

Lodge-ical News – May 2008

Our Montana clients were quick to disagree with my opening statements last month about the beginning of spring time here. I know what saw and I wasn't lying. But, perhaps I was a little hasty, because as I sat down to write this newsletter last week, it was cold, cloudy, and our mountains were totally covered with snow due to a weekend dusting. Today, however, we are back in the 70s. So, I was correct last month, spring has sprung – and in Montana that means 70s one day and snowing the next.

User Tip: Remote Access

What do you do if you want to use Lodge-ical from a remote location? Although I have touched on this subject before, I want to remind you that this practice is currently being used by some of our Lodge-ical clients. While there are third party products out there which do cost money (i.e. www.gotomypc.com and www.logmein.com), there is a utility called Remote Desktop Connection which comes standard to certain versions of Microsoft Windows. To see if you have it, navigate this way: Start/All Programs/Accessories/Communications/Remote Desktop Connection. I recently had the opportunity to test the response time with one of our clients in the Midwest. It was easy to use and I felt as though I was sitting in their office using Lodge-ical. If you would like more information, please contact us.

New Feature: Recording Deposit Refunds

Some of our clients have asked us to enhance the reservation cancellation routine to better account for the original deposit received and the portion of deposit that is kept as a penalty. This is complete and included in version 7.0. When you cancel a reservation that has a deposit already applied to it, you will want to save the reservation to the Cancelled Reservation File. By doing so, a) the original money received will remain in the system and will appear on your Money Received reports, and b) the portion of the deposit that you return will be identified on the Money Received reports as a Cancellation Refund.

Research and Development: Online Reservations

We are continuing to research the feasibility of building an interface between a reservation booking engine on your website and Lodge-ical. If you are a Lodge-ical client and are interested in helping us with the design and testing of this module, please let us know.