

FRIENDS OF THE BAR U HISTORIC RANCH ASSOCIATION

Box 82, Longview, AB. CANADA T0L 1H0.



FALL NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By: Avril Chattaway

As another season winds down it is time to reflect on what has been accomplished by the Friends at the Bar U NHS. This past March we had four directors leave the board, Tony Webster, Bruce McNeil, Renie Blades and Roy Mclean. We sincerely thank all these directors for their time and effort put into the Bar U. We did hold a well-attended farewell party for Roy at the VOC as he has been with the board for many years, almost since the start, and has certainly put in his fair share of time and knowledge. Thank you again Roy. With four leaving we gained four new directors, Shelagh Weston, Kim Anton, Warren Webber and Charlotte Esser; welcome to all! The site then opened in May and the summer seemed to go by quickly with many Friends directors either organizing, volunteering at, or attending the Chuckwagon Cookoff, July 1 celebrations, Side Saddle Clinic, Trail Ride, Ranch Rodeo and the Chore Horse competition. We, sadly, lost many stored artifacts last year due to the fact that Pekisko Creek rerouted itself through our Artifacts Barn during the flood, so we undertook the massive job of trying to inventory all the items that we have on site. At times our volunteer base gets spread a little thin during the summer months and we didn't get as much done as I planned but we are now back on track trying to get some more buildings inventoried before it gets too cold. Most importantly we purchased a C-can which is tucked out of sight at the Bar U in which we can safely store any old and new donations until it is determined where we can put them out on display. And, that is something we all want to do, have more of your donations out for everyone to enjoy. We will now wind up our season on-site with our September directors' barbeque, then start planning the Stockmen's Dinner.

A huge thank you to all the Parks staff, the Friends directors and their spouses, and all the wonderful volunteers who come out to help make this such a terrific place to volunteer.



Avril Chattaway, President



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 purchase the classy sign at the junction of Highways 22, and 540. The next Casino will be held next year on March 20th and 21st, 2015. A grant was received from Foothills Community Support Services and was used in support of our newsletter, and volunteers.

Special thanks to Maxine Nelson & Carole Hergert – Friends; Rose Dayment – Payroll; Liz Hergert bookkeeping; 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 (\$1,858 this year) is used to support the Heritage Ranch Rodeo (prizes, advertising) – our main event – which showcases historical ranching practices.

An endowment fund (currently \$49,782) 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
- 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 TOL 1H0.



SIGNAGE COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Rick Smith

It was a busy year for the Signage Committee consisting of Charlotte Esser, Kim Anton and Rick Smith. In November and December of 2013 the advertising posters and plaques for the Stockmen's Dinner were designed and completed. During the year several "brand boards" in the visitor center were updated thanks to the assistance of Lory Moore. The committee's big project for the year was the completion of the new Bar U identification sign at the Highway 22 entrance. It is an effective and much needed addition to the site and will serve us well for many years to come. The committee sincerely thanks the Board and staff of the Bar U for their support of this project.

VOLUNTEER REPORT

By: Rosemary Brocklebank & Shelagh Weston

We want to thank all of our amazing volunteers for the work they did this past year at the Bar U, at Spruce Meadows and at the Stampede. July was very busy with the Side Saddle Clinic right after July 1st, as well as volunteers heading to the Stampede to help out at Draft Horse Town.



A thought for next year is that we always need help with the garden, especially at harvest time if anyone would be interested. Again, a BIG Thank-You to you all!!!

ANNUAL TRAIL RIDE REPORT

By: Brian Garstin

Friends of the Bar U Ranch - 14th Annual Trail and Wagon Ride

The 2014 trail ride took place on the Spruce Ranch on Aug 2. It was a great success with 56 participants. Thanks to Joe and Sherrine Engelhart for leading the ride through the hills. Charlotte Esser, John Esser, Brian Garstin, Margaret Garstin, Tamara Garstin, Warren Webber and two helpful young veterinarians volunteered for the day. The ride generated \$2700 in income.

CATTLE COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Brian Garstin

A black Limousin bull was purchased for \$3500 from Highland Stock farms and was turned out with the cows on June 30th. 30 calves were sold at Stavely Auction on Oct 6th. 13 heifer calves averaged 600 lbs, and brought \$1558 each. 16 steer calves averaged 605 pounds, and brought \$1656 each. 1 longhorn weighed 405 pounds, and brought .95cents/pound.

54 bales of hay were produced, and 78 bales were purchased. This should be enough feed.

2014 Ranch Rodeo Report

By: Marian Anton

The 2014 Bar U Ranch Rodeo was a great success again this year, many thanks to all who devoted so many hours before and during the event to make it happen. The first place winner of the beautiful silver buckles made by Ralph Nelson, as well as a Gift Card from Cowboy Country, was the Meadow Springs Ranch team (the defending champions from last year). The second place winner of Monogrammed Rope Bags, donated by Avril & Clay Chattaway and Kim Anton, was the Pekisko Creek Ranch team. The third place winners of a supply of horse products donated by Cattlemen's Corner was the Esser Livestock team. Thank you to our judges this year - Peter Swales, Blaine Davies, Wayne Schlosser, and Rich Roenisch. The winner of the Top Hand Silver Bit, handcrafted by Ralph Nelson, was Ryley Millar from the Pekisko Creek Ranch, thanks to our Top Hand Judges, Ralph Nelson and Don Keimele. Our intermission entertainment, provided by the Lord Strathcona Horse Mounted Troup, was a huge crowd pleaser. Thank you to Mike McLean for making all of the arrangements to bring this amazing group to the Bar U. Thank you to Rob Bergevin for another wonderful job of announcing, to Willow McDonald for carrying the flag, to Lewis Pedersen for singing O Canada, to Kim Anton as Arena Director, to Maxine Schlosser and Jessica Manning for timing, and to Lee McLean for excellent scorekeeping. I would like to extend a special thank you this year to Renie Blades for coming to help for the day, and keeping us on top of all the little details that we either didn't know about ahead of time, or had forgotten! 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! Thank you to the Special Events Committee for all their hard work, and to our 50/50 sellers - a great idea!



