



2016
Friends of the Bar U
Board of Directors

FRIENDS OF THE BAR U HISTORIC RANCH ASSOCIATION



FALL NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT’S REPORT

By: Marian Anton

Hello, all! For those that weren’t at the AGM last March, and for those that I haven’t met yet, I would like to introduce myself as the new President of the Friends of the Bar U. Our Past-President, Avril Chattaway, dedicated 6 years to the position, and was absolutely wonderful as the head of our committee – tireless, diplomatic, enthusiastic, and good-natured through thick and thin! She stepped down this year, so she would have time to devote to her many other interests, not to mention her family! I would like to extend my most heartfelt thanks to her on behalf of myself, and the members of the board, for all she has done, and continues to do, for the Bar U! From my own perspective, I have to admit that she has set the bar very high for those that follow in this position! I will continue to do my very best to fill her shoes! We said farewell to two of our board members this past year, and I would like to extend a huge thank you to Kim Anton, and to Warren Webber, for their invaluable contributions to our board, and for all they did to help make our various projects and special events a success! Our new board members are Marj Bird, and Gordon Stephenson. We welcome them again, and thank them for jumping in with both feet, taking on numerous tasks, and for making 2016 a wonderful season at the Bar U! We hope you have enjoyed your first year! More fun to come! I would like to thank our new Site Manager, Travis Weber, for his hard work on the Site throughout the year, as well as for his vision for the future of the Ranch. His ideas and plans have seen many new and exciting things happening at the Bar U, and I am sure that we will see much more in the upcoming season.

Marian Anton,

President

George Lane Induction Report

By: Avril Chattaway, Past President

In April 2016 Avril & Clay Chattaway, Donna & Doug Longson, Shelagh & Steven Weston and Mike McLean headed to Oklahoma City, OK to help celebrate the induction of the late George Lane into the Hall of Great Westerners in The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. George Lane was an incredible man, having come up from the States as a cowhand, managing the Bar U Ranch then eventually owning it and making a huge mark in the agricultural industry with not only being a prominent cattle rancher, but running a large farming operation, raising and showing the best Percherons in the world, being involved in cattle politics, and being one of the ‘Big Four’ instrumental in starting the Calgary Stampede. George Lane Jr. and other descendants stood on the stage and accepted a bronze and a plaque honoring Mr. Lane. Our federal MP, John Barlow, submitted a video highlighting Mr. Lane for the nomination process, and the crowd at the banquet gave John a standing ovation after the video played! It was an incredible event.



TREASURER’S REPORT

By: Doug Longson

Earnings from the Stockman's Dinner, Trail Ride, memberships, grants, and our calf crop was sufficient to meet our operating costs. Casino money was used to fence the sign at Hwy 22, and to repair the 930 Case tractor. The next Casino will be held in 2018. A grant was received from Foothills Community Support Services and was used in support of our volunteer program. Special thanks to Maxine Nelson & Carole Hergert- Friends; Rose Dayment - Payroll; Liz Hergert and Steven Muth - accounting (Muth & Company). 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 (\$4,201 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 \$112,300) 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. Donations to the fund this year totaled \$5,320, comprised of \$3,020 from donation boxes on site, and \$2,300 from functions held on site. 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
- 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.

ADVERTISING/SIGNAGE COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Charlotte Esser & Karen Ritchie

It was a successful collaboration among committee members and parks staff to ensure that our social media advertising was continually updated throughout the year. Karen has done a tremendous job keeping our "Friends Website" current with news and special events results for the 2016 season. Our committee was busy this year both online and in the real world. Facebook posts continue to keep the public engaged and we receive a number of queries through our web page from people planning to come and visit. Visit our web page at <http://www.friendsofthebaru.com>. You can find pictures and results of our events held throughout the year. Our members agreed the chuckwagon is very significant to the Bar U, so we developed and digitized our own "Friends of the Bar U" Logo. You will see more of this logo in the future with all of our advertising. Donor recognition plaques are up to date and on display at the site. This committee is grateful for the continued support from the board members and the staff of the Bar U. Thank you!



