



Winter at the Ranch



Old Man Winter showing his stuff



Keith King out for a wintery ride



Girls sledding in the snow

Old Man Winter has been very busy this season. The mild, warm fall led us to believe that we would have a mild winter as well. Since Thanksgiving, Colorado has experienced plenty of snowfall and cold temperatures. The Colorado Ski Press, on December 11th, reported that Monarch Ski area had 71 inches of snow and more of their terrain open than they have had in 30 years. Maytag Mountain Ranch has been covered with the “white stuff” for weeks. When we look up at the Sangre de Cristos, we see a deep blanket of snow serving as the only source of summer water for the streams and ponds and irrigation of the pastures and fields. Even though we welcome the snow pack in the mountains, Twyla, Pat and George are working hard to keep the animals fed and the roads clear. When the temperatures dip and wind chill increases, the cattle and horses need more calories to just stay warm. Many of the ranch owners are experiencing the ranch lifestyle first hand. There is nothing more rewarding than to help feed a hungry herd of cattle on a crisp winter morning. The eager animals waste no time diving into the hay. When all of the pastures are covered with snow, the cattle and horses depend on humans for every bite they eat. They are mighty happy to see people.



View at the ranch—Snow capped mountain

In addition Old Man Winter’s decorating, we all gathered to help decorate the cookhouse and cabins for Christmas. Twyla, Pat and family, Charity and family, Joe, Terry and Phil Yannias, and Jeannie all enjoyed an afternoon of decorating and eating good food. Wires, ladders, lights and ornaments were scattered everywhere but the result was an inviting and festive feeling around ranch central. This fun filled day will become a Maytag Mountain Ranch tradition in years to come.

Pat's Outlook

Greetings and Happy New Year,



Hard to believe that it has been two months since I last sat down for the latest installment of the life and times here at Maytag Mountain Ranch. They were definitely two months of contrast. November was

one of the driest, and warmest on record. Everyone had thoughts of the drought coming back, and I would have to admit that I was guilty of that very thought. The warm dry weather was both a blessing and a curse. We got a lot of fall work done here on the ranch. The biggest item was we finished the first leg of a fencing project between the ranch, and our neighbor Steve Oswald. This was quite the project with the scrub oak to clear and the rocky ground to contend with. The group effort got it banged out. It was a huge relief to get that job done before the snow fell. December definitely changed everyone's minds about being dry. Early in December we got snow, and it has snowed quite a bit all the way through December and it looks like January will be pretty snowy also. We were ready for the snow with all of the snow plows ready to go. In December we weaned the cows from the calves. We wean on the fence line with the cows on one side of the fence and the calves on the other side. This makes the

process as stress free as possible on the animals. The cows and calves can see each other, they just can't nurse. This makes the separation a lot easier on the animals. With this wonderful white stuff falling on the ground it made it necessary to start feeding the cattle hay. This is a daily chore that we will now have until spring time. We have been using the



Winter is here

tractor, but today we will begin using our workhorse team to feed the cows. I have wanted to use them since we started feeding, but there was some work to do on the wagon to get it ready. Over the weekend I finished up the wagon, so now the boys can go to work.



Pat Feeding with the team

The next two months will bring pretty much more of the same as we have had in December. Feed the cattle, and plow some snow. As time allows, and the weather allows we try to work in some projects. Give the shop a good through cleaning, work on what we can outside, and get things ready for the coming spring.

Everybody stay warm and safe this winter.
Till next time,
Pat



From Twyla's Desk

Happy New Year to all of our ranch owners, We hope you enjoyed your holidays as much as we did here at the ranch. December brought with it wintry weather with quite a bit of snow and much cooler temperatures. As I write this edition of our newsletter the thermometer is showing more red and snow is beginning to melt; however another storm is blowing this way and should arrive by tonight. Although the winter weather can be a bit nippy it brings with it breathtaking beauty and many winter activities.

The King family spent Christmas with us here at the ranch and the Martins were able to spend a few days here after Christmas. They enjoyed activities such as



One horse open sleigh rides

one horse open sleigh rides, snow tubing, making snow angels, horseback riding and visiting our neighboring towns to shop and bowl.



Santa arrives

The Kings reported that a visit to Florence, the antique capitol of Colorado, was well worth the time. Among our honored guests this month was Santa who arrived at Maytag Mtn. Ranch in style. We also hosted a premier party at the cookhouse to celebrate the kick-off of Julie Goodnight's weekly tv show called Horse Master. Julie is a nationally recognized equine educator who travels the nation teaching her clear horsemanship techniques. She has a varied background from dressage, jumping, racing, to wilderness riding. She is the author of several books and is a featured columnist in many of the leading equine magazines. I am sure that many of you have watched her on Horse City.com TV show on RFD TV. Horse Master will be a weekly

show on RFD TV. If you are interested in catching some of the horse programming on RFD TV it is channel 231 on dish and channel 379 on direct TV. There is a vast assortment of horse programs on RFD TV. You might even catch yours truly on Horse City.com once in awhile.

January is the month the National Western Stock show is in Denver Colorado. The National Western has excess of 700,000 annual visitors during the two week stock show, rodeo and horse shows featuring many different breeds. This year the dates are January 12-27th. The National Western vision aspires to be the world's premier center for America's western heritage. Their mission in part commits to serving the producers and consumers through out the world by being the premier stock show, rodeo, horse show and center for year round events. There is an emphasis on education; they provide upwards of 60 scholarships each year to future agribusiness leaders and medical practitioners.

There is something for everyone at the National Western; along with the already mentioned activities there is a Coors Art Show featuring many western artists, and several youth activities. There is a petting farm, stick horse rodeo, children's ranchland which is partnered by Colorado State University, and pony trails which educates youth about equine. Some of the very things we learn here in our horse program are taught there. There are CSU veterinary students on hand to answer questions along with a live horse every day. The breed of horse always matches the horse show breeds for the day.



Western artists at the National Western Stock Show

Enjoy the ride,
Twyla



Beautiful Full Moon