

OLD KIRBY PLACE

on the Madison River



NEWSLETTER

from Walter...

Welcome to the premier edition of **The Old Kirby Place Newsletter** which has the purpose of informing, recognizing outstanding efforts, and encouraging our mutual love for the Old Kirby Place on the Madison River in Cameron, Montana.

The Old Kirby Place was built in 1886 by Isiah Hutchins. The Hutchins ranch took both sides of the Madison, using its 15,000 acres to raise cattle.

I purchased the ranch house, cabins and barns one hundred and one years later and guests began arriving in the spring of 1990.

It is my hope that this newsletter will bring together our wonderful guests and enhance the continued success of the Old Kirby Place.

I welcome your suggestions and appreciate your ideas. If you like this newsletter or have some items of interest to add, suggestions or questions, please let me know.

E-mail me at:

Walter@OldKirbyPlace.com or drop me a line: Walter Kannon, P.O. Box 104, Sugar Loaf, NY 10981 or call me until April 10, 2001 at (845) 469-4380.

Report on the Fall Season

Three days before elk season opened on October 22, 2000, your host set up camp two hours into the wilderness. On the fourth day I took a large five-point bull elk. It took all day to dress and quarter. Returning the following day with the two horses, I packed out my prize. Motto: "You don't stop playing when you get old, you get old when you stop playing!"

Madison River Guide **Gary Evans** and the Old Kirby Place hosted a Winter Fishing and Goose/Duck Shoot for **Filson Clothes** and **Sage Rods** from November 7 to 12, 2000. In attendance were five major outdoor magazine editors and their cameramen; **Gray Sporting Journal**, **Outdoor Life**, **Sports Afield**, **Sporting Classics** and **Fly Fisherman**. A tremendous success!

Outlook for Rainbow Trout

On Monday, February 5, 2001 I spoke to Dick Vincent, the Whirling Disease Coordinator for Montana's Trout via phone.

I asked Dick, "What is the outlook for rainbow trout this year in the upper Madison River?" According to Dick, "In each of the last two years, 1999 and 2000, the Madison River has

spawned a good class of rainbow trout. This should produce the best rainbow fishing on the Madison since 1989."

"Our snowpack at present is 75% of average. February, March and part of April should give us the additional snow for a good runoff this year."

NEW SIGN



Thanks Jack!

A bright new colorful look is in store for our entrance sign - a hand-painted six-foot rainbow trout flanked by two-foot trout flies. Retired Chase Manhattan Bank Senior VP Jack De Franza has come up with the design and will be using his artistic and woodworking talents to complete the sign by May 15, 2001.

West Fork Bridge, Cameron MT 59720

The Old Kirby Place
on the Madison



FYI

■ Wonderful news! Hernan (my right arm) will bring his wife Martha this year. Together they will continue to keep the OKP clean and comfortable. As far as chef duties go - no change. It's down home cooking by your host.

■ It took most of last summer to obtain a State Trout Stocking Permit and was well worth it. Our late summer guests had a ball with 14 to 20-inch Nelson Spring Creek Rainbows! I plan to stock the pond twice this year; early June and again in August. Please come "catch and keep." Removing trout helps keep the pond healthy.

■ Last year we added new wood blinds on all windows upstairs in the lodge and in the two cabins. This year we'll add more downstairs and on the door and front window of the "Cabin in the Sky" which will also get a new hand-split cedar roof this year.

■ A 2001 dark metallic green Chrysler PT Cruiser has joined the Old Kirby Fleet. It was ordered March 5, 2000 and finally delivered January 18, 2001. A snazzy logo on the side door will let everyone know where the best fishing lodge in Montana is!



TONDAS

HORSE NEWS

Our three loyal steeds Sagebrush, Federal and Shorty are wintering in sunny Cameron MT with Robert and Marge Reck while our sweet mare Red developed arthritis and is back at Willow Ranch in Ennis enjoying the warmer climate.

Ron and Bonnie Ree of Massachusetts provided the Old Kirby Place with a beautiful five year-old racing quarterhorse mare named Tondas. She's presently stabled in Torrington, WY with Norm and Michelle Harrower of **Harrower Quarterhorses** who will breed her early this spring. A new baby!