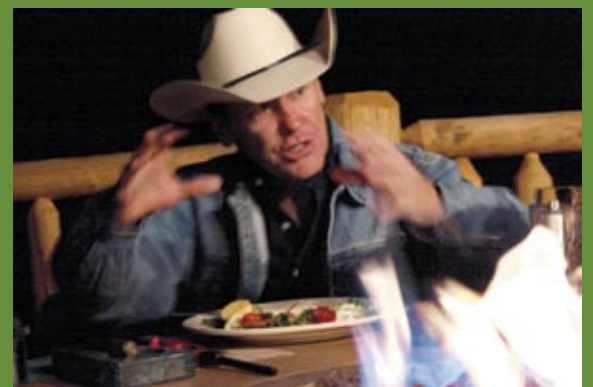
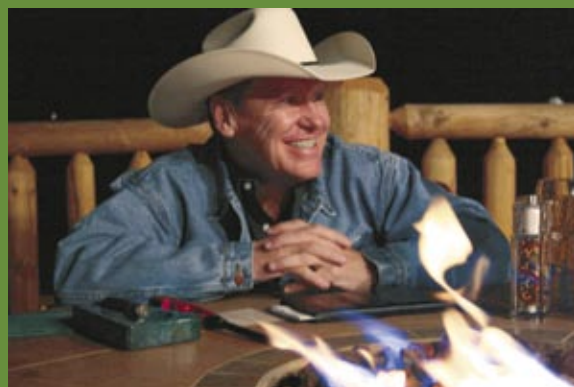


Doug Sandahl first began his career as a Phoenix homebuilder at 26 years old. In 1976, his innovative homes came standard with new concepts such as tile roofs and kitchen/family entertainment spaces. In 1988, Sandahl and partner Steve Hueffle developed the La-Z-Boy Furniture Gallery store concept, which paved the way for La-Z-Boy to grow into the largest furniture chain in the country. By the 1990s, Sandahl was building custom spec homes throughout Arcadia and Paradise Valley. He was also instrumental in saving the Royal Palms Estates Project of the Arcadia area. Currently Sandahl is president of Montecito Homes, building spec homes on 2-acre sites in the range of \$3.2 million and up. But key to Sandahl's vision is growth with a conscience, quality over quantity. When Sandahl approached the renovation of Greer Lodge, he took what was already there and applied positive thought and love to the community behind it. Sandahl's positive thought is mirrored in each of his managers and the 45 staff that now run Greer Lodge. As I spoke by the fire that evening with Sandahl and general manager Jeff Akins, a line cook stopped by, eager to show Akins something. He had just graduated from high school that evening, and brought by his diploma for Akins to see. That is the strength of the community behind Greer Lodge.



“ My background is innovation...I am always asking myself, ‘How can I do it differently?’ ”

— Doug Sandahl, Owner of the Greer Lodge



Pack your bags and get ready for...

■ **BUTTERFLY LODGE:** Built in 1914, this lodge in Greer welcomes visitors to learn about the historic cabin that was home to famous Western author, James Willard Schultz, and his artist son Hart Merriam Schultz, known as the Lone Wolf. The lodge is located at the southeast corner of State Route 373 and Colorado Road #1126. For more information, call 928-735-7514.

■ **X-DIAMOND RANCH HORSEBACK RIDING:** Have the need for speed? This premier and private facility provides spontaneous and scenic horseback rides. Call 928-333-2286 for reservations.

■ **GREER LODGE FLY FISHING:** Director of Fly Fishing Chip Chipman and his staff welcome you to learn how to sharpen up your fly fishing skills. Greer Lodge offers three private lakes for single-barbless hook, catch and release fishing. Call 928-735-7216 to schedule your fly fishing lesson.

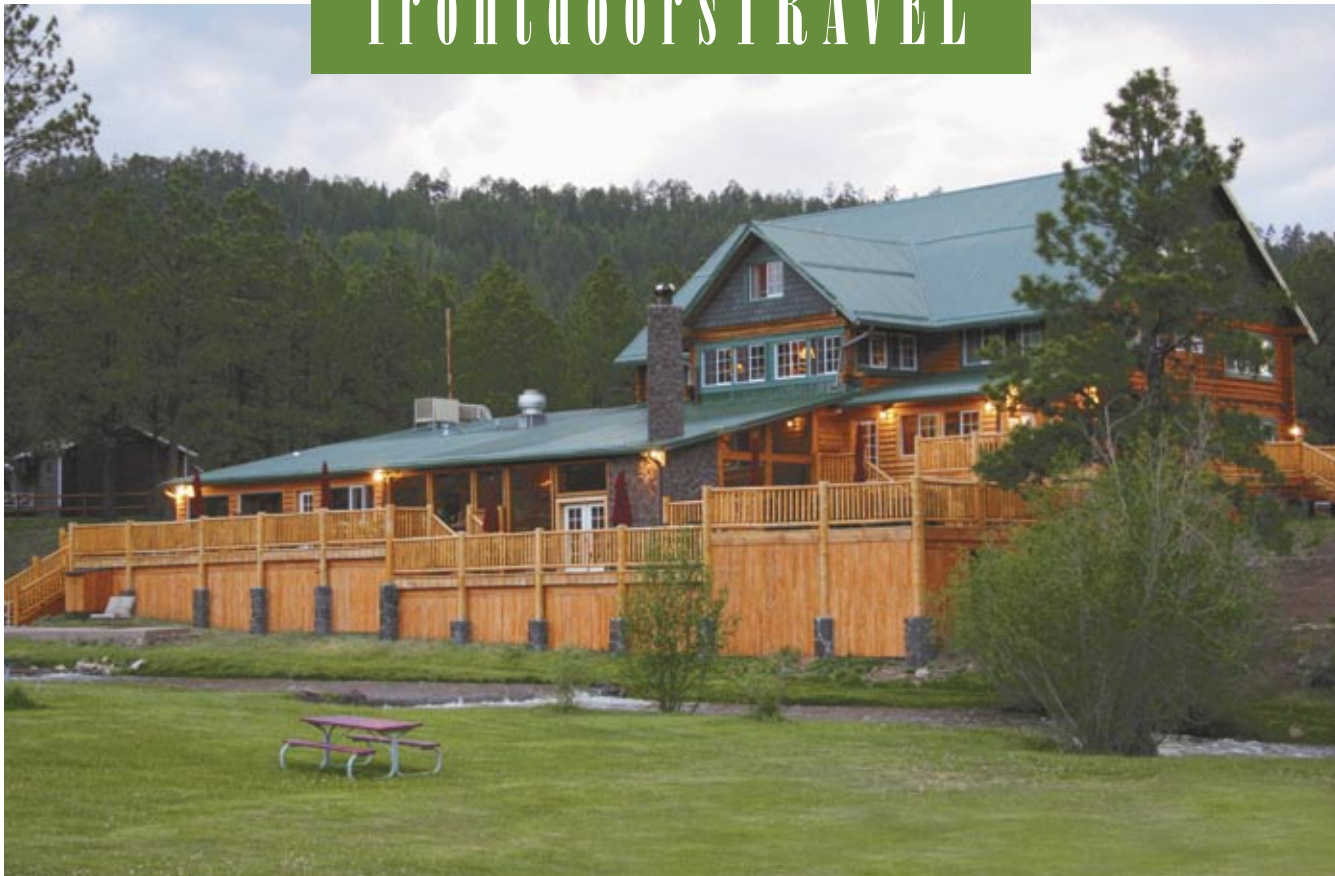
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frontdoorsTRAVEL



