

OLD KIRBY PLACE

on the Madison River



NEWSLETTER

Recent Changes

Management Team: We have the good fortune to have Karl and Nancy returning again next summer. Their winters are generally spent traveling and developing new recipes for the Old Kirby Place. It gets better every year!

Outside Changes: The newly expanded front porch was a big hit with the guests. The additional seating and viewing area presented a great alternative to the equally enjoyable view from the Caddis Shack. It is terrific to have these options. Over the years both locations have provided great wild life viewing areas of eagles and hawks, to moose, and even bear.

Green House: Our newly constructed green house will debut next summer. Many of you saw it this summer while it was a "work in progress". It may be the best, most sturdy (and yes...most expensive) green house in Montana. Best of all, it will provide Karl and Nancy with the freshest of produce for their gourmet dinners.

Boat Ramp: The newly constructed boat ramp provided a quick and easy place to launch float trips, as well as providing a more convenient (safer) access to the Madison for wade fishermen (and fishermen).

Windows: The new windows in the cabin and bunkhouse made a world of difference. They not only provided for a brighter, sun-filled room, but also allowed for a welcome cross-breeze during the warm season.

Garden: We are restoring the garden along one of the spring creeks that feed the fishing pond. Unfortunately it has over-grown during the last several years. There remains a good start for watercress, which we have had in the past. We are researching which plants would grow and thrive along a stream bed. Any suggestions?

2008 Highlights

Hutchins Bridge Party - Once again, the Hutchins Bridge Party held at the Old Kirby Place in July was a tremendous success. Over 350 people attended and \$4,000 was raised for two groups near and dear to us. The Madison River Foundation is our local voice for the preservation and use of the Madison River ecosystem. The Madison Valley History Association preserves and cultivates the valley's rich history. The Hutchins Bridge Committee honored a special West Fork couple, Harry and Deb Townsend, who for 42 years have enriched and furthered the "character" of the area. An honor bench and plaque, installed next to the Hutchins Bridge, were presented to the couple.

Madison River - To say the least, fishing conditions were unusual on the Madison River this year. Due to the heavy snow pack, the spring runoff did not end until mid July. Although hampering float trips somewhat, the abundant water was a welcome treat for most of us. Guides claimed this past summer produced more insect activity (the good kind—not mosquitoes) than any year they could remember. Correspondingly good fishing resulted. Then came the problem with Hebgen Dam on Labor Day weekend. A segment of the dam's gate system broke, and within hours the Madison went from a serene 700 cubic feet per second (CFS) flow to a rush of 3,200 CFS (and then some). The river became an unfishable torrent. A temporary fix took about a month and the permanent fix is expected this Spring. On a positive note, a fishing blog dated November 5, 2008 stated that both the Upper and Madison were fishing well. An average snow pack this winter should fill the lake again, and the guides are generally in agreement that the additional water will improve fishing next summer. So, all's well that ends well.

When is the Best Time to Fish the Madison - the obvious answer is after the Spring run-off and before the Winter chill. Actually, it depends on whether you are floating or wading and the object of your fishing trip—catching many fish, landing a trophy, or just relaxing on, in or by the river. We encourage you to get in touch with your guide, or any of the guides on our website. We can't predict the weather, but the Farmer's Almanac 2009 predictions for the area are:

Winter - colder than normal

April-May - cooler than normal

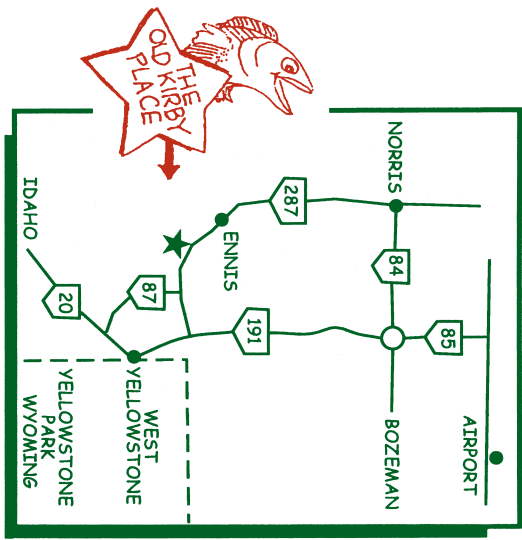
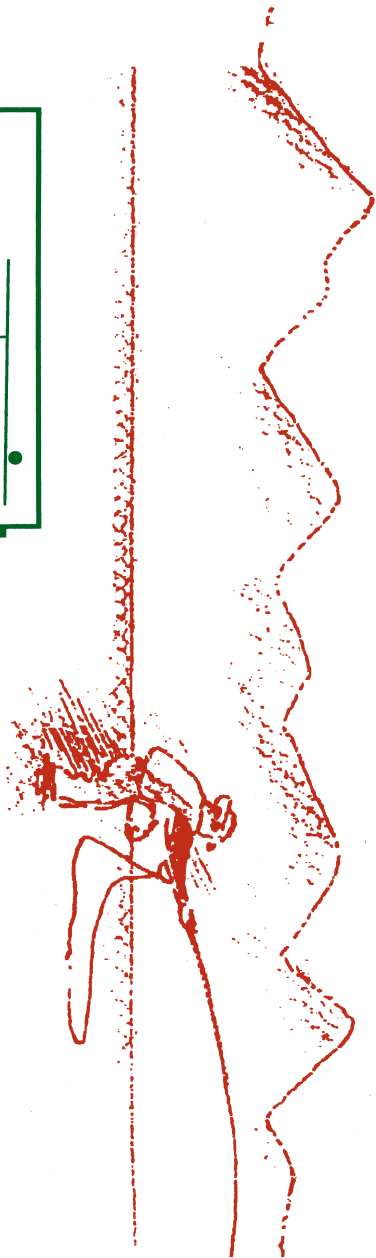
Summer - cooler than normal with slightly above normal rainfall

Hottest time will be mid to late July

September-October - drier and warmer than normal.

When is the Best Time to Book? - NOW!!! If you are unsure of the dates, at least let us know when you think you might like to book. We will pencil in the date(s) and call you if another guest requests the same time period. Then, you can either confirm a booking or release the dates. The Old Kirby Place rates remain the same for the 2009 season - \$195 per night per person with a 3 night minimum stay.

~Bruce Alverson



Reservations
Toll-Free 888-875-8027

The Old Kirby Place
Cameron, MT 59720
(406) 682-4194

Web Site: www.oldkirbyplace.com
E-mail: oldkirbyplace@yahoo.com

Reservations will be confirmed upon receipt of a 50% deposit. American Express, Mastercard and Visa are accepted. Deposits are refundable if the cancellation is made 45 days prior to arrival. No pets.

The Old Kirby Place
on the Madison River



*...where fly fishermen
live out their fantasies*

Return Service Requested

The Old Kirby Place
on the Madison
Madison River Valley
Cameron MT 59720

