

Redwood Deck



Michelle had a lot of doggy company at her Big Bear Lake lodge on the Fourth of July. Only two of the four dogs were hers. She also had a badly weathered deck and a dangerously rickety railing high off the ground. By Thanksgiving, she and Stewart and co-owner Fran had a new redwood deck that wrapped around their charming getaway. What a difference \$30,000 can make! Once again, for the third time, Yoshi and Jackson were Thanksgiving guests at the lodge. Once again Fran cooked a turkey.

**Prepared by JACKSON SELLERS
for his friends Michelle & Stewart
Moore and Fran Koschak
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Thanksgiving dawned. Stewart and I went down the hill to B's Backyard Barbecue restaurant on the lake shore, for sausage, eggs and biscuits. Stewart spiced our margaritas from an amazing collection of condiments. A glimmer of a good idea lay here. The restaurant's large kitchen was busy preparing turkeys for pickup by dozens of people smarter than Stewart, Fran and Michelle. With only Yoshi and me as guests, they spent most of the day fixing a feast in the small kitchen of their lodge. Meanwhile, Yoshi and I kicked back, sipped wine in front of a blazing fireplace, and tried, unsuccessfully, to stay out of the way.



Finally, after a marvelous dinner and quick cleanup, exhausted Michelle and Stewart could pay some attention to the Denver-Kansas City football game, which somehow related to the fortunes of their favorite team, the San Diego Chargers. Their cute dogs, Augie and Maggie, dozed on the couch next to Michelle. They didn't give a hoot. Yoshi watched the game politely, but she was truly interested in only one sporting event in the world – Japan's sumo championship bouts in Kyushu. It didn't really matter that she missed it. She knew, with disgusted certainty, that Mongolian Asashoryu, "Blue Dragon of the Morning," would win again for the umpteenth time. He did.

Jackson Sellers