

# Kids Kontest...

## Name the Creek!



Hey kids! Remember the little creek that runs past the swimming pool to the lodge? You know, the one you threw rocks in, jumped over, maybe fell into - well, we want you to give it a name. If the name you submit is selected, we'll send you a Lost Valley sweatshirt and the new Lost Valley Ranch Music CD. The top 5 entries will also receive a copy of the music CD. So put on your cowboy thinkin' hat and send us an email or letter to Bob Foster.

*(Helpful hint: the water in the creek comes from the side of Sheep's Rock and Cheesman Overlook, takes a short break in the pond above the swimming pool before it runs into Goose Creek.)*

Entries must be received by March 1, 2007.

## Thank You Mr. Beaver!



We're grateful to all the beaver families in our valley because it was their dams and ponds that reduced the amount of erosion silt generated by rainfall and snow melt after the Hayman fire of 2002. Their dams also help control flooding, create natural wetlands important to other animals such as ducks, geese, frogs and fish and raise the water table which provides natural irrigation for the ranches meadows.

The recognizable signs of beavers are not only the cut willows and aspens but the dome-shaped lodges they build in the ponds created by their dams. The entrances to their lodge dens are all underwater and a beaver will swim well away from its home before surfacing.

So, when you're out riding or hiking, keep your eyes open for signs of our friend, Bennie the Beaver.

# GOOSE CREEK GAZETTE



THE NEWSLETTER FROM LOST VALLEY RANCH

[www.lostvalleyranch.com](http://www.lostvalleyranch.com)

2007

## Across the Cattleguard...



"Helpin' Make Happiness Happen" requires Karen and me to spend much of the winter reflecting and learning from the past and planning and dreamin' for the future. Our newsletter highlights several former dreams that have become "real" and some exciting ideas for the upcoming season. So release the handbrake on your mind and start dreamin', planning, and then calling us to "make your happiness happen" in 2007. Oooo-aaaah!

Bob and Karen Foster

## "HAPPINESS HAPPENED in 2006"



*"From time to time, find yourself a place so peaceful that you can enter the quiet."*

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EST. 1985

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## Where In The World Is Big Bob?

For many guests, returning to the ranch just doesn't seem the same if Big Bob is not around. So what's he been up to lately? Well, Big Bob is still very much involved with ELIC, an international organization which places teachers in the Chinese university system to teach English to students. This means at least one trip a year to various regions in China. Instead of handling his road grader and telling stories to the little ones, he's becoming proficient at handling chopsticks.

Bob and Bev have purchased a town home in Orange County California where they now live. The altitude at the ranch was putting a bit of a strain on Bev's health, so for her sake they have moved to a lower altitude and closer to her family. Bob still comes out to the ranch about once every couple of months to check things out (and drive the grader). Not bad for someone who is 87 years old!



If you would like to drop them a note, they would love to hear from you.

Bob and Bev Foster, 1043 Marina Drive, Placentia, CA 92870



## Your Company's Meeting...



According to the Society of Company Meeting Planners (SCMP) one of the key elements for producing a successful meeting or conference is a controlled environment. Well, Lost Valley certainly has that. No diversions. Unless of course you want them. Then the diversions are unique; team building on horseback, creative sessions on a mountain top, relaxed meals around a campfire and early to bed for full productive days.

Wives attending meetings with their husbands can ride, swim, play tennis or just enjoy our tranquil mountain setting. Or we can plan something special like cooking classes, massage therapy and spa treatments. Whatever.

Lost Valley Ranch hosts about 8 or 9 business meetings a year for some of the country's most prestigious corporations and associations - but we'd sure make room for yours. Just give us a call.



## AAA Honors Lost Valley Ranch

At a special ceremony this year in Denver, AAA bestowed the coveted Four Diamond Award for Excellence on Lost Valley Ranch. Lost Valley is the only ranch in the United States to have earned this award for 30 consecutive years.

We are proud of this distinction, for it symbolizes the commitment we have to our goal of giving each and every guest to our home an *unforgettable ranch experience.*



## Holiday Specials

Come enjoy the refreshing Rockies during one of our holidays this year. Lost Valley is a special place to back off the pressure and gain a new sense of perspective. Here are three holiday specials for you to consider.

### MEMORIAL DAY (MAY 25 - JUNE 3)

Come relax as Spring gives way to Summer. We are offering 3, 6 and 9 day specials for you and your family. In late May the days are warm and the nights crisp as you explore the fresh green mountainsides of our "Ooooo-aaaaah!" country. Adult rates begin at \$525 and children's discounts will apply.

