



## **FALL NEWSLETTER**

*Published by the Friends of the Bar U with headquarters at the Bar U Ranch NHS  
Box 82, Longview, AB T0L 1H0  
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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

By: Ken Chatel

2021 has seen continued Covid 19 challenges but we were still able to host the Ranch Rodeo and the Chore Horse Competition. We also had the Extreme and Canadian Cowboy Challenge groups come out and hold their event over a couple of weekends. They will be back next year so be sure to come and check them out.

The restoration and collections committees have been busy looking after the collection. The cattle committee continued to build our herd and we had a successful year and our calves sold well at auction.

I am sad to report that our main fundraising event, the Stockmen's Dinner, has been cancelled once again. We will reschedule for the following year. Plans are in the works for an On Line Auction – please watch the website and Facebook page for details later in the year. The Friends Association has been drawn to work a Casino in Calgary Feb. 14/15, 2022, which is a very good fundraiser for our association. We are looking for volunteers to help us out, and if you are able, we would sure appreciate the assistance. See contact information further in this Newsletter.

This has been my first year in the role of President and I have really enjoyed the challenge. I'd like to thank all the Friends Board members, staff and volunteers, and the Bar U Staff that have guided me along the way and completed all the tasks that made this year possible. I'm looking forward to 2022.

## **STOCKMAN'S DINNER REPORT**

By: Karen Ritchie

The 22nd annual Stockmen's Dinner has been postponed, once again, due to COVID 19. It has been rescheduled to January 28, 2023. Fingers crossed that things will be closer to normal by then and we will be able to go ahead with our fundraiser. In the meantime, we are working on some other ideas for fundraising. Stay tuned!

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By: Linda MacDonald

I took over the Treasurer position from Doug Longson in May, 2021. It has been an interesting time and a learning curve for sure. Doug was the treasurer for 16 years so I have big shoes to fill!

We started the year out in great financial position and have finished the year still in good financial shape thanks mainly to the sale of our Pioneer Histories book. We got an initial printing and then did a second printing which we have almost sold out. More information on the books and availability can be found in this Newsletter.

Due to a hot and dry summer, we unfortunately had a poor hay crop, and for the first time ever we had to purchase hay to get us through this winter, which put a dent in our finances. The sale of our calves helped offset this expense.

We employed a local student this summer. William Davis helped out wherever needed on the Bar U site in a labourer position. Hopefully, he will be back next summer.

On a more positive note, we received a grant from FCSS to be used for volunteer experiences and our Legacy fund with the Calgary Foundation continues to provide annual dividends. Also, the gift shop was open this summer and it was beneficial to both the Friends and Parks Canada to have it open.

Thanks to Kathy Nelson who keeps me organized and Carole Hergert who looks after the Gift Shop books. Also, a big thank you to Rose Dayment for doing payroll, and to Liz Hergert and Steven Muth – accounting (Muth & Company).



## **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 is used to support the Ranch Rodeo - 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. 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 **LINDA AT 403 – 816 - 9636**, or write to us at:

**FRIENDS OF THE BAR U, P.O. BOX 82 LONGVIEW AB T0L 1H0**

# **VOLUNTEER REPORT**

By: Lynne Steele

With the many challenges we faced this past year, we had some difficulty in finding volunteers for some of our events, but those that volunteered for various events were rewarded with good results - happy visitors, fun activities and a great outdoor "year - end thank you celebration" at the Round-up Camp. Our biggest event, the Ranch Rodeo in August, had the largest number of volunteers of the summer, and we truly appreciate their help.

For the upcoming year hopefully Covid will have gone away and be a bad memory. If so, we can gather once more at the Bar U for all our events.

Please keep our events in mind. A Membership Form has been included with this Newsletter, and we have a spot on the form for you to indicate your wish to become a volunteer, as well as a few volunteer options for you to choose from. We hope you will pick one or two to help out with, and if you have a skill you would like to share with visitors and staff, we certainly can work that in any day of the summer season. Ideas are always welcome when it comes to volunteers and visitors and their preferences.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT THE BAR U,  
PLEASE CONTACT:**

**LYNNE STEELE** 403 – 933 - 4119 or email her at: [matildafarm@shaw.ca](mailto:matildafarm@shaw.ca)



Enjoy the winter and we will see  
you all in the spring!



## **CASINO FUNDRAISER**

### **- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

As we approach 2022, fundraising opportunities for the Friends of the Bar U will be limited once again. We are scheduled for a casino on Feb 14 and 15 in Calgary. Hopefully it is a go and we will be reaching out to our members to work a shift if possible. If you are able to help us, please contact:

**LINDA MACDONALD** 403-816-9636 or [macdonaldlj63@gmail.com](mailto:macdonaldlj63@gmail.com).

Thank you so much for your support!