VOLUNTEER REPORT

By: Shelagh Weston

To all of our volunteers, a big THANK YOU. Once again the Bar U had a very successful season, with record setting visitation. All of the activities our volunteers undertake make a huge difference to our visitors' experience at the Bar U Ranch. Please know that the contribution of all of our volunteers does not go unnoticed. Whether you pull weeds from gardens, paint picnic tables, greet guests, help behind the scenes at one of our many special events, catalogue artifacts, pour coffee for visitors to Round Up Camp, or one of the numerous other activities, no matter how small the task, it all helps to make the Ranch a very special place. You should be proud of the work



you do and know that we are proud of all of our very special volunteers. We look forward to seeing you again in 2017, for what should prove to be another very busy and, I am sure, successful season.

ANNUAL TRAIL RIDE REPORT

By: Brian Garstin



The 16th annual trail ride was held on August 6, 2016. Many thanks to Gordon and Wendy Cartwright for hosting the event. The paper work was completed for a temporary field authorization that was required by the Alberta Government. Gordon led us through a beautiful portion of their ranch and explained many of the aspects of the native grassland. There were 51 people in total, 11 riding in the wagon. The wagon was handled very capably by Ross Fritz. No major incidents or injuries occurred, despite various wasp nests. Mother Nature co-operated by holding off the rain for the day. Volunteers included Brian and Tamara Garstin, Christine Nolette, Avril and Clay Chattaway, Wayne and Karen Ritchie, and Christine

Longson DVM. The lunches were ordered from Rusty Spur Catering, and everyone enjoyed them. The Trail Ride showed a profit of \$3220.

CATTLE COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Brian Garstin

16 heifer calves and 15 steer calves were sold on October 7, 2016 at Foothills Auction, Stavelly. They brought \$28,371.00. The heifer calves averaged 533lbs @ \$156.66/cwt. The steer calves averaged 578lbs @ \$182.75/cwt. The calves were sold with the Friends' new brand, U7 over half diamond on the Right Rib. Thanks to Bart and Rosemary who graciously donated the brand to the Friends. One black bull was sold in August, as well as 2 dry cows and 1 cull cow. There are currently 27 commercial cows in the herd, plus 2 longhorn cows. Current plans are to purchase 3 younger cows in November, and a new bull in the spring. We have 142 round bales of greenfeed from the 2016 year, and 60 2-year old bales of greenfeed. This should be more than enough to winter the cows.

2016 RANCH RODEO REPORT

By: Charlotte Esser

This year's Ranch Rodeo was a great success. It was a beautiful sunny day in the foothills and the "Mighty Bar U Ranch" provided the perfect setting for a rodeo! The day started with our Pekisko Creek Trade Fair and Art Show which ran from 10am-5pm. This was the second year for the trade fair; we had 12 vendors plus the Bar U Gift Shop! At the request of the vendors from last year, parks staff re-located the tents to be closer to the arena. This was very well received, as the exhibitors found the crowds taking a break from the hot sun to come over and visit. Special thanks to all the parks staff for providing assistance to "The Friends" in so many ways to make this day is possible. This was the second year for the Ranch Horse Competition as well, which started at 10am. All 12 teams sent their top ranch horse to participate in the event, with points going towards their final score in the rodeo. Jessica Manning announced the morning performance. The top ranch horses were here at the Bar U that morning! Peter Swales judged the event; he presented Jared Sherman of Soderglen Ranch with a one of a kind handcrafted buckle made by Peter himself.



place went to Bluebird Valley from Chain Lakes, and third went to Meadow Springs Ranch Mountain View. Top Ranch judged by Tom Bews and Don

We saw a very enthusiastic crowd of nearly 1200 as Rob Bergevin announced the rodeo. Lewis Peterson sang Oh Canada as our flag bearer, Jaycee Palmer, entered the arena in the grand opening. Our judges were Peter Swales, Wayne Schlosser, Steve Mason and Paul Phillips. Score keeper was Carol Lyall, with Jessica Manning, Maxine Schlosser, Karen Ritchie and Marj Bird as our timers.