the spirit of COMING HOME

S *Seek the truth* is the motto and guiding principle of Doug Sandahl, Paradise Valley resident and custom home-builder who owns the historic Greer Lodge. The power of this simply-stated motto can be seen throughout the beautifully restored Greer Lodge, located in the White Mountains of Greer, Arizona. Hand-painted cracklure wood signs adorn the inside of the lodge and the 373 Grill with inspirational messages such as "Sit Long, Talk Much, Laugh Often," "Where Friends Meet, Hearts Warm," and "Always Kiss Me Goodnight." Sandahl purchased Greer Lodge over a year ago in May of 2004 and has spent nearly \$1.5 million dollars in renovating the property.

In refurbishing the lodge, Sandahl wanted to create the perfect getaway; a place to reconnect, a place with "the spirit of coming home." Sandahl aptly describes the lodge as a "comfortable pair of old loafers." All rooms in the lodge have a rustic, cabin feel of pine walls, beams and ceilings and are comfortably furnished with king-size beds, leather sofas, wooden dressers and plush armchairs, but without televisions or telephones. Even the one TV in the adjacent Greer Lodge 373 Grill is usually turned off, reserved for only the most important news or sports broadcasts. "There's no TV and your cellphones won't work . . . People actually start talking to each other," says Sandahl. The idea is for people to focus on what is most important, each other. The lodge offers a place to do just that.

The lodge, with its 10 guestrooms and 12 surrounding rental cabins, can accommodate up to 118 guests. The facilities are open year-round and offer such amenities as fly-fishing, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hiking, dining and live music. Many couples also find the lodge's bucolic barn or lush meadow to be the perfect place for a special wedding ceremony. Even in the heart of winter, the lodge's fireplaces and new jacuzzi tubs offer warmth and comfort. The lodge also holds the coveted honor of being the closest ski lodge to Sunrise ski resort.

Sandahl's love of the power of music is also at the heart of the Greer Lodge philosophy. Each room in the lodge is equipped with a Bose stereo system and a collection of CDs, including such artists as Enya, Sade, Sting, Norah Jones and local favorite CJ Burton, who penned many of his songs at the lodge about Sandahl's life. Burton often performs at the 373 Grill, featuring live music at least three nights a week. Burton's music touches on various events in Sandahl's life, such as the loss of his father when Sandahl was 19, or his estranged son. Sandahl, who has seven children, readily admits that he has been married for 20 years and divorced for seven. But it is clear that he has found peace in life, and now wants to share it with everyone he can.



Live entertainment and plush accommodations aside, perhaps the best feature of Greer Lodge greets visitors as they sit in the window-lit 373 Grill or out on the vast wood deck. Cutting across 630 feet of the lodge's private property, the pristine water of the Little Colorado River rushes by, cascading over 11 waterfalls and dropping nearly 22 feet. Just beyond the Little Colorado River is an expansive grassy meadow, with a white gazebo and three idyllic ponds stocked for catch-and-release fly fishing. Only a handful of guests are allowed to fish on the private ponds at a time, a welcome relief from the shoulder-to-shoulder experience of many of the lakes in the White Mountains. Sandahl has ambitious plans

to increase the depth of each of the pools and the height of the waterfalls on his private stretch of the Little Colorado River, to make a better habitat for trout and a better fly-fishing experience. Standing in the grassy meadow, watching the wind ripple over the water and seeing huge iridescent trout glide by just beneath the surface, it is hard to imagine how this experience could be improved upon.

Sandahl plans to expand Greer Lodge's accommodations to 75 rooms and adding additional rental cabins for a total of 16. Also in the works are luxurious townhomes and conference facilities. But Sandahl has not lost sight of his motto, "Seek the truth." It is echoed in every room and in every person that works or visits the lodge. "When you check in," Sandahl exclaimed, "I want to welcome you to our home!" ■