



**FRIENDS OF THE BAR U
HISTORIC RANCH
ASSOCIATION** BOX 82, LONGVIEW,
ALBERTA, CAN, T0L 1H0

Pekisko Press

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**THE PRESIDENTS REPORT – AVRIL
CHATTAWAY**

What a great year! Despite some miserable weather the numbers of visitors at the Parks Canada Bar U held steady and many visitors got to experience the feel of a historic old time working ranch. As the new president of the Friends of the Bar U, I tried to be in attendance at many events and help out in different capacities. On Canada Day the Ranch held a wonderful Percheron show and I was given the task of handing out ribbons to the winners of different classes. Awesome standing beside those beautiful horses. At the Ranch Rodeo I was recruited to help get the many visitors coming into the VOC moved quickly out onto the site. We had another record breaking attendance that day.

Lee McLean once again tried to talk me into participating in her Sidesaddle Clinic, but I had to tell her Clay & I were hosting the Friends trail ride that day! Whew, I can put a horse over some small jumps but I'm not sure I could get all the way around an arena riding sidesaddle! And our trail ride was a wonderful success too. Riders came from as far away as Cochrane and Chestermere to spend the day riding the hills of the Bar S Ranch.

This fall Bob and I participated in the Visitor Experience Assessment held at the VOC over two days. Parks people were in attendance from Winnipeg and Calgary and put the Bar U staff through a series of interesting and informative workshops. We also studied the results of some surveys taken over the past few years, all pertaining to tourism, and came away with lots of ideas which we hope to be able to use to increase the flow of visitors to the ranch.

Again, I want to thank everyone involved with the Bar U Ranch, NHS, from the Friends board members, their significant others, and all our wonderful volunteers to the awesome staff at the Site. I've certainly enjoyed meeting many new folks and spending time at one of the most beautiful places in the country.

Remember to check out our website: www.friendsofthebaru.ca



TREASURER'S REPORT – DOUG LONGSON

This has been a good year for the Friends, financially.

Earnings from the Stockman's Banquet & silent auction set another new record. Combined with the revenue from the Trail Ride, memberships, and our calf crop, there was sufficient income to meet our operating costs.

This year, the Casino proceeds were used to purchase an arena rake, and harrows, to upgrade the Pierson House interior (cedar paneling, and painting), and also to roof, and paint the adjoining buildings.

The next casino will be held in the first quarter of 2012.

A grant was received from the Alberta Community Spirit Program, and was used to pay our insurance costs, and to purchase a boardroom table for the Pierson House.

Income from the Bar U Legacy Fund was used to purchase prizes for the Ranch Rodeo, and to purchase new tires for the wagon used on the trail ride.

Special thanks to Maxine Nelson & Carole Hergert– Friends; Rose Dayment – Payroll; Liz Hergert bookkeeping; and Stephen Muth – accounting.

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.

ALBERTA COMMUNITY SPIRIT GRANT PROGRAM

We received a grant of \$4,225 this year - this amount matches \$ for \$, the donations we received to the Bar U Legacy Fund, at the annual Stockman's Dinner (\$14 donation eligible for a tax receipt), and the annual Trail Ride (\$45 donation eligible for a tax receipt).

Great News for donors!

The charitable tax credit applies to Canada Revenue Agency-registered charities such as the Friends of the Bar U, which is eligible to issue official income tax receipts.

Including the federal tax credit, you now receive a 50-cent non-refundable tax credit for every dollar donated over \$200.

For example, if you donate a total of \$500 to four or five charities throughout the year, you would receive a combined federal and provincial charitable tax credit of \$200. This means that the donations would cost you about \$300, which is the equivalent of donating 82 cents a day.

CATTLE REPORT

We had a good calf crop thanks to Ken and Jim. Due to the cold spring we did not buy yearlings. We got 45 head from DK Livestock at Longview and used them for two events. We sold the calves in early October.

Keith Robinson

SPECIAL EVENTS 2010 – Renie Blades

Come visit the Bar U where it's a beautiful drive. With lots to do it continues to thrive.

The season kicks off with a Grand Opening in May. Weather permitting they hitch the team and cut the hay.

