



FALL NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As write my Fall Newsletter report, I was beginning to think we should be calling this the Winter Newsletter, as fall wasn't happening! Now that we have some lovely fall weather, one certainly appreciates it even more! The weather had certainly been a challenge for the 2018 season here at the Bar U, from the smoke due to the wildfires, to rain and snow delaying harvest! Nonetheless, thanks to the incredible staff at the Bar U, and of all our wonderful volunteers, board members, and the Country Fresh Kitchen ladies at the Bar U Cafe, the year has been a great one. We were successful in providing our visitors an outstanding experience. |



2018 has been a year of change and growth on the Board. This year I stepped in as president replacing Marian Anton, who moved with her husband to a ranch in SE Alberta. Marian continues as past president and has been doing an awesome job organizing events from afar. In the spring we said goodbye to Avril Chattaway, Charlotte Esser, Shelagh Weston, and Gordon Stephenson, each of whom contributed so much over the years as directors. They will all be missed! Avril Chattaway joined the board in 2006 serving on several committees, including six years as president. Charlotte Esser joined the board in 2014. Charlotte was chair of the Special Events Committee and the Advertising Committee. Shelagh Weston also joined in 2014 and was chair of the Volunteer Committee and served on the Gift Shop Committee. Gordon Stephenson joined the Board in 2016 and was chair of the Cattle Committee.

We welcomed Dann Bews, Pamela McLean, Cheryl Fredell, Ralph Nelson, Lynne Steele and Bill Kewley to our board this spring. They have all jumped in and are making a huge contribution to all of our events this year. Sheila Smith also came on board, joining our meetings as recording secretary. In the spring of this year, we said good bye to Travis Weber, the site manager who left to take a position with Parks Canada in Dawson City, Yukon.

We welcome Dylan Spencer, the new site manager and look forward to working with Dylan in the future! On a sad note, we lost some great supporters of the Bar U this season. Frank Bedu, Maxine Schlosser and Maxine Nelson will all be missed.



It has been a busy season here at the Bar U, and to round out our year, we have our annual Kids' Christmas Party coming up on December 2 at Round-up Camp, followed by the our Christmas in the Country Trade Fair on December 9 . Hope to see you there!

Karen Ritchie
President

SIGNAGE & ADVERTISING COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Marian Anton

In this day and age of technology, the Friends Website and Facebook continue to be great tools to keep the public engaged. We have nearly 3000 fans following our Facebook page from 43 different countries around the world! Visit the Friends of the Bar U Facebook page or our web page at <http://www.friendsofthebaru.com> to keep up to date with what is happening at the Bar U!

TREASURER'S REPORT

By: Doug Longson

Earnings from the Stockman's Dinner, Trail Ride, membership sales, grants, and our calf crop were sufficient to meet our operating costs in 2018.

A Casino was held on March 2nd and 3rd, 2018 and the Friends earned \$45,700. Casino money was used to purchase an antique sulky plow, and for cost recovery on the Ranch Rodeo.

A grant was received from Foothills Community Support Services and was used in support of our volunteer program.

Special thanks to Kathy Nelson & Carole Hergert- Friends; Rose Dayment - Payroll; Liz Hergert and Steven Muth - accounting (Muth & Company). And, we will always cherish the memory of Maxine Nelson, who retired in January of this year after twenty years of volunteer work.

Thank you to Parks Canada for allowing us to use the Pierson House and Ranch House as our office - and 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 (\$6,955 this year) is used to support the Heritage Ranch Rodeo - our main event - which showcases historical ranching practices. An endowment fund (current balance \$180,200) 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.

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 Doug Longson at 395-3336 or write to us at P.O. Box 82 Longview AB T0L 1H0.

VOLUNTEER REPORT

By: Cheryl Fredell

We had a good year as far as volunteers coming out for events. It was not too difficult to round people up . There were a few who weren't able to attend our Volunteer Appreciation Day but I will try to catch up with them to thank them for their help. I am sure most of the success I had this year was from past work of people before me and Sandra in the Bar U Office was very helpful.

