

## Greetings from Los Pinos Ranch

It is April 2021, time for us to begin the process of preparing the ranch for the upcoming summer season. As we work in the relative quiet of spring, thoughts of what draws our visitors and ourselves to Los Pinos come to mind. Being here provides us with a satisfying contrast between the bustle of outdoor activity and a chance to connect quietly with nature. During the summer of 2020, we were blessed with an abundance of both.



Bill has nearly completed restoration of the saddle barn. It was leaning at a precarious angle, as the stumps it was built on had rotted out at ground level. “Replacing the logs from the bottom up is something our Dad came up with from his engineering and architectural background. We take a 4x4 and lag bolt it into the ends of the good logs, jack that part of the building up with screw jacks and slide the new logs in place. NOT as easy as that sounds.”

Another restoration project was accomplished by our neighbor Jerry, who brought our 125-year-old music box\* back to life. (\*The six-foot tall Victorian cabinet that everyone used to wonder about). Guests enjoyed hearing the magical music as well as his evening lectures on its history.

As usual during our summer season, outdoor activities occupied our days. Guests had opportunities to join our guide Dave on birding quests to learn more about our avian friends. Others fished with Jerry, benefiting from his enthusiasm and ability to teach. In June, we hosted a surprise birthday ride and luncheon for 10-year-old twins. In August, ranch guests brought a telescope and treated us to an amazing view of Saturn’s rings and Jupiter’s moons. Hiking was a major pursuit for all ages.

There were quiet times too. Guests spent time catching up on reading. A neighbor came by to play our old piano. And there was always a jigsaw puzzle in progress on the front porch. Birds and squirrels visiting the feeders and wildlife pond provided endless entertainment. After dinner, evenings were times for conversation or board games.

It was a pleasure to welcome our many returning friends and to meet new visitors. As the 2021 season approaches, we wish you all well and hope to see you again “where the road ends and the trails begin.”

With kind regards,  
Alice and Bill  
The McSweeney Family



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