

FRIENDS OF THE BAR U HISTORIC RANCH ASSOCIATION

Box 82, Longview, AB. CANADA T0L 1H0



FALL NEWSLETTER

*Published by the Friends of the Bar U Historic Ranch Association with headquarters at the Pierson House, Bar U Ranch NHS
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By: Avril Chattaway

It snowed two days ago, and I am now sitting at the computer, ready to start my report, but watching a little flock of robins snacking away at the cotoneaster berries, and probably thinking that they might want to be heading south pretty soon! Time to get serious about this report too, but I am scratching my head a bit over "where to start?" The "Year of Change" Or... "The Year of the Flood"?

I'll start with Roger McDonald telling us that he would not be seeking re-election to the Board, so in due course, we had Marian Anton join us. Marian brings heaps of Bar U experience with her, as she was previously employed at the Bar U Ranch as an Historical Interpreter for 7 years, and has remained a volunteer for various events since. Welcome aboard, Marian! And thank you Roger for all your years of contribution to the Friends. Over the winter, Ken & Deb Pigeon decided to move to different pastures, and we welcomed Mike McLean as the Acting Manager for the Bar U Ranch for the 2013 season. Mike, of course, knows the Ranch inside and out! With Shirley Hitchner retiring as Gift Shop Manager, the Friends interviewed some interested ladies and hired Janice Skoreyko for 5 days a week and Erika Smith for 2 days a week. Both have contributed greatly to the Site this season, and the Gift Shop is running strong. With the addition of our new Chefs at the Bar U, namely Shawn and Andrea Massingham, the "Year of Change" was complete! If you didn't get a chance to come to the Bar U for Thursday's Wing Night, you really missed an excellent evening! Good food, good company, and wonderful music! However, we could have done without the drive home in the snowstorm of October 10th after wings, tho!

That brings us to June 10...."The Flood"! High River took the brunt of Mother Nature's wrath, with people displaced for weeks- turning into months, and many businesses ruined. Our hearts go out to all - some of our Friends Directors were affected, and many of the High River based volunteers who come out to the Ranch were displaced from their homes and lost many of their belongings. Albertans are a tough, resilient bunch, but the clean-up has been hard and heart-wrenching. At the Bar U, Pekisko Creek decided to overflow and change its course through the Park, and, while we were lucky that none of the heritage buildings were destroyed, we had a lot of damage on the north side of the creek with the Artefacts' barn being hit hard, as was the Round-up Camp and corrals. Dale Wallator was hired to do the big clean-up, and we commend him and the staff at the Bar U for the tremendous job that was done in pretty short order! We were able to hold the Ranch Rodeo a mere 2 weeks later than scheduled, and in September, we held the Chore Horse Competition - even tho the Arena had turned into a soupy mess thanks to the 2" of rain the day before the event. We set up the driving course on a nearby pasture, and carried on!

Every year I say how much I enjoy being on this Board, and working with such awesome people....board members and their spouses, all our wonderful volunteers and the super staff at the Bar U Ranch and Waterton Park, this year is no exception. Thank you all so very much!
Respectfully submitted,

Avril Chattaway, President
Friends of the Bar U Ranch

The Bar U Show Wagon participated in many of the local Parades this year! Thanks to Mike, Avril and Kim!



Some of the exhibitors at the Chore Horse Competition!



TREASURER'S REPORT

By: Doug Longson

Earnings from the Stockman's Dinner, memberships, grants and our calf crop were sufficient to meet our operating costs.

Casino money was used for a new motor for the 1946 Mercury ½ ton truck, sand for the Arena, and flood reclamation.

A grant was received from the Alberta Community Spirit Program, and was used for advertising and also to help pay for our insurance costs. This program was canceled in the last Provincial Government budget.

Special thanks to Maxine Nelson & Carole Hergert – Friends; Rose Dayment – Payroll; Liz Hergert – Bookkeeping; and Steven Muth – Accounting (Muth and Company donate half of their fee every year).

Thank you to Parks Canada for allowing us to use the Pierson House as our office, and to all the staff for mowing, shovelling, and other maintenance.

Bar U Legacy Fund

By: Doug Longson

The Bar U Legacy Fund is an endowment fund managed for us by The Calgary Foundation. The income from this fund will be used to support the Heritage Ranch Rodeo (prizes, advertising) – our main event- which showcases historical ranching practises.

An endowment fund is a registered fund that never spends the capital contribution, but generates income through investments. Annually, a percentage of the income is distributed to the Friends, and the balance is re-invested in the fund. This way the fund continues to grow, and the gift keeps on giving in greater amounts every year.