I truly appreciate the directors who show up for the special days as it would not happen without them. It was a good year !



ANNUAL TRAIL RIDE REPORT

By:

Hugh Kennedy



The 18th Annual Bar U Trail Ride was held on the Spruce Grazing Lease August 4th, hosted by Joe and Sherrine Engelhart. The weather was cloudy but pleasant with no rain.

There were 26 horseback riders and 14 passengers on the wagon with Bar U Teamster Ross Fritz and his helper.

At noon after enjoying a bag lunch, prepared by Country Fresh Kitchens,

Clay Chattaway gave an informative talk about the size of the Spruce Grazing Lease, the history, and the way the grazing lease is run now.

The ride went well, ending without a hitch, back about 4pm at the buildings, where the hosts were thanked. Everyone enjoyed themselves and talked about doing it again next year. This was the first time all riders were required to have temporary Alberta Equine Insurance. It was also the first year to have a paramedic ride along. The two female vets indicated they enjoyed themselves and either one or the other would try to make next years ride.

I would like to thank my committee and all those who helped make this such a successful ride.



CATTLE COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Stephen Hughes



On behalf of the cattle committee I am pleased to report on the continuing efforts to organize the cow herd and streamline the labour required to care for it.

2018 was a positive year for the Friends cow herd. Despite a challenging spring thanks to mother nature, and all the risk a ranch rodeo has to offer, the herd managed to wean and sell 33 calves after going into the year with 33 mother cows. Certainly a positive result due in no small part to the efforts of Patrick Davis. I was really pleased with the crossbred calves as they loaded out. Nice simple low maintenance program that resulted in some very nice haired, good hipped, thrifty calves that anyone would be proud to own and sell.

In conjunction with Dr. Jordan Holt a vaccination program for the cow herd is now set up to maximize herd health. My plan is for the cow herd to be enrolled in the VBP+ program this fall;

which is a direction the industry needs to be headed in.

The implementation of a water system has been completed which will certainly improve and simplify winter management of the cows.

We will be culling 5 cows and purchasing 5 bred heifers again from McPherson Ranch to keep the herd productive and strong. The heifers will be calved out by McPhersons' to simplify the workload for Patrick as well.

I trust I am fulfilling the commitment I made to the Friends when I joined the Cattle Committee and I personally am pleased and confident that the program is going in a positive direction. Thank you to my fellow committee and board members for the support and help throughout the year. █

2018 RANCH RODEO REPORT

By: Marian Anton

The 2018 Bar U Ranch Rodeo was another successful event, with total attendance of 988 including spectators, volunteers and participants. The day was perfect, with the smoke clearing from the air just enough to make everyone more comfortable. Our fourth annual Pekisko Creek Trade Fair went very well, and we thank our participating vendors for bringing such great variety and quality of products every year. Thank you as well to Board members Marj Bird and Lynne Steele for organizing and coordinating the set up of the Trade Fair. The 50/50 tickets were popular again this year, with total sales of \$1,560.00. The winner was very happy with his cash, but insisted that the best treat for him was coming out to the ranch for the first time, and that the money was a bonus! Thank you to Marj for coordinating the 50/50 sales, and to all of our board members and volunteers who spent hours in the crowd and at the tables selling tickets!

The rodeo events started with the Ranch Horse Competition in the morning, and I am so grateful to Charlotte Esser for her help with the scorekeeping for this event. The rodeo in the afternoon went really well and there are so many folks to thank for making it happen! The Grand Entry was made really special this year with the addition of the Sidesaddle Racing ladies! Thank you to Lee McLean, Hayley Stewart and Cait Bascom for adding some elegance and beauty to the affair! It was such a nice touch to have Shane Chipchase using a Bar U Team with the harrows to keep the arena in good shape, and the water truck was very welcome! Our cattle crew worked so well in the back pens, and their calm efficiency made the events run smoothly. Our volunteers in the announcer's



booth are always amazing, and even though no one really sees what they do, we couldn't run this show without them staying on top of things and watching everything in the arena. Thank you to Jessica Manning (who also came early to announce the Ranch Horse Competition), Theresa Chipchase and Carol Lyall for working so well with Rob Bergevin who does such a great job of announcing for us. Many thanks to our judges this year for giving us their time and expertise – Peter Swales, Roly Sippola, Paul Phillips, Brian Delinte, Lee Bascom, Charlotte Esser, Clay Chattaway and Johnny Kalbhen.



