

# FRIENDS OF THE BAR U HISTORIC RANCH ASSOCIATION

Box 82, Longview, AB. CANADA T0L 1H0



## FALL NEWSLETTER

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I've watched the wind blow almost all of the leaves off the trees around the countryside the last few days and realized it's time to get writing my portion of the fall newsletter for the Bar U! I'll start by thanking Rick Smith for his contribution to the Friends board as he left us this past spring and we welcomed Karen Ritchie to our midst. We also said goodbye to Mike McLean in his capacity as Site Manager and welcomed Travis Weber to the Bar U and now look forward to working with Travis in the future, and Mike, as he is staying on as the Product Development Officer – Special Projects.



In June we were able to get our arena overhauled and put to more use over the season. I was able to attend a few of our Special Events, wish I could have got to more but... We had lots of folks attend our July 1st celebrations, and about a 1,000 visitors for the Ranch Rodeo with this being our first year at having a Western Art Market in conjunction with it. Also, in July, after an extensive letter writing campaign, we were able to be part of the exciting announcement that George Lane of Bar U fame is to be inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners in the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. The first announcement was made at the Bar U, then another before the chuckwagon races one evening during the Stampede.

The induction will take place in Oklahoma City in April 2016. Other events that took place on site were the Canadian Border Collie Championship Trials, the Canadian Cowboy Challenge, the annual Stew Cook-off and the Chore Horse Competition.

Upcoming will be our Kids' Christmas Party on December 6, Stockmen's Dinner set for January 30, 2016, then after that our AGM, which should be Sunday, March 6, 2016. Many, many thanks to all the Directors, Parks staff and wonderful volunteers we have here. We are so lucky to live in this part of the world.



**Avril Chattaway**  
**President**

### TREASURER'S REPORT

By: Doug Longson

Earnings from the Stockman's Dinner, Trail Ride, memberships, grants, and our calf crop were sufficient to meet our operating costs. Casino money was used to rebuild the arena, and to install fencing around the sign at Hwy 540. Thank you to everyone who volunteered at our Casino, held this year on March 20th and 21st, 2015. A grant was received from Foothills Community Support Services and was used in support of our volunteers.

Special thanks to Maxine Nelson & Carole Hergert– Friends; Rose Dayment – Payroll; Liz Hergert and Steven Muth – accounting (Muth & Company donate half their fee every year). Thank you Parks Canada for allowing us to use the Pierson House as our office - and all the staff for mowing, shoveling, 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 (\$4,294 this year) is used to support the Heritage Ranch Rodeo (prizes, advertising) - our main event - which showcases historical ranching practices.

An endowment fund (current balance \$105,767) is a registered fund that never spends the capital contribution but generates income through investments. Annually, a percentage of the income (4% currently) 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 (ten year compound return 7.2%), 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](http://www.thecalgaryfoundation.org)
- Designations in wills or trust.
- 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 652-7656 or Doug Longson at 395-3336 or write to us at P.O. Box 82 Longview AB T0L 1H0.

Donor Recognition for 2015 included George Whitney for the donation of a saddle made for Allen Baker, former owner of the Bar U; Cody and Kristine Longson for the donation of equipment & labour to seed, fertilize and spray the green feed crop; Tom and Rosemarie Bews, and Cody Veilleux, for the donation of cattle for the 2015 Ranch Rodeo. Many thanks to all for your continued support of the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site!

### ADVERTISING/SIGNAGE COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Charlotte Esser,

Karen Ritchie & Kim Anton

It was a successful year for our committee. We ventured beyond our local advertising, and started promoting the Bar U globally with our “Friends of the Bar U” Facebook page. Our opening campaign was held in June with numbers reaching just shy of 24,000 views! We continued promoting this way throughout the season with consistent progress. “Friends” will plan on sustaining this in the future, to keep our online visitors informed. Karen Ritchie has done a tremendous job of updating our website with current news, pictures and results of the special events that have taken place during our 2015 season. We invite you to visit our website for a recap of the year’s events. Jim Jorawsky was hired to complete the work on the “Coming Event” signs on the highway, north and south sides of the Bar U Entrance. He added a gate at the south location for easier access. He also fenced around the new Bar U sign and the cowboy to protect them from damage, and Kim suggests that some sort of low-maintenance grasses be planted in the box under the sign come spring, to choke out the weeds that continue to grow in there. This committee sincerely thanks the board and the staff of the Bar U for their continued support.