The fund is managed by the Calgary Foundation, a non-profit foundation which currently manages over 100 funds for charitable organizations. This ensures that only the income will be available to the Friends; there will never be access to the capital in the fund.

Ways to give:

- **Naming the Friends of the Bar U for funeral donations**
- **Tax deductible charitable gifts – small or large, one-time or ongoing. Donations can be made on-line at www.thecalgaryfoundation.org**
- **Designations in wills or trusts**
- **Bequests of life insurance policies, real property, stocks and bonds**

Contributing to the Friends of the Bar U Historic Ranch Legacy Fund now, means you will be a supporter of the Historic Bar U Ranch forever!

For further information, please contact **Rosemary Brocklebank** at 403-652-7656, or **Doug Longson** at 403-395-3336, or write to us at PO Box 82, Longview, AB T0L 1H0.

2013 - SPONSORSHIP RECOGNITION

| <u>Contributor's Name</u> | <u>Company</u> | <u>Level of Recognition</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| DALE WALLATOR | SUDA ENTERPRISES | TRAIL BOSS |
| LARRY EVANS | PARADIGM PERCHERONS | TRAIL BOSS |
| JIM GORDON | LEGACY OIL & GAS | RANCH BOSS |
| ELSON McDOUGALD | | FOREMAN |

Our donors make the Bar U Site personal in terms of artifacts donated to the Site, indicating a generous community that values history, sharing and learning. Donations made to the site indicate a desire to maintain a vibrant, historically relevant site.



SIGNAGE COMMITTEE REPORT By: Rick Smith

The Signage Committee had a very busy year producing plaques recognizing the many donors who generously supported the Bar U this past year. Several new "Brand Boards" are under production and I would like to thank Lory Moore for taking this project on. The Board of Directors at its October meeting reviewed four exciting proposals for the development of a new sign promoting the Bar U National Historic Site to traffic on Highway 22. A design concept has been approved and the Board will be reviewing the final design and budget in due course. The new sign will be located by the large cowboy currently on display beside Highway 22 and we plan to have it completed and installed in time for the 2014 season. In closing, I would sincerely like to thank all the members of the board of Directors and Site Management Team for their advice to the Signage Committee throughout the year, especially their comments regarding the highway sign.

VOLUNTEER REPORT By: Rosemary Brocklebank

Thank you to everyone for volunteering this year! Your dedication to the Bar U is amazing, and we hope to see you all next year!



Bill Dunn



Herman Wile

ANNUAL TRAIL RIDE REPORT

By: Tony Webster

Friends of the Bar U Ranch - 13th Annual Trail and Wagon Ride

-Cancelled-

Another casualty of the disastrous flood of June 2013, the decision was made to cancel the annual trail ride with the Friends of the Bar U Ranch scheduled for August 3. To proceed with the ride would have caused severe damage to the hillsides and the grasslands which local ranchers are attempting to preserve. Creek crossings along the trail were inundated with up to 4 feet of silt and many areas are boggy making travel difficult for horses, riders and the accompanying wagon & team.

Friends of the Bar U Ranch wish to thank the Spruce Ranch Co-Op for the intended access to their property along a planned trail. It would have been an enjoyable tour.

As some local sports teams (and farmers/ranchers) often say . . . "There's always next year!" Riders who have already purchased tickets to this event will be/have been contacted for reimbursement.



2013 Ranch Rodeo Report

By: Marian Anton

The Ranch Rodeo scheduled for August 11th was cancelled due to the wet conditions, so we chose a new date and hoped for the best! We all dug in, spent many hours on the phone, made changes on the fly, and the result was an incredibly successful day for the Bar U! Many thanks to Mike, Patrick, and Jean for all the help and support with last minute details! We really do have a great team!

Finding cows for the cow milking was a struggle right up to the days before the event, - thanks to Renie, Avril and Mike for not giving up! In the end, we used the youngest and fittest of the Bar U Shorthorns, and those big roans really tested the mettle of the cowboys! A true crowd pleaser, those big cows were tough and noisy, and to the credit of the guys on the mugging end, 7 out of the 10 teams got the milking done!! The horse race finished off the day for the crowd in fine style, with one horse from the Esser team bucking down the arena, and the crowd loved it!