### LABOR DAY (AUGUST 31 - SEPT. 9)

Soak up the wonderful Indian summer days of early Fall. We offer 3, 6 and 9 day packages as options to consider the first week of September. The pace on the ranch has slowed down, yet all our facilities are open for your enjoyment. Kick back in front of your cabin's fireplace, or kick up your horse and wander in our 40,000 acres of Pike National Forest. Adult rates begin at \$525 and children's discounts will apply.

### THANKSGIVING (NOVEMBER 18 - 25)

One of the highlights of each year is celebrating this holiday at Lost Valley. Special 4 and 7 day packages allow you to relax as a family or couple as our staff spoils you. Thanksgiving Dinner is a fantastic 3-stage buffet and each evening has an exceptional touch of music, square dancing and family fun. Adult rates begin at \$525 and children's discounts will apply.



## Family Circle Magazine...

has selected Lost Valley Ranch as "The Best in the West" in their September 2006 issue. The publication says "The ranch has everything you'd look for in a dude ranch." We agree.



## FUN FACTS: Did you know?

...that horses cannot breathe through their mouths, only their noses.

...a horse's height is measured in units known as "hands." One hand is equal to 4 inches.

...cowboys were sometimes called "cowpunchers" because while loading the herds into railroad cars for market, cowboys would use long poles to prod the cattle up the ramps.

...a cowboy's bandanna was used for a: dust mask, earmuffs, sun shield, pot holder, wash cloth, snow shield, tourniquet bandage, snot rag, and a robbers mask.

## Staff Profile



One of the little secrets of Lost Valley is the number of marriages that occur among our staff even though we have a "no-dating" policy. With the high quality people we hire, it's not unusual for sparks to fly, and then once they leave the ranch for a fire to ignite.

Kris and Becca Burtoft are a great example of this. Kris, whose home is Colorado Springs, worked as wrangler and Becca as one of our food servers. Once their time with us was over, Kris followed Becca to her hometown of Clanton, Alabama and several months later were married.

We are delighted that they have returned as part of our staff team. Kris leads our maintenance crew and Becca our cabin-girl crew. They have brought with them their two "children": Moby, a black Lab and Elly, an Australian Shepherd.

## A Step Into The Present...

### Wi-Fi here at the ranch

The ideal goal of every family is to completely unplug and disconnect during their vacation. But unfortunately life isn't so cooperative. There are times when it's necessary to blend "time-out" with the family and "checking-in" with the office.



We understand, and that's why we now offer free high-speed wireless internet access in our Lodge lobby and meeting room. So if you really have to, bring your laptop along to keep in touch, while enjoying your vacation here in the Rockies!



## New Web Site Under Construction

It's under construction and promises to be a show in itself! The company we selected to produce our site has an impressive list of clientele, including Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede Attractions. The site will be fun to visit with many state-of-the-art "bells and whistles" such as original LVR music, flash pictures of many of our guests and interactivity. The site will be both entertaining and very informative. We'll let you know when it's up and running. Our address will be the same as our present website: [www.lostvalleyranch.com](http://www.lostvalleyranch.com).

**COWBOY HUMOR** - One day a cowboy walked into a blacksmith shop and picked up a horseshoe, not realizing that it had just come from the forge. He immediately dropped it and jammed his toasted hand into his jeans, trying to act as if nothing had happened. The blacksmith noticed and asked with a grin, "Kind of hot, wasn't it?" "Nope," answered the cowboy through clenched teeth, "it just doesn't take a wrangler from Lost Valley Ranch long to look at a horseshoe."



## New Music CD Now Available



After many requests for "the songs of Lost Valley", a long time friend of the ranch and music's Dove Award Winner, Bruce Carroll has produced a CD of favorites such as "Oooooaah Join the Fun", "the Hat Song", and an original that he wrote "The Ballad of Lost Valley".

Bob Foster and a gang of ranch staff gathered in Memphis and with professional accompaniment recorded our best vocals. If you've been to the ranch, a copy is sure to rekindle all of those memories.

Each CD is \$16.50 (includes shipping). All proceeds go directly to the Marion Foster Scholarship Fund (an accredited charitable fund with the IRS), which awards yearly college scholarships to deserving staff members. Checks should be made out to MARION FOSTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND or call the office with your VISA/MC.