Our cattle this year came in three bunches – Ed O'Reilly brought one bunch of yearlings for the ranch horse competition, and another bunch of longhorns for the doctoring event. Tom and Rosemarie Bews donated 15 head of their yearlings again, for the sorting competition. The Bar U cows and calves were used for the cow milking and branding events.

Once again, I was blown away by the generosity of our prize sponsors and donors. Many thanks to the Earl Family, Kix & Bux Cowboy Clothing, Highwood Valley Ranch, Longview Leather, J-J Ranches, Tongue Creek Ranch, Kim Taylor Photography & Jim Townshend.

OUR 2018 RODEO WINNERS WERE:

Ranch Horse Competition: Geoff Hoar, San Emideo Ranch Silver Buckle crafted by Peter Swales, sponsored by Highwood Valley Ranch

First place: Grizzly Springs Ranch, Waterton - Mohair Cinches crafted by Primrose Cowboy Trappings, sponsored by J-J Ranches
Silver Buckles crafted by Ralph Nelson plus costs to compete at Ranch Rodeo Finals in Edmonton sponsored by Friends of the Bar U

Second place: Bluebird Valley Ranch, Chain Lakes - Leather Headstalls by Kim Anton Leatherwork, sponsored by Earl Ranches

Third place: Pekisko Creek Ranch, Longview - Ranch Slickers sponsored by Kix & Bux Cowboy Clothing

Fourth place: San Emideo Ranch, Innisfail - 50' Ranch Ropes sponsored by Tongue Creek Ranch

Top Hand Award: Riley Millar, Pekisko Creek Ranch, Longview - Silver bit by Ralph Nelson, Nanton, sponsored by Longview Leather

Top Cowgirl Award: Janelle Leinweber, Cloudy Ridge Ranch, Twin Butte - Custom framed photograph sponsored by Kim Taylor of Slidin U Photography

Top Using Horse Award: Oro, owned by Drew Lindberg, Benchmark Angus, Magrath. - Hand-crafted rawhide bosal and Horsehair macate rope from Jim Townshend

Finally, thank you to my Special Events committee members – Marj, Hugh, Bill, Dunn, and Ralph – thank you for everything that you did to make the day a success! It is a huge undertaking with so many details to remember, and you all did way more than your fair share! Also, many thanks all the Board members who came to help, you know we couldn't do it without you! Shout out to the Parks staff – Mike, Sandra, Patrick and everyone for all the behind the scenes help! 2018 was a great year – let's make next year even better!!

2018 HERITAGE RANCH RODEO RESULTS

By: Karen Ritchie

. The Heritage Ranch Rodeo in Edmonton was well attended again this year. The Grizzly Springs team, representing the Bar U, did a fantastic job finishing in third place. They narrowly missed out on second place, by only one point, which was awarded to Roseburn Ranches of High River. R Bar Ranch from Bluffton finished in first place. The first place winners received belt buckles



SITE MANAGER'S REPORT

By: Mike McLean

A shift in gear for 2018 compared to the 150th birthday celebrations of 2017. Conservation and change have been a big part of 2018 with Dylan Spencer replacing Travis Weber as Bar U Ranch National Historic Site and Visitor Experience Manager, Sal Rasheed replacing Ifan Thomas as Waterton Lakes Field Unit Superintendent and Michael Nadler acting as the Parks Canada CEO until a replacement can be found for Daniel Watson.