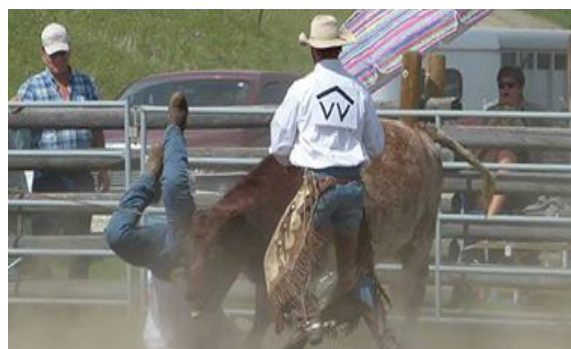
We had 10 teams entered when all was said and done, and I really admire the teams who, rather than cancel out completely due to other commitments, found replacements for their team members and showed up because they truly enjoy the Bar U Ranch Rodeo and continue to support us!

The first place winner of the silver buckles made by Ralph Nelson was the Meadow Springs Team - Kent Nelson, Calin Duce, Colt Duce, and Tav Neilson - with a score of 39 points - they placed in every event. We had a tie for second place at 31 points between Northfork Grazing and Circle S. The tie was decided by a foot race won by Nolan Pharis of the Northfork team, making Northfork the second place winners of the monogrammed halters from Cowboy Country, and Circle S placed third, winning a prize package from Cattleman's Corner. The top hand was judged by Don Keimele and Tom Bews, and the winner of the silver bit by Ralph Nelson was Tyler Sawley of the Circle S.

Meadow Springs - 2013 Winners
Northfork Grazing - 2nd place winners



Many thanks to Clay Chattaway for stepping in to judge at the last minute, Rob Bergevin for his professionalism under pressure, our wonderful timers and scorekeepers, and thanks always to Renie for being her calm and efficient self, Kim Anton for keeping the show flowing as Arena Director, and thanks also to the suppliers of the cattle, the haulers of the cattle, the helpers with the cattle – it is amazing how much effort and planning goes on behind the scenes to make the whole day seem to flow effortlessly! Good job everyone!



State of the Bar U Address By: Mike McLean

I would like to start off with some numbers. First, 2500, the number of hours volunteers logged at the Bar U this year. Next 2013 or MMXIII in Roman numerals, the two thousand and thirteenth year anno domini, the thirteenth year of the 3rd millennium and according to the Chinese zodiac the year of the snake or “water” snake. Maybe I should have checked out the Chinese astrology earlier...

“Expect an exciting year, not necessarily for the faint of heart... Be bolder and more open-minded as this year unfolds...do your best to get organized as the year begins. Setbacks, delays, and a need for some do-over’s can challenge everyone’s patience and resolve. In a year where standard ways of doing things may no longer serve the common good, it’s vital for everyone to keep a cool head.”

The United Nations declared 2013 the year of water of cooperation to highlight the challenges of managing water resources. 2013 for southern Alberta, specifically our foothills is the year of the volunteer because without the help of thousands of untold heroes, our Site and our communities would not have progressed much past the devastation of the June 20th flash flood which has become the most expensive natural disaster in Canadian history, surpassing the Quebec Ice storm of 1998.

It took 9 days to get the Bar U re-opened for Canada Day celebrations and 63 days to re open the north side of Pekisko Creek. The Friends of the Bar U Trail Ride was cancelled for the first time ever because of wet conditions.



The Ranch Rodeo was postponed and through the tremendous efforts of our volunteers was able to be held on August 25 to rave reviews. We had to move the Chore Horse Competition from the arena to a recently restored grass corral. We did have our victories in 2013. Pre flood planned projects went ahead. New septic tanks were installed on site, the Visitor Center is now getting its water from a new concrete cistern located in the middle of the parking lot and the Site will get a new bridge this fall. The new restaurant contractors, the Chefs from the Bar U, Shawn and Andrea have had a busy season continuing on with the popular Thursday Wing Nights and adding a Sunday evening Prime Rib Dinner night, both of which continue into December. The new Manager of the Bar U Gift Shop, Janice had stock flying off the shelves, namely the big hit of 2013, used lariats!

Visitation to the Site was only off about 1500 people from our record year in 2012. This year 15,631 people passed through our gates. I would like to thank all of the efforts of our volunteers, staff, the Waterton Field Unit and Parks Canada for the support they lent the Bar U Ranch NHS through its trials this year. Going forward, the Bar U is open

for business! In 2014 the NHS needs to come up with new ways of generating revenue while continuing to offer visitors a top notch experience. I believe the Bar U is one of the best connections to fill the feeling of disconnect with the land our society feels today and we will continue to regal friends, neighbours and visitors from around the world with the amazing success story of Canadian ranching.