## CATTLE COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Steve Fisher

On behalf of The Friends of The Bar U we thank Stephen Hughes for his past work and guidance building the Friends cattle herd and implementing the Verified Beef Production Plus program.



### CATTLE

We started the year with 31 cows and one bull. One cow lost her calf and one of our other calves went missing at the end of August. We sold 29 calves in total on September 30th at the Fort Macleod Auction. 20 steers at an Avg-wt of 542lbs, 9 Heifers at an Avg-wt of 514lbs **Total: \$32,224.43**

Our five-year old bull came up lame four days into the breeding season, however we had a back-up plan in case this happened. We purchased another Polled Hereford bull in June and it was delivered immediately so the cows were never without a bull in the pasture. This new bull earned his keep as he bred every cow in the herd. We will be shipping one older cow. This will leave us with 29 head and we plan on buying three more second calvers during the first week of November. All sale proceeds from the lame bull and two cows will go back into purchasing replacements. Three red angus cows were purchased in November as replacements, bringing our cow herd to 32 head of mixed black and red Angus.

### HAY

There was a major drought this summer; the Bar U baled only 72 bales compared to 300 last year. The Friends get half of 72 = 36 + 6 carry over bales from last year. We ended up purchasing 140 bales, which will give us a total of 182.



Our president, Ken Chatel has completed our application to the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation for the Feed Assistance Program. We will have an update on our application later in November/December. Big thanks to Patrick and crew for all of their hard work this past year. It has been a pleasure to work with Dylan and all of the Parks Canada employees.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT**

By: Marian Anton

The 2021 edition of the Ranch Rodeo at the Bar U was a great success, and I am so very grateful to all who helped make it happen! Parks staff, our awesome board members, and all of our volunteers were everywhere they were needed, which made the event run so smoothly. Thank you as well to our new rodeo announcer, Hoss Fritz, who stepped in at the last minute and did a terrific job! His experience as a ranch hand made for some very colourful and comical commentary, and we sure hope to have him back next year! It was a smokey summer once again, but thankfully the day of the rodeo was relatively clear, making the day easier on stock and people alike!

I also want to extend a special thank you to all of our rodeo sponsors and suppliers who support us so generously every year:

### GRAND ENTRY 2021



**Longview Leather, Earl Ranches, Oxyoke Ranch, Highwood Valley Ranch, Tongue Creek Ranch, Jim Townshend, Primrose Cowboy Trappings, The Mill Store, Tony Smith Stirrups, Kim Anton Leatherwork, Maureen McHugh, Tom & Rosemarie Bews (cattle) and Adam Poland (cattle).**

We truly appreciate the generosity of all of these business owners, craftsmen and ranchers – we couldn't put on our great rodeo without your help and support!

Our 12 teams all did a great job. The winning team, the Duce Ranch from Magrath, scored 44 points out of a possible 48, which is one of the best scores we have ever seen. With the exception of one added member (who sadly missed the photo shoot!), the team is all from one family. Second place went to Parkview Ranches of Wetaskiwin, third place to the Rough Riders from Waterton, and in fourth place was Soderghen Ranches from Airdrie. All the competitors had very positive things to say about the rodeo, and they all hope to come back next year.





The Stoney Nakoda Games Relay Race during intermission was a new addition this year, and was a huge hit with the crowd! It was a wonderful presentation, and we hope to make this a regular part of the rodeo in years to come if possible.

### **CHORE HORSE COMPETITION**

The chore horse competition in September was a very successful event once again. We didn't have a huge turnout of spectators, but those who were there seemed to really enjoy the

day. For various reasons, we only had 5 teamsters entered, so they opted to run through the course twice each to make a better show, and take the average of the two scores to determine winners.

The winner was Mike Hopp from Indus, second place was Geoff Hoar from Innisfail, third place was Aidan Hopp (Mike's son), fourth place was Nathan Stone, and fifth place was Wayne Stordahl.

Thank you to Art Cox of Somerset Tree Service Ltd. for his co-sponsorship of the Olsen Silver Buckle presented to the winner.