It came as no surprise that 2017 was a record attendance year for the Bar U Ranch and no surprise that 2018 numbers weren't as strong even though youth 17 and under were free. Visitation was down 38% from 2017 at 22439. On the other hand 2018 was a record revenue year for the Bar U Ranch with the National Historic Site breaking the one hundred thousand dollar mark for the first time ever. Increased bus tours and revenue generating activities such as a daily wagon tour of the site contributed to the \$104,120 in earnings. Volunteer hours slipped from 2017 numbers to 2634 hours in 2018.

The Bar U Ranch promoted experiencing the "Rhythm of the Land" in 2018 giving visitors a chance to discover the seasonal activities on the land from branding through harvest. It started with clearing snow in April for a Roundup Camp video shoot by the Canadian Beef Center of Excellence. The weather cooperated for the horse powered seeding on the May Long weekend which also featured a branding activity and a bottle fed calf provided by Bar U Ranch Student Heritage Interpreter Hanna Dayment. A pen mate was later provided by Student Maintenance Hand Josh Leith. The calves were a great addition to the Bar U Ranch livestock program and effectively engaged visitors to the cattle portion of the ranching story. Other "Rhythm of the Land" activities included moving the Bar U Chuckwagon to the "southern range" for an appearance at Heritage Acres Farm Museum near Pincher Creek. The museum reciprocated on Historic Places Day by bringing a vintage tractor, hay press and sweep to help put up hay. The cold, windy day didn't deter visitors from enjoying the demonstration. Volunteers from Eau Claire Distillery and Alberta Carriage Supply helped with cutting, binding and stooking chores on the September Long weekend. Thanks to volunteers Al Dicky and Dan Carruthers for restoring the horse drawn binder donated by the Gardner family to field ready condition in time for the harvest. The Harvest and Heavy Horse weekend experienced a weather delay. The Chore Horse Competition was put off for a week to what was one of the milder days of September. The harvest had to wait until October 20 and was held in conjunction with the Volunteer Appreciation Reception held at the Visitor Center.

Events this season included our last celebration of "Hometown Heroes", a salute to those of our community who have served their country in the time of war. The Historical Vehicle Troop of the Lord Strathcona Regiment was back with a display,

two members of the Strathcona Mounted Troop took time away from Spruce Meadows for a ride around the Historic Site in World War I vintage uniform and for the first time the Bomber Command Museum of Nanton brought a display which included firing up one of their bomber engines. The Rocky Mountain Whippet Association returned for a Canada Day race meet on the historic Bar U polo field. The inundation for forest fire smoke the latter part of the summer lifted for the annual Old Time Ranch Rodeo on August 19. The High Country Carriage Driving Club put on a demonstration of horse-drawn vehicles on the August 25 weekend.

The National Historic Site continues to be busy with conservation and planning for the future. In anticipation of a new management plan, the Bar U Ranch hosted Parks Canada staff from across the country for a scoping workshop in April. In June, a team of specialists from Heritage Conservation spent the better part of a week at the Bar U Ranch to better understand rehabilitation plans for the Workhorse Barn and the former bunkhouse. Construction on the Workhorse Barn is planned to begin in 2019. Work continues on plans for the former bunkhouse. In August, a team of Junior Forest Wardens spent two days on Site helping with weed control and painting chores. The public had a chance to see archeologists in action at the Slaughter House over several weekends in September. The program, part of the Bar U Ranch's Federal Infrastructure Investment program engaged over 300 visitors and received national news coverage on CBC. In October, Parks Canada Conservation experts conducted a log restoration workshop at the Bar U Ranch for site staff which was attended by Parks Canada mountain parks staff as well as conservation specialists from across the country.

Outreach events for the National Historic Site included the Little Britches Parade in High River where Shane and Teresa Chipchase bore the Bar U banner on their restored hay rack drawn by their Percheron team. Shane was also responsible for restoring several pieces of equipment and wagon wheels during his first season of employment at the Bar U. The Bar U Ranch Chuckwagon was once again at Draft Horse Town during the Calgary Stampede but due to operational limitations we did not participate in the parade or showcase our horses.