First place winner of the Bar U Ranch Rodeo 2016 was Soderglen Ranch from Airdrie. Second



Ranch place from Hand,



Kiemele was awarded to Josh Neilson of the Grizzly Springs Ranch from Mountain View, AB. Top Ranch Horse, judged by Clay Chattaway, was awarded to "Oro" owned by Drew Lindberg of the Rafter X Ranch from Magrath, AB. Top Cowgirl, judged by Eve Millar, was awarded to Marlee Sears of the Flying E Ranch from Nanton, AB.

Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors: Ralph Nelson, Peter Swales, Foothills Auctioneers Inc. (Rob and Sharon Bergevin), Clay and Avril Chattaway, Kim and Marian Anton, Tongue Creek Ranch, Ranch Horse Essentials (Jim Townsend), Sliding U Photography (Kim Taylor), Longview Leather (Don Vincent), Tom and Rosemarie Bews, Cody Veilleux, and of course the "Friends of the Bar U"!

This day would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers, the staff at the Bar U, board members and our special events committee, which consists of Marian Anton, Marj Bird and Gordon Stephenson, and myself. Thank you for ensuring the success of this Ranch Rodeo!

HERITAGE RANCH RODEO RESULTS

By: Charlotte Esser

What a great time at the Heritage Ranch Rodeo Finals. The Bar U team came back to compete in the top eight on the final day in the Agricom at Edmonton Northlands. A special thank you to Soderglen Ranches who represented the Mighty Bar U extremely well with a strong performance! First place was awarded to San Emideo Ranch, second went to North Fork Grazing, and third place went to Meadow Springs Ranch. Congratulations to the Heritage Ranch Rodeo Committee for organizing another successful performance, we will be back next year!

BAR U RANCH SITE MANAGER'S REPORT

By: Travis Weber

The site hosted over twenty-three thousand visitors in 2016. This is a record breaking year for the site and an impressive accomplishment that everyone should be proud of.



This year we tried out some new events in addition to our regular schedule of special events. The Hometown Heroes special event weekend and display commemorated World War One and the contributions of the Bar U Ranch and this region towards the effort on the front lines and at home. The Cowboy Concert and Stargazing events provided new ways for Canadians to experience the site. We were able to celebrate 100 years of Women's right to vote with some special programs in our Cookhouse. Our two biggest events at the site, Ranch Rodeo and Canada Day, continue to increase in popularity; both

boasted over one thousand visitors.

We are making progress on the Federal Infrastructure Investment that was announced in 2015. The contract for work on the Machine Shed, Slaughterhouse, and Studhorse Barn has been awarded and a majority of the work will be completed this winter. Some painting and final touches will be ongoing into May and June of next year's season. This important work will open new opportunities for messaging about the evolution of machinery, and the story of self-sustainability at the Bar U Ranch.



We are now beginning work on Phase II of the Federal Infrastructure Investment. This phase will include the Work Horse Barn and Bunkhouse/Self Feeder. The winter will be used to understand and plan for the construction, the construction itself is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2017.

This year we administered a Visitor Information Program. Surveys were distributed to six hundred visitors. The VIP provides staff and managers with information about the profile of on-site visitors, such as their demographic characteristics (e.g., age, origin, group size), visit characteristics (e.g., length of stay, visit frequency), and use and satisfaction with various products, programs and services. In addition, it provides information about specific issues of interest (e.g., information sources used to decide to visit, use of specific amenities etc.). This data will help us to understand who our visitors are and why they are coming to the Bar U Ranch.