The winner of the Peoples' Choice award was Geoff Hoar with his team of roan Belgian mares, Maude and Molly. We had nearly 80 votes to count, so it is certain that this is a popular part of the event. The Prizes for the Peoples' Choice were donated, and I would like to thank Cheryl and Tim Tomayer, of Chinook Wynds Healthy Pet and Horse Supplies in Black Diamond, for their donation of engraved brass name plates for the halters, and Bernie Brown Artwork for donating his beautiful framed print of the Bar U's grey Percheron team, Smudge and Licorice.





## **SITE MANAGER'S REPORT**

By: Dylan Spencer

As I write this on November 11th, I see service, courage and sacrifice coming up on a National Remembrance Day headline. During the last 19 months, in conversations with friends, family and the public, the pandemic experience has had elements that could seem like being in a war. A sense of lacking control over a broader situation, loss of privileges and freedoms, questions regarding defining the greater good and unfortunately choosing sides and loss of life. As in other crisis' it seems the strength of relationships and of people are fundamental in getting through. It reminds me of my childhood growing up in the Cariboo-Chilcotin and a conversation I once had with an old rancher on life before modern conveniences. "Hard work...sacrifice," he replied when I was asking about times past, "that says it all, hard work, sacrifice...and neighbors you can count on in tough times." So on this November 11th, there is also time to reflect on and celebrate the hard work and contributions of so many people at the Bar U over the last year.

Here are a few of the highlights:

In July, our local MP John Barlow and Superintendent Sal Rasheed visited for a special prime rib dinner with the Friends, which included the opening of our gallery, featuring Roland Gissing. Members of the Gissing family were present and we appreciate their generosity. The prime rib would not have been possible without the talent and creativity of Caleb and staff who over the summer took the kitchen beyond expectations, putting the Bar U on the prime rib circuit! Thanks to Sandra's work early in the season that positioned the café for success and all that Sandra brought to promotions (including a CTV news feature!) and the organization of special events on site this summer. Special events included a tipi raising ceremony, cowboy & extreme cowboy challenge, open farm days, ranch rodeo and our chore horse competition. We would also like to thank Dale, David, Terry and all their volunteers for their ongoing commitment to demonstrating traditional horse farming throughout the summer and fall.



At the end of September,

every

window, door and square inch of the work horse barn was completed and Hawkeye and the rest of our Percherons returned home to their beloved barn. This was the crown jewel for restoration work this summer and perhaps for the last several years, but Patrick, Ben, Jenna and others also did work on several other buildings with Kayla Hughes working behind the scenes on restoration documentation and planning. Fantastic work restoration crew.



Thanks to Travis Jimmy John &

Ronine Ryder, we saw the ongoing development of the Stoney Nakoda camp, with members of the Bearspaw Stoney Nakoda being present every weekend throughout the season.

For those social media enthusiasts, the Parks Canada Bar U facebook page had its inaugural season, drawing followers near and far. A shout out to Mike Mclean for his work on both the Stoney camp and managing our facebook account. Our maintenance crew led by Clayton & Josh with Claire, William, Desarae and Gavin knocked it out of the park this summer, completing several corral upgrades, trail work and more. Kudos also to the Wednesday crew of Wayne, Murray & Paul who helped out throughout the site. The core of our offer at the Bar U are those staff who greet people and share the story of ranching on a daily basis; whether by orientation, storytelling, wagon rides or detailed information sharing. These are led by Jean Gallup and include Emma, Grace, Desarae, Bruce, Marcia, Shane, Kealey, Jane, Allie, Don, Myriam, Lisa, Ross and Lewis. Thanks for being the heartbeat of our site!



Summer 2021 also saw the completion of a new management plan, which was signed by our CEO in August. Jacquie Gilson & Kristy Putnam from Interpactive spent several days on site this summer helping us with a larger visitor experience assessment and strategy which included a workshop with staff and Friends. We hope to use this assessment and the recommendations from it to affirm the many things we are doing well and to help us grow in the future.

Winter work for us this year will include planning for schools, bus tours and other future offers. Project work will include water upgrades, building projects, estimates on restoration work for buildings, replacing some signs and doing design work on exhibits. Other interesting projects include the ongoing development of a restoration monitoring APP, accommodation offer research, and footbridge design. What does next year look like? Like many other businesses and organizations, next year will likely be a reset for us. We hope to start off with a longer training for staff, an earlier opening of the café, early season school groups, the same special events with the possibility of some new ones and making more people aware of all the Bar U has to offer. It's an exciting time as we look to bring ourselves into a post pandemic future.

While visiting the site this summer one of the things that struck Jacquie was how the Bar U's interpreters don't "act" and we are certainly not just a museum. It is clear that the Bar U embodies a living culture. I want to thank each and every member of the Bar U staff, the Friends of Bar U Board & volunteers, you keep the "living" in the living culture at the Bar U.



