or ride the steep incline railway down to the roaring river. The Royal Gorge Park can easily entertain a family for the whole day. Buckskin Joe's, a western town complete with gunfights, shopping and dinning is just a mile from the rim of the gorge. Visit www.RoyalGorgeBridge.com

For a day of plain old fun, join the over 300,000 rafters that float the Arkansas each year. Take mild, relaxing trip where people of any age can enjoy the scenery with towering rock walls and wildlife including bighorn sheep. The more adventurous or experienced rafters can take one of the class 4 or 5 rated white water trips. Numerous rafting companies are available and offer a range of trips down the river including the trip through the Royal Gorge. Visit www.arkansasrivertours.com or www.flyfisherman.com.

Salida and the Arkansas River host a four day festival June 13 -16. The "FIBark" an acronym stands for "first in boating the Arkansas. It attracts extreme water sports enthusiasts from all over the world to compete in such events as kayak hole riding, pro raft racing and freestyle competitions. In addition to enjoying these nail-biting events, there are plenty of community events and activities. There will be plenty of arts, crafts, food and musical entertainment at the Riverside Park. Visit www.fibark.net.

The river provides legendary trout fishing. Anglers from across the country fish the river for brown, rainbow and trout. Most of the abundant fish are from 12 to 16 inches. Devoted fly fisherman flock to one of the greatest Caddis hatches anywhere in the country. Between the last week in April and the first week in May, the Caddis hatch is at its peak. When the water temperature reaches about 50 degrees the hatch makes it seem as though it is snowing. Public access is available to parts of the river. Other parts are available through a private guide. Visit www.arkanglers.com

The beauty of the Arkansas River has not gone unnoticed by Cristo and Jeanne-Claude: www.christojeanneclaude.net. The two have gained fame through "The Gates" At Central Park in New York City from 1979-2005. They have unveiled their design to produce an "Over the River" art project that would consist of hanging seven miles of translucent fabric over the Arkansas River for 14 days, sometime between mid July and mid August in 2011 at the earliest. The plan is currently under review by the .S. Bureau of Land Management. It will be fall of 2008 before the Environmental Impact Statement is complete. The green light may be a while off.

Pat's Outlook

Overcoming Adversity



Spring is time of rebirth, renewal of spirit, excitement for the coming summer, and a time of overcoming adversity. Summer wages battle with Old Man Winter. 70 degree, warm, beautiful days are countered with 6" snowfalls and 5 degree mornings.

Mud to your axles, and carpets of green grass cover the landscape. New grass, flowers, and tree buds boldly stick their heads out for a peak of what is going on, and stick their faces to the wind in defiance of winter. Some win, and some lose, but inevitably, and to the rejoice of many, summer wins, and puts winter behind us for the time being.

Here at the ranch, spring is a busy time preparing for the coming summer, and repairing from the past winter. Its time to go find the fence that the elk didn't think should be where we built it. Time to find the water line that got missed last fall, and hope beyond hope that there wasn't enough water left in it to burst the pipes when things froze. Time to drag the meadows, and to fix the ditches.



Time to prepare the ground for the new hay crop. Plow and plant for our new crop under the center pivot. Time to put away the insulated coveralls, and break out the straw hat.

The cattle think that spring is great. New

grass, and boy is it good after eating hay all winter long. The cows are getting rid of their insulated coveralls too, with their winter hair coming off as fast as mine is raising a two year old. The cows that we bought last fall have begun to have their calves, but the big herd won't start calving until mid May. The babies that are on the ground think that life is pretty good. They run and play in the scrub oak, and generally keep their mothers fairly busy watching them.

The fish are fully awake now after a winter of inactivity. When



we feed, the water absolutely boils. It is pretty fun. We are going to be increasing our trout population around the end of May or the first part of June. I have placed a fish order with Cline Trout Farms. When we are sure of a date I will let everyone know, and encourage everyone to come enjoy the fun. Stocking fish is a pretty good time.



We have been working extremely hard over the past month to get our Organic Certification. Things are going extremely well, and at the time that you are reading this we will have our application into the State of Colorado for review. Once they review it they will arrange for an inspector to come out to the ranch and look things over. If everything goes well we will be organically certified by the end of the summer.

Now taking care of everything that we have going on might be a pain to some people, but the excellent team we have here at the ranch with Russ, Twyla, Dan, Jenny, Charity, and myself, makes things a breeze, and although a tough job is still a tough job, it sure goes a lot smoother when you have good people around you.

That about wraps things up with the ranch. On a personal note things are rapidly becoming busy with my family. Eight months has gone by like it was only yesterday, and the list of stuff to get done before the baby comes isn't nearly short enough yet. Liza is doing great, but is definitely ready to have this baby. Charlee is loving spring, and is pretty excited about getting to be a big brother.

So till next time,

Pat





From Twyla's Desk



We are still enjoying the nice spring weather, of course in Colorado that means a few snows heavy with moisture. We have had a couple of those spring snows since we last visited. These snows only stay on the ground a day or two because of the warm temperatures. This is the time of year most of us think of spring cleaning, flowers, traveling, family reunions,

new projects, and a fresh start. We think of all of these things at the ranch also, and have started many projects that we hope to complete before snow flies next winter. We have received our fresh honey bees; they are getting settled into their new home. Luckily, we have cherry, plum, apricot, and pear trees in bloom so they will have plenty of blossoms to pick from. Speaking of blossoms, we have the Annual Apple Blossom Festival going on this weekend in Canon City. Canon City was established by settlers in 1859 as a commercial center to serve miners seeking gold in the CO Mountains; prior to that the Indians had used the upper Arkansas Valley as a winter campground. The Festival dates back to the 1930's and hosts band competitions, a carnival, rodeo, and arts & crafts in Depot Park. Bands come from all over the country to compete and march in the parade. In WW 11 apple tree farms lined the Arkansas River; you can still see some of these old trees. The population of Canon City is approx. 20,000; that doubles during the festival. You can bet I will be taking in the Royal Gorge Rodeo.