### VOLUNTEER REPORT

By: Rosemary Brocklebank & Shelagh Weston

A huge thank you goes out to all of our terrific and dedicated volunteers! We believe that all of the hours of work that were contributed went a long way to enhance the Bar U visitors’ experience. Whether it was in the gift shop, the Pierson House, at one of our many special events, cataloging artifacts, working in the garden, or one of the countless other activities, it all was greatly appreciated, and did not go unnoticed. Be warned..... We now have your numbers and will be in touch next year! Thank you all again, we couldn’t hold such great events without your support!!!



### ANNUAL TRAIL RIDE REPORT

By: Brian Garstin



The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of The Bar U Trail Ride was held on August 1, 2015 at the Bar S Ranch. The day was great, perfect temperature and a great ride, many thanks to the Chattaway family for hosting us. We had 57 riders, 6 people who rode in the wagon and 9 volunteers. The lunches were provided by the Chefs of the Bar U, and for the first time, safety vests were worn by the volunteers to set them apart. This was well received. Volunteers were Charlotte Esser, Warren and Marty Webber, Karen and Emily Ritchie, Avril and Clay Chattaway, and Brian and Tamara Garstin. The teamster was Ross Fritz.

Following the ride, The Chattaway’s kindly hosted a BBQ.

### CATTLE COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Brian Garstin

28 calves were sold at Foothills Livestock Auction, Stavely on the 28th of September - 13 steers averaging 613lb. and 15 heifers weighing 533lbs. 2 Longhorn cows were bought from Cody Veilleux. Although they were purchased as dry cows, one did calve quite late. The calf remains with the cows for now. Brian took the bull home on Sept 29th to winter with his bulls. There are 30 cows at present. 250 round greenfeed bales were produced on the Bar U to be fed to the cows over the winter. This should be ample feed for this winter with some left for next year.

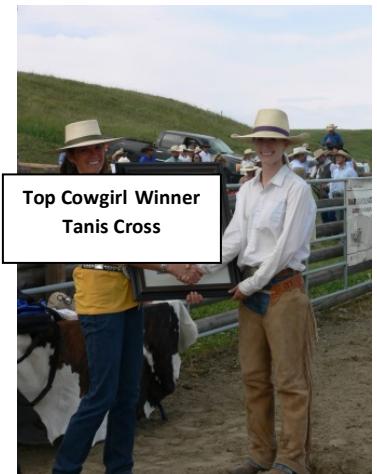
## 2015 Ranch Rodeo Report

By: Marian Anton

The 2015 Ranch Rodeo was another incredible success, with a crowd of over nearly 1,000, a beautiful sunny day, excellent competitors and, of course, our wonderful crew of volunteers. The Pekisko Creek Trade Fair and Art Show (new this year) was well received by visitors, and the exhibitors were pleased with the event. 14 western gear makers and artists participated, as well as the Bar U Gift Shop. We have had a few suggestions on how to improve the trade fair for next year, which we will work on. Many thanks to Patrick, Corbin and the rest of the staff for getting the tents set up and helping in so many ways.