Looking towards the 2017 season, we are busy planning activities to celebrate the 150th birthday of Canada. This will include the Hometown Heroes and Cowboy Concert events continuing, but we are also hoping to include a larger scope of

activities on Canada Day and new programs like a Whiskey Tasting Tour, Learn to Camp program, and a new culinary experience. Parks Canada is expecting an influx of visitors due to the free entry initiative and we welcome the opportunity at the Bar U Ranch!

The experiences we provide and the conservation work that is done on our iconic buildings and landscape is not a small undertaking. It's quite complex, and doing it right and doing it well requires an incredible amount of collaboration with an incredible group of people. Over the year I've seen first-hand the dedication and passion that you all bring to the table and it truly is awe inspiring.



A big thank you to the Friends of the Bar U Historic Ranch Association, the volunteers, staff, and special guests for your commitment and enthusiasm. Without your support we couldn't achieve the excellence that the Bar U is known for. You make the Bar U Ranch an amazing place to be.

ARTIFACTS COMMITTEE REPORT By: Bette Muren

We have had a major donation by a gentleman from Priddis area who lives on an old dairy farm that his family operated from the early 1900's. Part of the donation is an old Cook Car, with the original undercarriage in place, which has been moved onto the ranch site. Many other articles from this donation have been placed in the Root Cellar, to depict how food from the gardens was stored for the winter.

We also received a large Map of Alberta (dated 1904), which has been framed and is now hanging in the Visitor's Centre. This was certainly the year for interesting donations, not the least of which was a large collection of Barbed Wire! This was first introduced into the west by George Lane, and we have 22 wall hangings with numerous types of wire mounted on canvas. This is a spectacular collection, and we are looking forward to having it displayed in the Visitor's Centre as well.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave their time this past year helping to accession all of these donations. I truly enjoyed working with all of you!

Donor Recognition – 2016: **Mr. Ron Standish** – Trail Boss Level – Cook Car and numerous other

artifacts to be displayed on the Site.

Kristine and Cody Longson – Trail Boss Level – Machinery, seeding and spraying of greenfeed crop at the Bar U.

STOCKMAN'S DINNER REPORT By:

Karen Ritchie



Our annual Stockmen's Dinner will take place at the Highwood Memorial Centre on Saturday, January 28, 2017. Plans are coming together nicely. This is always a great fund raiser. Our honoured families this year are the descendants of Hubert and Elizabeth Delinte (nee Duquenne), Denis Charles and Meriel Kate Burke (nee Griffin), and the family of Fred and Carrie Kosling (nee Northover). We are looking forward to some great stories. Tickets will be available from Friends of the Bar U Board Members, as well as at the Co-op Store in High River.

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

It has been a great year in the gift shop this past summer. Our gift shop manager and assistant have continued to increase sales and net revenue. Visitors were delighted to see more North American and locally made products in the shop. Kathie attended the gift show in Edmonton and found some items for sale. Many local consignors provided their creations which are a lovely addition to the gift shop and also provide an important source of revenue, The new endeavor this past season was Kathie obtaining our own brand of locally roasted coffee which was well received. Information on the package provides a little

history of the Bar U and the Friends Assoc. which helps to advertise the site. A few people came back from Calgary to purchase the coffee again. It is being served in the Bar U Restaurant, at Eau Claire Distilleries in Turner Valley, and is available for sale at the Longview Jerky Shop in the off season. Kathie organized several book signings with the authors this past season which were held in the VOC and at Round Up Camp. Again this season regular stops were made by several bus tours. It is always mentioned to customers that with their purchases they are supporting the site through the Friends Assoc. and people are very pleased to hear this. All Board members would like to thank Kathie for her time and energy, as well as the extra time she puts in; and to Erika for all her assistance and support she contributes into making the gift shop a success. They also extend a sincere thank you to Carole Hergert for keeping the accounts of the gift shop in such good order.