HERITAGE RANCH RODEO RESULTS

By: Avril Chattaway

While our Bar U team represented by Meadow Springs did well in the two qualifying performances they did not make it to the finals in the top 8 on Thursday afternoon....3rd went to Crow Ranch, 2nd to Russell Cattle Co. and 1st to San Emideo. Top bronc ride went to Mike Nelson of Northfork, ranch horse competition went to Jeff Hoare of San Emideo, and top horse over the 3 days went to Harley Green of Mesabi Ranch.

BAR U RANCH SITE MANAGER'S REPORT

By: Mike McLean

The Bar U Ranch drew in record attendance this past season with over 19,000 people visiting the National Historic Site in 2014. That's 3,500 more than last year and 2,000 up on our previous record set in 2012. Thank you to the staff, volunteers and community members who helped us achieve this number as we continue to give visitors an inside look at Canada's rich ranching heritage.

It has been another year of change at the Bar U. After the flood of 2013 we thought anything to follow would be easy, but challenges continue. According to the Chinese calendar, last year was the year of the water snake. This is the year of the horse and it has been more auspicious for the ranch. Going forward, we want to continue to swing those double gates wider and further increase our visitation and revenue. At the same time we want to conserve, restore and continue to connect visitors with nature. That is our challenge.

Banners for the Bar U this year included: hosting the War of 1812 exhibit, a Bar U display at the Cave and Basin in Banff, a Sidesaddle clinic that boasted the largest collection of ladies mounted aside in North America, a return to the Calgary Stampede Parade and Draft Horse Town, an appearance of the Strathcona Mounted Troop at the Ranch Rodeo to commemorate one hundred years since the start of World War 1, a successful horse powered harvest of a rye crop destined to be bottled in Turner Valley and the Root Cellars return to its former glory. The Bar U as part of the Waterton Field Unit was the recipient of a 2014 Parks Canada CEO award for its response to the 2013 flood. As well we continued with our regular events and interpretation programs that seem so run of the mill to us but continue to amaze visitors from home and from around the world.

Next season marks 20 years since the Bar U Ranch opened as a National Historic Site. We will be celebrating this milestone in the new season while continuing flood recovery work and working to develop and maintain this unique national Historic Site. I hope to see you all in 2015.

ARTIFACTS COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Bette Muren

The year after the flood found us in some confusion as to what Artifacts we had left from our storage building and what had been salvaged and moved to the Foaling Barns. A huge thank you goes out to the team of Volunteers who were responsible for removing the Artifacts and the care that was taken relocating them to the Foaling Barns. A C-Can was purchased for storage and placed on the site behind the Foaling Barns. We had a very successful work bee in September, and sorted what to keep and what was not worth keeping, as most of these Artifacts are duplicates of items already on display at the site. We are thinking of perhaps having a garage sale in the Spring in an attempt to dispose of the items we no longer have a use for. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers, Frank Bedu, Murray Phillips and Lorne Fuller for all their contributions on the site this past Season. They were also on hand to assist in Harvesting the Garden at the Cookhouse.

STOCKMAN'S DINNER REPORT

By: Lory Moore

The plans for the 2015 Stockman's Dinner are firming up well. We will be hosting our annual event at the Highwood Memorial Centre on Saturday, January 31. Our programme is coming along really well. We have finalized our honoured families, and will be featuring the families of Angelo DePaoli and Faro DePaoli, Wilfrid and Maude Middleton, and Charlie E. (Ed) and Lena McKethen.

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

The Gift Shop had a tremendous season thanks to the capable management of Janice and her assistant, Erika. The shop opened a bit earlier this year – May 18th – and was set up with a new floor plan for a brand new look, as well as new merchandising items. Janice secured merchandise from 25 consignors to be featured in the Gift Shop. Special event days were scheduled, including CD signing by Charlie Ewing and Al Owchar, and book signing by Doug Nelson. With event information received from staff of the Bar U, she was able to stay open some late days and capture extra revenue. Along with the Caravan tours, there were two more bus tours stopping at the Bar U, which added to sales. This year, Janice tracked, and provided the information on a monthly basis, the sales at the Gift Shop, which were up from last year. She also tracked the revenue received specifically from the bus tours. The book sales grew this year, and the library from Heritage Books will be increased for next year. The inventory in general was flipped over quickly and efficiently and consignment sales remained strong until the end of the season. Thankfully this year had no interruptions and went by very quickly. All Board members thank Janice for the time and energy that she has put into making this year such a success. They also thank Erika for her assistance and Marilyn Wilson for her volunteer help in setting up and closing the Gift Shop.

