Great Escape #84 (Hart Ranch, South Dakota)

September 13, 2009

Dear Friends.

Greetings from Hart Ranch, Rapid City, South Dakota.

All of the entertainment, activities, restaurant meals, and the like have come to an end here at Hart Ranch. This beautiful private membership park is winding down for winter. The weather has become a crap shoot. Yesterday and today we have had cold and rain with some wind mixed in for good measure. Today the high is 72 degrees, but tomorrow is supposed to be cloudy and 82. In spite of no activities, the park is still about 75 percent full. We have been asking why. Well, apparently a lot of people are hanging around for the annual buffalo roundup. We are told that about 15,000 people show up each year to see the roundup. The easiest way is to go on a chartered bus and not face the parking problem.

September 28, 2009 (Monday) / Buffalo Round-Up

Feel the thunder and join the herd at the 43rd Annual Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup. Watch cowboys and cowgirls as they roundup and drive the herd of 1,500 buffalo into the buffalo corrals. Following the actual roundup stay and watch as park staff sort, brand, and vaccinate the herd in preparation for the fall Buffalo Sale.



Buffalo in Custer State Park

Buffalo

There are about 1500 buffalo running free in Custer State Park. We rode our motorcycle along with our friends, **Nullet and Gary**, through the park on a two lane road. The buffalo roam anywhere they want and are afraid of nothing. In the picture above, a couple dozen were on the side of the road and some in the road. Cars in both directions stopped. Oh great! We can't get our motorcycles around the cars and we get

to sit and hope that we don't get charged. Being three feet from a mother buffalo and calf on a motorcycle is a nerve-wracking event that we hope never to repeat.

Travel Plans

Currently, we are scheduled to leave Hart Ranch on September 22, but hey, we could hang around for an extra week and see the roundup. It will all depend on weather. When we leave Hart Ranch, we will head for **Denver** where we might stay a couple of days. (We are not going to visit Gunnison, Colorado, this year.) From Denver, we will go west on Highway 70 into **Utah**. That opens the possibility of seeing **Arches National Park**, **Canyonlands National Park**, **Capitol Reef National Park**, and **Glen Canyon National Recreation Area**. Bryce and Zion National Parks are in the same area, but we have seen them. From Utah, we will head to **Pahrump, Nevada**, and then over to **Desert Hot Springs, California**, where we expect to spend most of the winter.

Financial Seminars

Our financial seminars at Hart Ranch are over now. We no longer have a room to work in, nor an activities director to do the promotion. Because we got here late in the season, we only had the opportunity to make one presentation to a full park of people. But hey, we did good. In our first week alone, we moved \$260,000 out of the stock market and into high paying insurance annuities with no market risk. For those of you who have no real idea of what we do to protect our clients' retirement funds, check out the **attached park flyer**.

After our first seminar in Hart Ranch, an elderly attorney, who has been doing estate planning for decades, approached us and said that he had attended many such seminars, but felt that we were the best he'd ever seen. He also said we had the best product he'd ever seen. **Mel**, a South Dakota attorney wasn't just blowing smoke. We wrote him two annuities and without a doubt, there will be more coming. It's wonderful to be appreciated by other knowledgeable professionals.

Are you paying too much in income tax? Perhaps you could reduce your taxes by participating in an IRA retirement fund. Oh yeah, let Uncle Sam help you save for retirement. We can help you do just that with no upfront fees, no backend charges, no administrative fees, and no market risk. If this sounds good, call us at (530) 524-5020.

Motorcycle Riding

The **Black Hills of South Dakota** contain some of the most beautiful motorcycle rides we have ever ridden. Spectacular and varied to say the least!



Two lane road with narrow tunnel.

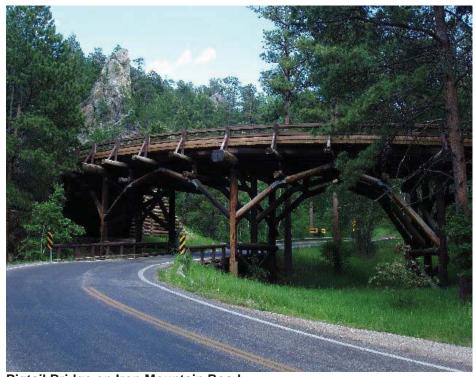
Custer State Park also has free roaming wild burros. But unlike the burros of Nevada, these are moochers. They know that cars contain food and maybe somebody will give them a handout. Apparently motorcycle riders don't feed them as they completely ignore motorcycles.



Wild burros in Custer State Park.



Iron Mountain Road.



Pigtail Bridge on Iron Mountain Road.

The above bridge is extremely unusual. The road makes a 360 degree right turn. Just a big circle on a curved bridge to gain elevation. What fun!



Over the hills and through the woods...

We have dozens of spectacular photos taken while riding through the Black Hills. We can't include them all, but maybe you get the idea. The Black Hills of South Dakota has spectacular motorcycle riding.



Needles Highway.

Fun Towns

The great roads of the Black Hills also lead to many fun and interesting towns. Two that are close to Rapid City are **Hill City** and **Keystone**. They are both small towns only a few blocks long, but with many fun and interesting shops and restaurants. There is also an antique coal burning train that runs between the two towns. There is just no end of fun in this area. We have fallen in love with the Black Hills of South Dakota! But I bet if we were crazy enough to stay here during winter, we could fall back out of love. What do you think?



Hill City, South Dakota.



Keystone, South Dakota.

Spectacular Monuments

The Black Hills have two outstanding monuments and they are only about 17 miles apart: **Mount Rushmore** and **Crazy Horse Memorial**. Both are monumental and both have fascinating history, but we've gone on long enough. So more on the monuments in our next newsletter.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

Chuck & Donna Cole (530) 524-5020