There is the Round-Up of Memories with poetry, stories and songs for women and men. Won't you come visit and live history again?

The hi-light of the season is different for everyone. For the cowboys winning at polo was great fun.

Across the Bar S the Trail Ride did tramp. First Nations Day was a hit at Round-Up Camp.

The Ranch Rodeo continues to draw a good crowd. The Rocking P won the event and did themselves proud.

In the Chore Horse competition teamsters demonstrated their skills. As they drove their teams thru the drills.

The Ranch was once the jewel of the west, In the early days it was one of the best.

There's cowboys, horses, wagons and teams, The buildings have been

restored from foundations to beams.

The CookHouse is again at its best, The same building the cowboys found food and rest.

This is the ranch that for many years, Was the life and the home of cowboy pioneers.

To celebrate the ranch, the time and the men, Do stop in and live it again.

With that my report is done, Yet I would like to thank everyone.

To Ken and Deb and all the Bar U, And to every volunteer too....

THANK YOU!!!



Volunteer Committee

I would like to send a huge "**Thank-you**" once again to all of you who helped out with the many volunteer positions. Some of you came on short notice, too and that is much appreciated. Many of the jobs are "behind the scenes" and although you don't get to see the "action", you are filling a very important role.

Rosemary Brocklebank

GIFT SHOP

Another season at the gift shop has come to an end. It can hardly be called a summer this year! Again the shop was capably managed by Shirley Hitchner and the Board members extend a thank you to her. It was a slower summer due to the weather. It was very fortunate, with the exception of First Nations Day that had to be cancelled, that all the special event days enjoyed favorable weather. There was a good turn out of visitors, and business was good in the gift shop on those days. During the week, thanks to the regular stops made by Caravan Bus Tours, that helped shore up what otherwise could have been a dismal season. Two new items that caught and held the attention of many children were 3D rulers and bookmarks. Consequently by the end of the season they were nearly all sold. Visitors stopped from all over the world, and again, many found something to take home with them. Two new volunteers with us this year were Erica Smith and Shelagh Weston, who were greatly appreciated. Shirley thanks ALL our volunteers for their help. And what a pleasant surrounding to work in!

Rose Dayment

POLO

The weather was great for the polo game played at the Bar U on July 25, 2010. We had two types of players providing "Cowboy Polo" and "Traditional Polo". Each type had two teams. After playing amongst themselves for several chukkas, there was a final chukkar between the Cowboys and the Traditionals. For the first time in 7 years of polo at the Bar U, the Cowboys won! Members of the winning team were Blake Schlosser, Mark Parsons, Morgan Chattaway and Tyrell Sears. They beat the Traditional team consisting of Dylan Foster, John Milford, Wally Gallup and Townsend Lloyd. Hearty congratulations to the Cowboys.

Thanks go to Rich Roenisch for an outstanding job of single-handedly refereeing the entire day. That is not an easy thing to do. Also, special thanks to Bryan Thomas, from Florida, for an excellent job of announcing the game. Bryan's wit and repartee held the crowd, as polo is more fun to play than to watch. Bryan and his wife, Marjorie, have been coming north to play at the Calgary Polo Club for 10 seasons. We are fortunate that they like to visit Alberta every summer. As a token of appreciation, Bryan was given a copy of "The Bar U – Canadian Ranching History".

We should also thank Jim Jorawsky for having the fields in such great condition.

Submitted by D. Byron Palmer

COLLECTIONS

The year 2010 was a good year for us. Commencing in May we started meeting at the Bar U every two weeks. Items for accessioning seem to always be ongoing, and we also continued to work on the Memory Books. We welcomed Ethel Schlosser to our group and hopefully she will continue to join us in the future. We are especially pleased to see many of our accessioned items placed in the CookHouse, as well as other areas on the site. Everyone looks forward to our visits at the Site and meeting with our group of eager participants, Mary, Nora, Roger, Frank and George.