The Ranch Horse Competition was new this year as well, and went very well on Sunday morning, with 9 competitors out of a possible 12 teams. The new arena sand was a huge hit with the riders – they all thanked us for going the extra mile to provide a top-quality competition arena. Peter Swales judged, and we did have some early morning spectators in the stands. The winner of the silver buckle handcrafted by Peter Swales was Geoff Hoar, from the San Emideo team. The Ranch Horse Competition will now be a mandatory part of the Ranch Rodeo competition. The rodeo events went very well again this year. Thank you to Mike McLean for his top-notch announcing, thank you to our judges – Peter Swales, Steve Mason, Paul Phillips, and Art Cox, and to our timers and scorekeepers Karen Ritchie, Jessica Manning and Lee McLean. Our flag bearers, Joey and Ellie Mclean were awesome. Thank you Avril, for doing a great job as Arena Director!

The winner was the Meadow Springs team (again!), second place went to the Grizzly Springs team from Waterton (their first year here), and third place went to San Emideo. The Top Hand award, judged by Tom Bews and Don Kiemele, went to Ryan McGlynn from The Quill team; the Top Cowgirl award, judged by Renie Blades, went to Tanis Cross from the Flying E team; and the Top Using Horse award, judged by Clay Chattaway, went to Dustin Gonnert from the Remington Land and Cattle Co. team. Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors: Ralph Nelson, Foothills Auction (Rob & Sharon Bergevin), Clay and Avril Chattaway, Kim Anton, Kim Taylor - Slidin' U Photography, Deryk Pitts Saddlery, and of course the Friends of the Bar U! We have had an offer from one of our Trade Fair exhibitors to sponsor prizes for next year already!



## HERITAGE RANCH RODEO RESULTS

By: Avril Chattaway



The winner of the 2015 Ranch Rodeo Finals was the Northfork Grazing Co-op team from Cowley. The Bar U Team (Meadow Springs) came in second, and San Emideo was third. Mike Nelson from the Northfork team won the Top Bronc Rider, and Jesse Thomson, also from Northfork team, won the Top Working Ranch Horse honours.

## BAR U RANCH SITE MANAGER'S REPORT

By: Travis Weber

This year the Bar U Ranch celebrated its 20th anniversary of being open to the public. It is a significant milestone for the site, staff, volunteers, and community. 20 years of storytelling, recognizing our elders and ancestors lives, and connecting Canadians to the history, culture, and contribution of the ranching industry in Canada.

This season, the site hosted approximately 17,000 visitors. Although this is a small decrease in the annual attendance from last year, it is still the second best year for visitation in the history of the site being open to the public. As we move forward one of the premier questions I have been posed is how to increase attendance with a goal of 30,000 visitors annually. While this is a daunting task we can build on our already stellar daily offer, special events, tour groups, and school groups to achieve this goal. One of the initiatives we are looking at is a partnership with Live Nation, a group that puts on concerts across Canada. We are currently working on concert events for both 2016 and 2017 that would attract thousands of Canadians to the Bar U Ranch.

We had a couple additions to our special events this year. Some of these events were put on by Parks or the Friends of the Bar U, and others were put on in partnership with outside organizations. The Canadian Cowboy Challenge, Canadian Border Collie Association National Championship, and 20th Anniversary were new events that highlight different skills and important milestones. A pack horse race was added to the Chuck Wagon Cook off event, we plan to continue this competition in the years to come. We had a big increase in visitors to our Canada Day and Parks day events. Over 1,000 visitors on Canada Day! This goes to show what leaps and bounds can be made when you offer excellent programming on significant days.



Federal infrastructure Investments for the site were announced during our 20th celebration. The site received \$4 million dollars to spend on deferred maintenance projects. These projects include the stabilization of four of the treasured buildings on site; the Work Horse Barn, Bunkhouse/Self feeder. Slaughterhouse, and Machine Shed. This money will also be used to keep the exterior of all buildings on site in good repair for future generations to enjoy. These projects will be ongoing throughout the next five years so it will be our job at the site to balance progress without diminishing the experience of visitors.

