

# WRANGLIN' NOTES



Eatons' Ranch, Wolf, Wyoming 2018

Editor Jeff Way



We hope you had a wonderful 2018! For those of you who joined us this past season, we thank you for being here and we thank you for making last year a memorable one. It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. 2019 is here and a new season is right around the corner.

As we look back on the previous year it was filled with many new faces as well as many long-time friends of Eatons' Ranch. We had a slightly busier season in 2018 compared to 2017, particularly in June and July. June always seems to go by so quickly and the next thing we know it's the 4<sup>th</sup> of July then the Sheridan Wyo Rodeo. The past few years we have been fortunate to be relatively busy around the 4<sup>th</sup> and Wyo Rodeo week. For anyone who has the opportunity to vacation during the first two weeks of July, we host an annual team roping event the Sunday closest to the 4<sup>th</sup> and weather permitting, put on a fireworks display and have sparklers for the kids. The Wyo Rodeo is a fun time as well. There are four rodeo performances and a great carnival that the adults will enjoy as well (at least they'll enjoy it once). This year the July roping will be Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> and we will have a Calcutta the night before on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The dates for the Sheridan Wyo Rodeo this year are July 10<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>.



The beginning of August continues to feel like a reunion with many Eatons' alum returning year after year. Our annual August Roping is always a big draw and our fourth annual staff Olympics was fun for all. We remained busy into the shoulder season, which began on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The remainder of August, our staff began going back to college, and the staff that remained began wearing many different hats. During the late shoulder season when school started back up for most, our guest numbers go down, but between the weddings and retreats we all had plenty to

do.

Labor Day weekend brings Don King days with polo matches, steer roping and saddle bronc riding. In September we held the Wolf Creek Wrangle which benefits Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns. Throughout the month we hosted a yoga retreat, an artist workshop, and two business conferences. For anyone looking to get away in the fall, September is a great time to be here. The days are typically still warm, the evenings cool and the pace of everything is simply relaxing.

The past few years the fall hunting season has been quiet, but this last year we were busy. We had groups here for three full weeks. After we get through hunting season, it's back to cattle work here on the ranch and getting ready for shipping in early November. The holidays are



always fun with large numbers of family and friends gathering here for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Seeing all of the kids together running around is the best part of it all.



We look forward to a great 2019! What do you want to do this year, where do you want to go? Whatever it is, wherever it is, we hope it is memorable and that you are surrounded by friends and family. According to many travel surveys the following are trending. Multi-generational travel is on the rise. 60% of travelers surveyed said they value authentic experiences over material possessions, 42% planned to visit a destination that makes them fill like a kid again, and travelers want to

experience nature without sacrificing comfort. It sounds like a dude ranch vacation is trending. We look forward to the rest of this year with much anticipation. To date, many of you from last year have made your reservations again for the upcoming season. If any of you have not been able to join us in a few years, we hope to see you again soon.

In Memory of.....

With every passing year we learn of more friends and family of Eatons' Ranch that we have lost. In January we received the news that long-time friend and guest Joe Girardi passed away peacefully at the age of 93. Joe and his wife Betty Lou visited the Ranch every year beginning in 1967 until 2007, 41 consecutive seasons. We will always have fond memories of Joe and the time he and his wife spent with us and we thank them for sharing part of their lives with us for so many years. In March, we lost long-time friend Loren "Snooky" Green.

In October we learned of the passing of Jean Wallace from Charleston, SC. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA Jean first visited Eatons' Ranch with her parents in the 1930 and even visited the old Rimrock Ranch in Arizona in 1937. Jean and her entire family visited us numerous times beginning in the 1990's and was last here with us this past season in June. Our thoughts are with the entire Wallace family. Also, in October we were saddened to



learn that we had lost Walter Alderson far too early in life. Walter was the son of extended family member Tom Alderson, Sr. and the brother of Tom Alderson, Jr. Walter spent many days here at the Ranch visiting his brother Tommy when he worked here and was always willing to lend a helping hand. Walter was in the U.S. Army Infantry and a member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. We thank him for his service in our armed forces. To all of those who knew and loved Walter our thoughts are with you and he will not soon be forgotten.

On September 4, 2018 long-time guest and friend Jim Seavey passed away after a five-year battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Jim first came to the Ranch in 1994 and visited us almost every summer after that. He loved the area so much that he bought a place in Big Horn, WY. Jim had an incredible presence that made everyone who met him for the first time feel like they had known him for years. His friendship with the Ranch family, former employees, and many in the community remained strong through the years. Jim impacted so many people's lives in such a positive way as a husband, a father, a friend and as a career firefighter. Jim will be dearly missed by all that knew him, but the memories we all have of time spent with him will bring a smile to our faces and give us cause to celebrate his life. Our thoughts are with his wife, Mary, his son Jim Jr. and his sister Kate and all of his family and friends. To all of those who lost loved ones in the past year our thoughts are with you. For anyone we failed to mention we apologize in advance.



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