

Alaska BEYOND

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Discovering vintners'
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Celebrating scenic seas,
lakes and rivers of the West

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VOLUNTEER VACATIONS

SECOND HOMES

A man in a white shirt and shorts sits on a black lounge chair under a red patio umbrella. The pool is in the foreground with a pink inflatable ring. The background shows a scenic view of mountains under a blue sky with clouds.

FAMILIES ENJOY PROPERTIES THAT
PROVIDE TOGETHER TIME

By M. SHARON BAKER



» Above and right: Activities such as mountain biking are popular at Whitetail Club, where homes are sited amid natural beauty.

Parade to vintage-hydroplane races, there's always something going on, he says.

The family purchased a four-bedroom, 3,000-square-foot home that now sports a hot tub on the deck and a pingpong table in the garage. "There are two bedrooms on the top floor and an open middle floor where double doors open to the deck, so it's a nice gathering spot," Dennis says. The family uses the house about six weeks a year and rents it out at other times through The Lookout's vacation-rental program, which takes care of marketing, reservations and housekeeping.

Dennis, Ann and the kids named their home "More Cowbell" after a funny *Saturday Night Live* skit in which Will Ferrell plays the cowbell to (*Don't Fear*) *The Reaper* by Blue Öyster Cult, and the family extended a "let's have some fun" theme to the decor. For example, there are framed quirky sayings around the house, including one that shows a

THERE ARE FRAMED QUIRKY SAYINGS AROUND THE HOUSE. IT'S ALL PART OF FEELING LIKE THE FAMILY IS TRULY GETTING AWAY.

little boy in a Batman costume and the words, "Be Yourself."

It's all part of feeling like they are truly getting away, Dennis says. "There's no reason to pretend we're not on vacation."

MCCALL

Whitetail Club—a gated, private-membership golf community that sits on southern Payette Lake in McCall, Idaho, and is described as being in the heart of the Salmon River Mountains, provides welcome vacation time for Brett and Kelli, and their two kids. Kelli grew up in Boise, just 110 miles south, and her uncle owned a small cabin at Whitetail Club. Kelli and Brett visited so often, they soon decided to buy their own vacation home there, completing the purchase in 2017.



The couple's new 3,700-square-foot, four-bedroom, five-bath modern Craftsman sits across the street from the 1,300-acre community's Fish & Swim Club, and next to a stocked trout pond that doubles as an ice-skating rink in the winter. The family also enjoys excursions arranged by the club concierge, including quad glamping (riding motorized quad bikes to remote



» Waves roll ashore at Pacific City, with Haystack Rock in the background.

locations where they meet a crew who has already set up camp), as well as skiing, hiking, horseback riding, whitewater rafting, and boating and fishing in nearby rivers and alpine lakes.

Last fall, Brett, who owns a hospitality company, spent five days hanging out at the cabin on a father-daughter trip with his 11-year-old. They skied and took a Whitetail Club cooking class together. “We rarely get a chance to disconnect and [hang out like] that in San Diego,” he notes.

And at Whitetail Club, he says, “We don’t ever have any concerns about what the kids are doing. They can socialize with friends or ride bikes for hours. The community is made up of really great people.”

PACIFIC CITY

Willamette Valley agriculturalist Blake purchased a lot in the Nantucket Shores subdivision, with the help of Shorepine Properties Real Estate Company, long before he met

MacKenzie, a real estate agent. As the waves roll in around Haystack Rock, about a mile offshore from Pacific City, they form some of the most unique curls along the Pacific Ocean—great for surfing, according to sources such as tillamookcoast.com ... and Blake. (At 340 feet tall, the Pacific City Haystack Rock is even taller than the 266-foot Haystack Rock at Cannon Beach.)

“Blake’s passion has always been surfing,” says MacKenzie. “Pacific City is about an hour from [the farm], and Blake’s family has owned a home in Pacific City since he was a little kid. He surfs several times a week year-round—any time he can get away.”

The pair built their own house on Blake’s lot several years ago, turning plans for a bachelor pad into a three-bedroom, two-bath, 2,100-square-foot home complete

with an outdoor shower, which is handy after their two toddlers have explored the beach, as well as after Blake has been surfing.

“We have an open floor plan downstairs, and we built a bunkroom because we often have friends and family coming with us,” MacKenzie adds. Her twin sister, Blake’s older brother’s family, and her or Blake’s parents often join them. “It has six bunkbeds and a couple of cribs.”

They’ve liked this home so much that six months ago they bought another Nantucket Shores lot, on which they will start building a new home once their current house sells. “The lot is in the same subdivision, but with an incredible view looking out on pure ocean [with an unobstructed view of the water],” MacKenzie says. “We plan on making it our retirement home.”

THEIR BOYS LOVE BEING IN PACIFIC CITY.

‘WE SPEND THE DAY AT THE BEACH.’