Two notable celebrity visits this summer included our local Member of Parliament John Barlow and some of his staff and former Bar U Ranch resident Florence Murdoch and family. Florence, the daughter of Fred Nash who worked at the Bar U in the early part of the 20th century lived at the ranch as a girl and later with her husband for a time.

Kudos this year go to Angela Wheatley and her Country Fresh Kitchens staff for a great job in the Visitor Center kitchen. A nod as well to volunteers Wayne and Vicki McGonigle for spearheading a renewed oral history project. A big thank you of course to all of the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site volunteers and staff. Your passion, dedication and talents are what connect the story of ranching to our visitors.

ARTIFACTS COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Pamela McLean

My first year as Chair of the Artifacts Committee wasn't nearly as daunting as I imagined, largely due to the wonderful training I had received last year from former Chair, Avril Chattaway, and from the ongoing instruction I continue to receive from dedicated committee members, Rose Dayment and Carole Hergert. For those unfamiliar with this committee, our primary job is to accept donations of suitable items pertinent to the site pre-1950's, accession them and either try to find a good home to place it on-site, or to safely store the items for future use.

We also try and capture key events that happen at the Bar U, and store these news articles and photographs in annual Memory Books. A major project was launched in 2018 to restore the old Memory Books and to continue this worthwhile endeavour into the future. It is the hope of the Artifacts Committee that we can work with Parks staff in order to put some of these Memory Books on public display.

Parks Canada held a couple of very informative workshops at the Bar U this past year, to which we were invited. As a result, we gained a lot of knowledge in the areas of care and handling of artifacts, and cleaning and maintenance of artifacts. We also gained skills in the area of Oral History which refers both to a method of recording and preserving people's stories and to the

product of that process. There are so many stories around the Bar U that we hope we can utilize this particular training and capture some of these great stories soon!

A few of the interesting donations that we accessioned include a home butter creamer and a comprehensive shoe repair kit for home use. A donation that did not fit our criteria of being made before 1950 was however, unanimously accepted by all, as it was a miniature chuckwagon! We used to have a mini replica chuckwagon on display in the Round-Up Camp but it unfortunately was destroyed in the flood of 2013. This hand carved new version, lovingly made and donated by Harvey Mood of Nova Scotia, was gratefully accepted over the summer and is now placed in the Visitor's Centre for all to admire.



STOCKMAN'S DINNER REPORT

By: Karen Ritchie

The 20th annual Stockmen's Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2019 at the Highwood Memorial Centre. Mark your calendar! This year's honoured families are the Chalmers and Lyall families, both from Millarville and the Leeds family of Claresholm. Our prime rib dinner will be catered by Hansel and Gretel Catering who always deliver a fantastic meal! Once again, we will be playing the heads or tails game for the wine auction and we will also be holding a great silent auction. Tickets will be available soon for this event – all of our Board members will have tickets to sell, as well as some local businesses. Please watch our Friends of the Bar U Facebook page for more information, or send an email to info@friendsofthebaru.com.

If you have any items you would like to donate to our silent auction, please contact Marj Bird (403-312-9911).

GIFT SHOP REPORT

By: Rose Dayment

This past season the gift shop was again successfully managed by Kathie Selbee and assistants Erika Smith and Vicky McGonigle. The continued support of the many consignors adds to the variety, uniqueness, and revenue for the store. Kathie attended the gift show in Edmonton and the Christmas market at Millarville where she found things that would be appropriate. The weather co-operated until September which certainly helped with visitation. This was the final year commemorating WWI and visitation was below last year. Upon reviewing the 2017/ 2018 gate entries and the 2017/2018 gross revenue, shows that the gate entries were down over 33% in 2018 but the shop revenue was only down about 14%. The items stocked in the gift shop are continuing to sell well. There will be a fresh look for next season as renovations are being proposed over the coming winter. Kathie would like to thank everyone for their support, so that the gift shop may continue to be a fund raising tool for the Friends Assoc. All Board members thank Kathie for her work and extra time she puts in, and also to Erika and Vicky for their faithful assistance and support. The Board also thanks Carole Hergert for keeping the accounts of the gift shop in good order.