ARTIFACTS COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Bette Muren

Our committee started up in early May and we had our usual contingent of eager Volunteers. We had a very sizable donation of artifacts, from the Murray Phillips family, who operated a Hardware Store in Milo, established back in the mid 1860's, to the best of my knowledge. We started to accession a few of the items, but realized we had a lot to sort through. Then came the June flood, and everything came to a standstill. Due to many of our volunteers, and my own, flood dilemmas, I have not yet been able to get out there to assess how much damage, was done to the Artifacts building. I know that there were many that came to the rescue. We have much to be thankful for, and everyone has their own story.

Sadly, our friend George Morgan suffered a major stroke, and has been hospitalized. Roger and Marion McDonald had major damage done to their home, as did Nora and Gordon Tettensor, and Mary Robson. We are all surviving, and determined to pick up the pieces in 2014.

We will look forward to that, and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner when we can all get together again. I send my sincere thanks to everyone for all your support.

CATTLE COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Brian Garstin

I am in the process of canceling the contract with the Alberta Shorthorn Association, and we are asking that the cows be removed in November. The calves will be weaned on October 28th and sold in Stavely. We are going to cull out some of the older Longhorn cows, and the cows owned by Jack Shier will remain over the winter. No decision has been made yet as to how many or what cows the Friends will purchase to replace the cow herd. As the bred cow sales are upcoming, we will have to make that decision soon. There is ample feed for the winter.



STOCKMAN'S DINNER REPORT

By: Lory Moore

The Annual Stockman's Dinner will be held on January 25, 2014 at the Memorial Centre in High River. Families being honored this year are: Carlos and Mary Jane (Noble) Cowling; Joseph and Elizabeth Fisher; and George and Minetta Mowat. Tickets for the Dinner are priced at \$60.00 each, and will be available in mid-December at High River Co-op; The Business Centre, High River; Classic Rodeo, Nanton, and Eyes 360 in Nanton.

GIFT SHOP REPORT

By: Rose Dayment

This past season has gone by very quickly. Summer weather was in short supply this year. The site was closed for a short while after the flood and inclement weather later caused the cancellation and then rescheduling of the Ranch Rodeo. But throughout all of this our new manager of the gift shop, Janice Scoreyko, remained happy and made people feel very welcome. She introduced a new arrangement in the gift shop which works well. She printed up and displayed biographies of the consignors, for the public to read. She played the CD's that were

available for sale, so the public could hear what they sounded like. She introduced some new items for sale this year and they appear to have done quite well. This year the Board made the decision to hire an Assistant Gift Shop manager instead of having volunteers for the 2 days per week. This position was filled by Erika Smith.

As reported to me by Janice, the season was very busy and well supported by members, staff and the local residents. The used lariat ropes were a total hit and 139 were sold. They were bought by people from Belgium, Switzerland, Scotland and Norway, and of course many parts of Canada now have a lariat rope hanging in their home. One of the most outstanding "Hat's Off" moments goes to one of our consignor's, Janet Fiest Sippola. We sold thirty of her Light Draft Horse greeting cards to the organizer of the Calgary Stampede Draft Horse Club. Great job Janet!

The Board members extend many thanks to Janice who worked hard at making her first season with the gift shop a success and to Erika, who did a remarkable job as the part-time manager

HERITAGE RANCH RODEO RESULTS By: Avril Chattaway

The results of the Heritage Ranch Rodeo finals from Edmonton are as follows:

- First - Masabi Ranch, Nanton - Spurs
- Second - Crow Ranch, Thorsby - Rawhide Bosals
- Third - R Bar Ranch, Bluffton - Breast Collars
- Saddle Bronc Champ - Rem Hollowath, Mesabi Ranch
- Working Cow Horse - Geoff Hoar, San Emideo Ranch



The Bar U Team (Meadow Springs Ranch) did very well, and made it to the finals on Tuesday night.

Executive & Directors of the Friends of the Bar U

EXECUTIVE

President Avril Chattaway - 403-646-5577
1st VP Renie Blades - 403-646-5753
2nd VP Lory Moore - 403-646-0057
Treasurer Doug Longson - 403-395-3336
Secretary Rose Dayment - 403-558-3936

DIRECTORS

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Bruce McNeil | - 403-650-5167 | Tony Webster | - 403-646-0151 |
| Rick Smith | - 403-558-0101 | Marian Anton | - 403-998-6428 |
| Brian Garstin | - 403-558-2219 | Roy McLean | - 403-395-2154 |
| Rosemary Brocklebank | - 403-652-7656 | Bette Muren | - 403-601-2563 |