Bette Muren, Collections

TRAIL RIDE

Clay and Avril Chattaway at the Bar S Ranch, Nanton were the hosts of the 2010 Trail Ride this year with about 60 folks attending either riding their own horses or enjoying the view from the wagon. Wayne Schlosser was once again the driver of the team and very capably maneuvered down the trail to Shirtail Coulee. We stopped for our boxed lunch at the headwaters of Mosquito Creek before resuming our ride. Clay thinks the riders covered about 10 miles, nicely interspersed with his talks of the history of the ranch, range management and wildlife viewings as we were lucky enough to see two moose, some deer and the riders at the front caught a glimpse of a black bear before he scampered off, startled by all the riders. The weather could not have cooperated better! Thanks to all the directors again for all their help. Avril Chattaway



Site Manager's Message – Ken Pigeon- Parks Canada Bar U

On behalf of Parks Canada Agency I am pleased to provide a report summarizing our work at the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site. The diversity of projects and programs undertaken reflects the commitment to the ranch by both our volunteers and staff. Facilitating exceptional visitor experiences at the ranch have lifted the Bar U to the status of a flagship National Historic Site.

In 2010 Parks Canada celebrated the 125th anniversary of the founding of Banff National Park and in 2011 Parks Canada will be celebrating the 100th year of the Dominion Parks Service, the first National Park Service in the world.

This year we completed a Visitor Exit Survey and a Visitor Experience Assessment. Both exercises provided us with important information on what's working and what needs to be addressed to help us remain relevant and real to our visitors.

In 2010 the Bar U Ranch management plan came up for its five year review. Parks Canada legislation requires that management plans be reviewed every five years by the minister for all protected heritage places and that any amendments be tabled in parliament. To this end the site has decided that the current direction of the 2005 management plan is still valid and working therefore, we have submitted a State of Site Report and Scoping Document along with a briefing note to the CEO of Parks Canada recommending that no amendments to the current plan are required at this time.

While visitation is stable, the key goal over the next five years is to increase visitation numbers specifically from the Calgary market. To help with this a five year marketing plan will be completed this winter. To increase awareness in Calgary the Bar U was involved in several activities and events throughout 2010 which included Aggie Days, Spruce Meadows, Outdoor Adventure Show and Calgary Stampede. The site participated in a new venue at the Calgary Stampede called Draft Horse Town which was a great success and we plan to participate again next year.

Among volunteers there are no ordinary people..... To all our Friends and volunteers I wish to say thank-you. For without your time and energy it would not be possible to accomplish what we do.

Now I would like to leave you with this quote from Conrad K Warren: *“ With our heritage of grass and water , shade and shelter being among the richest endowments of all men, let us therefore preserve and keep it for ourselves and our heirs so that it will forever endure and be a continuing benefit to all mankind.”*



Announcements

STOCKMENS DINNER: The 12th annual dinner will be held at the Highwood Memorial Center in High River on Saturday, Jan 29, 2011. Tickets will be \$50, available before Christmas at VJV Auction in Stavely, Classic Rodeo in Nanton, BatSheba Gifts in HR and from all directors. We have one pioneer family confirmed at this time and hoping to have two others confirmed very soon.

And again anyone interested in donating any homemade or unique items pertaining to our heritage please call Rosemary at 652-7656

HERITAGE RANCH RODEO: Results from Edmonton: 1st- Mesabi Ranch, Nanton. 2nd- Rocking P Ranch, Nanton. 3rd- R Bar Ranch, Bluffton, AB. Top Hand: Blake Schlosser, Rocking P. Top Female Hand; Carrie Kraft, 45 Ranch. Working Ranch Horse; Nolan Pharis, Bar U Ranch. The Bar U Ranch was represented by Northfork Grazing again, and while they did make it to the finals on Tues night, up against some very tough competition, they were unable to retain their championship title from last year! Great effort from everyone and congrats to all.

MEMBERSHIPS: Memberships expire on Dec.31/10. Your membership is important to this association to help preserve and protect the values of our ranching heritage for the benefit, education and the enjoyment of present and future generations. Individual memberships are \$10 each, corporate \$25. Mail to Friends of the Bar U Ranch, Box 82, Longview, AB T0L 1H0. Also available at the Stockmens Dinner and the AGM

125TH ANNIVERSARY BAR U LEGACY FUND

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 practices.

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, currently in excess of \$16,000 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:

- 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.

CHECK OUT OUR WEB-SITE www.friendsofthebaru.ca

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