Jenny, our gardener reported to me that we have spinach & carrots coming up in the garden and the year old strawberry plants are blooming, anyone for strawberry shortcake? Jenny has been busy pruning, planting, transplanting, weeding, and generally getting the garden ready for the upcoming season. Our permaculture garden has produced hundreds of flower seedlings so we have been busy planting some of our outdoor planters with some of our own grown flowers. Most of our fruit trees have escaped the spring freezes and are blooming. The garden is not only beautiful it is aromatic as well! As most of you remember, last year our fruit trees couldn't produce due to a late freeze. This year we are looking forward to a very productive year.

Pat and I have been working hard to get all of our paper work in to the state for our organic certification. We plan to have that completed this week, it's quite a process. We have been busy getting the horse herd inoculated. This is done each year in the spring and sometimes the fall also to insure the herd health. We don't have to worry about too many diseases here on the ranch, however, there are certain illnesses that are common to horses so we vaccinate against those. We vaccinate against West Nile Virus, Tetanus, and encephalomyelitis "sleeping sickness." We give two intramuscular shots to vaccinate against these diseases. The

horses don't mind it too much and typically have no reaction to the vaccinations.

Next year we have the opportunity to host a fund raiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This hospital treats children without regard to race, religion, creed or ability to pay. The hospital's daily operating costs are \$1,146,616 which is primarily covered by public contributions. There are a few fund raising trail rides conducted during the year, one of which is held here in the state. This year it was held at Lake Pueblo State Park. I went to see how it was organized so we would have that information next year. It was very exciting, there were 60 riders and they anticipate that ride will raise \$5,000 for the hospital. I hope you will join me in making next years' ride even more productive.



I hope you all had a wonderful Easter; it was a beautiful day here at the ranch. I did chores and then enjoyed family. Easter night the elk plowed a fence down and three of your ranch horses got out



before I discovered the fence. One of the three, BJ, cut his leg. I have been doctoring him ever since; the good news is that he is recovering nicely. I was up until way after midnight that night getting stitches in him. He did not cut tendons just muscle. I think he just didn't want to be used in the beginners roping clinic coming up this month, ha. Don't forget, if you are interested in learning to rope this is a great skills clinic. The progression in this clinic is very effective and safe. There is still plenty of room in this clinic May 19th. I will also remind you that we have a ranch horse versatility

clinic coming up the first part of June (9-10th) this is another great clinic to learn skills on your horse you can use right here on your ranch. I have several people wanting to attend this clinic and the limit is 12 people. If you would like to attend please let me know before the 15th of this month; after that I will go ahead and open it to the public. I will send the info packets as soon as you register. Thought for the month: The life stories of successful people are studded with challenges and adversities.

Happy Trials, *Twyla*





RANCH HAPPENINGS

May 19

- Beginners Roping Clinic (Cole Walker/Tim Black)

May 15

- Spring planting begins
- Sarah, the Horsemanship Program Intern, starts

Mid-May

- Calving begins

May 31—June 5

- Fish stocking in the ponds & streams

June 7

- Custer County Cattlewomen's Association Dinner

June 9

- Versatility Ranch Horse Clinic (Cole Walker)

June 10

- Versatility Ranch Horse Clinic (Cole Walker)

June 22

- San Isabel Land Trust Annual Meeting.

July 4

- 4th of July Barbeque

July 7-8

- Pack Trip



COMMUNITY EVENTS

May 9

- Salida Chamber Annual Golf Scramble (Salida, CO)

May 12

- FCA's Brew Ha- Ha (Canon City, CO)
(Microbreweries and stand up comedians)

May 18 -20

- Paddlefest 2007 (Buena Vista , CO)

May 19

- FIBArk Cruiser Crit , a silly & serious bike race (Salida , CO)

May 19-20

- Buena Vista Bike Festival (Buena Vista , CO)

May 26

- 7:00AM All Aboard Westcliffe's Pancake Breakfast & Lunch (Westcliffe, CO)
- 11:00AM CCMC Parade (Westcliffe, CO)

May 28

- 5:30PM Gymkhana Horse Competition (Westcliffe, CO)
- 10:00AM Memorial Day Observance @ Veterans' Memorial Park (Westcliffe, CO)

June 1-3

- Canon City Historical Weekend (Canon City, CO)

June 2

- Bull Riding in Buena Vista (Buena Vista, CO)

June 8-10

- 4th Annual Balloon-a-Vista, hot air balloons rising at daybreak, (Buena Vista, CO)

June 9

- Silver Cliff Mining Days (Silvercliffe, CO)

June 14—17

- FIBArk, America's Greatest Whitewater Festival (Salida, CO)

June 21-24

- 15th Annual Salida Art Walk (Salida, CO)

June 23-24

- Art on the Arkansas (Canon City, CO)

July 4

- Forth of July Celebration (Salida, CO)
- 7:30—10:30 am All aboard Westcliffe Pancake Breakfast (Westcliffe, CO)
- Wet Mountain Valley Classic Car Show (Westcliffe, CO)
- Forth of July Fireworks at Lake DeWeese (Westcliffe, CO)

July 7-11

- Annual Colorado Brewers Rendezvous (Salida, CO)

July 12-15

- 16th Annual Art of the Rockies Open Awards Show (Salida, CO)
- Annual High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival (Westcliffe, CO)

July 19-22

- Westcliffe Stampede Rodeo Weekend (Westcliffe, CO)

July 27-29

- Annual Fiddlers Along the Arkansas (Canon City, CO)