I came on as National Historic Site and Visitor Experience Manager on July 30th. Previous to that I was working at the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site, where I worked the last five years as the lead on the Métis Reconciliation Projects. My work on this project included implementing the Heritage Camping Experience and developing relationships with Aboriginal communities and stakeholders around Rocky Mountain House. Prior to joining Parks Canada I was the project coordinator for a living history interpretive Métis camp. I have a wide variety of experience managing special events, volunteer opportunities, and interpretive programs. Along with a diploma in Management Studies, I am a certified Historic Weapons Supervisor and trainer.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Mike McLean for acting as the Bar U Ranch Site Manager since 2013. Mike's first summer as acting site manager was the year of the great flood. Despite those significant challenges, Mike has been a good leader for the site and a much appreciated colleague on the field unit management team. Mike will stay on as Special Projects Officer for the Bar U Ranch. His experience, positive attitude, passion and knowledge base are valuable assets to the site and he has been extremely hospitable and helpful to me during this time of transition. I look forward to working with him and the rest of the team to make the best of the opportunities at the Bar U Ranch. Please join me in thanking Mike for his contribution these past two years. A big thank you to everyone, the staff, volunteers, and special guests for your commitment and enthusiasm. You make the Bar U Ranch an amazing place to be.

### **ARTIFACTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

By: Bette Muren

The year 2015 was a productive year for the Artefacts crew. Most of all the current accessioning is complete. An Inventory was done of the C -Can. The Artefacts belonging to Parks Canada and the Friends, and stored in the foaling barns, have been identified and separated. I can't thank the Curators from Parks Canada enough for their expertise in identifying and sorting all of the items. The crew did an amazing job of cleaning all the residue from the flood, not an easy task. It was a privilege for me to meet these people in person and I know that they will be very supportive with any questions and guidance in the future. We welcomed Janet Vallance as a new volunteer this year in the Artefacts. and I know we are enjoying her presence. Special recognition goes to the men of our crew, Frank Bedu, Lorne Fuller, and Murray Phillips, for your unfailing dedication to the site, and especially for your attention to the garden. I know Marcie appreciated your help. On a sad note we lost a very dedicated Volunteer, Nora Tettensor, who was with the Artefacts Committee from day one. She did get to see all the original gang at the 20th Anniversary. I know she had a spectacular time!!! In closing, I wish to thank all the Volunteers who make things happen, at the Bar U and I would also like to thank Patrick for all his help.

### **STOCKMAN'S DINNER REPORT**

By: Lory Moore

The plans for the 2016 Stockman's Dinner are firming up well. We will be hosting our annual event at the Highwood Memorial Centre on Saturday, January 30. Our programme is coming along really well. We have finalized our honoured families, and will be featuring the families of Faro & Rachel DePaoli – Meadowbank, David & Mary Evans – Millarville, and Samuel & Susan McBee – Longview.

There will be a terrific silent auction, and for those of you who have had a chance at the bidding in previous years, you will be excited again. That said, any works or products you would like to add to the auction are greatly appreciated. Contact Rosemary Brocklebank (403-652-7656) to participate.

### **GIFT SHOP REPORT**

By: Rose Dayment

There have been some changes with the gift shop this past season. Our new gift shop manager, Kathie Selbee, created a very pleasing new look to the shop. She painted the walls and stained the shelving units. She managed to find some appropriate used furniture and refinished it if needed. The shop now has a "Kids Korner" which was well visited by the young people. When setting up the shop she paid a visit to the Friends' artefacts and found some items that she wanted to display to add some historical flavor. There were many compliments throughout the season from visitors. Again this season there were several bus tours from the U.S. that made regular stops and even with the exchange on the dollar there was increased revenue from these tourists. The weather co-operated throughout the summer and the items offered for sale in the shop appealed to the many customers. For the upcoming season Kathie is exploring a new sale item for the gift shop. Kathie would like to thank everyone who supported the gift shop and a special thank you to her assistant gift shop manager, Erika Smith, for her help and support this past season. The Board members would like to thank Kathie for all her hard work in making her first season such a success and to Erika for her pleasant manner in performing her duties.