## **RESTORATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

by Cam Wendell



The 48 Ford has new front leaf springs donated by Standens Springs. Also the Ford has a refurbished ignition system.

The steering clutches and brakes for the TD14 have been removed and an estimate of repair approved by the board, to save costs it was planned to drive to the US in order to save shipping costs. Due to the issues with Covid, it appears we may have to ship the parts.

Thanks for the help from Shane Chipchase.

The 49 differential seal; the rims are off to be sand

The Case LA tractor has had a few hiccups system, new magneto drive and now a starter. sent to the Wilson remanufacturing centre,

The Case 930 tractor has charging issues cost is high it will be upgraded to an alternator

The Maytag washing machine out for but is being worked on this winter again

The clearview Wayne fuel pump, out for restoration, should be painted by the end of October, fingers crossed. We will have to repair the original site for the pump in the spring before installation.



Dodge has a new muffler, new blasted and new tires installed

this summer from a new charging The starter is very rare, and was costs TBD.

and requires a new regulator, if the like the Case LA.

restoration was halted this summer,

## **COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

By: Ken Chatel

It has been a busy year on the donation front with several unique artifacts being donated and several paintings. Our focus continues to be on artifacts that represent ranching life. The Friends Collection currently has almost 2900 items donated by 210 donors. We have placed these donations in 31 different places on the Bar U property. These donations help the Bar U tell the story of the ranching history in Alberta.

In 2021 we received:

- > a large 500-piece Horse Brass Collection
- > an International Harvester TDI4 Tracked Tractor
- > two Charlie Russell prints
- > a horse drawn Hay Mower,
- > a Shepherd's Saddle
- > a Quilt Bedroll
- > a handmade scale replica of the High River Grain Elevator
- > and several other small items.

But most significantly we received several items completed by Roland Gissing and these are on display in the new Gallery in the Visitor Information Centre. Be sure to check it all out next spring.

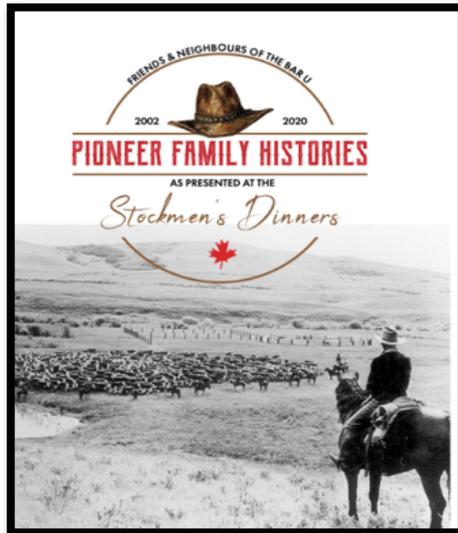
In coordination with the new Restoration Committee, we have been able to get several items repaired and out on display. We look forward to moving more of our items out of storage and into sites at the Ranch for all to see.



## **GIFT SHOP REPORT**

By: Rose Dayment

We were fortunate to be able to open the gift shop this past season with a shorter work week and it was successfully managed by Vicky McGonigle. It was decided that the hours of operation would be 4 days per week from Thursday to Sunday. When there was a stat holiday the days were from Friday to Monday. During the month of September visitation slowed and these hours were changed to a three day week. Vicky did not purchase a great deal of new stock and worked at selling our existing inventory. Some of this inventory is outdated now and some is not as popular. This will need to be looked into for next season. There were not as many consignors with the uncertainty of Covid. Hopefully this will improve so we can contact them in time for next year. It sounded like the bus tours from the USA would return, but in the end this did not happen. Final inventory has been done which will show what needs to be purchased for next year. Vicky has supplied some recommendations for our information. The Board members thank Vicky for her capable management of the gift shop and her informative monthly reports that she has provided for our regular meetings. It has been much appreciated. The Board also thanks Carole Hergert for helping to keep the accounts of the gift shop in good order.



**FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS OF THE BAR U**

**PIONEER FAMILY HISTORIES AS PRESENTED AT THE STOCKMEN'S DINNERS**

The History books are still available from Board Members, and also at the following local stores:

Blue Rock Gallery (Black Diamond)

Because I said So, The Hive, and Cattlemen's Corner (Nanton)

Museum of the Highwood and Walker's Western Wear (High River)

Millarville General Store (Millarville)



**On behalf of the Friends of the Bar U, we wish you all a  
Happy and Healthy Christmas and all the best in the New Year!**