



FRIENDS OF THE BAR U HISTORIC RANCH ASSOCIATION Box 82, Longview, AB, Canada T0L 1H0

Pekisko Press

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UPCOMING:

Stockmens Dinner:
Saturday, Jan 28,
2012

AGM: Sunday,
March 4, 2012
1:30pm, at Bar U

The Presidents Report – Avril Chattaway

It seems the summer has slipped by very quickly and with the leaves falling from the cottonwoods along the creek I'm facing the creation of a newsletter with a summary of another season gone by at the Bar U Ranch. Again I am thrilled to be able to tell you what a great year we had, there really is no better place to volunteer at than our beautiful National Historic Site along Pekisko Creek at the foot of the mountains. One can only imagine what the first pioneers who traveled thru here years ago must have thought and experienced.

I tried to put in an appearance at as many events as possible again this year and found myself starting with Canada Day celebrating the 100th anniversary of Parks Canada then on to Polo, the Ranch Rodeo, Chuckwagon Cook-Off, Round-Up of Memories, and the Trail Ride. Along with our monthly board meetings and some special events there I think I know the site quite well! As a bit of a photography buff too, I find that the Bar U is a great place to bring my camera and try for some really special shots. During the polo match this year I discovered that there are others who feel the same way, as there seemed to be quite a few people lugging some pretty big cameras around the polo grounds. Hope they got some good ones.

We said goodbye to three directors this past March who have been with us for a number of years: Wayne Schlosser, Don Moore and Keith Robinson. Lucky for us they still do want to come help out at some of the favourite events but we will miss them around the board table. As a result we have three new directors to introduce you to: Brian Garstin and Rick Smith both from Longview and Lory Moore of Nanton. They are welcome additions to our group and are quickly jumping in to help with events.

As you know the money we raise goes into mostly physical items on the site, like upkeep of the fences and this year a new flat deck trailer. But we did find a pretty big item off the site to put money into this year as we rented billboard space along Highway 22, between Longview and the Bar U, to do some major advertising. We have had lots of comments on it and it has been responsible for bringing more folks in off the highway who were just 'passing by'. That's exactly what we were hoping to do.

Between browsing through Shirley's awesome gift shop, wondering what the savoury aromas are coming from Sharon's kitchen, and watching happy visitors take in the activities on the ranch, I really do find it rewarding being part of the Bar U. And, there's the added bonus of working with a great board of directors, their spouses, Ken & Deb Pigeon and all their staff. Thanks for all your time, effort and support. Keep in mind we always welcome anyone who wants to share some volunteer time with us. Hope we see you at the Stockmen's Dinner.

Treasurers Report – Doug Longson

Earnings from the Stockman's Dinner, Trail Ride, memberships, and our calf crop were sufficient to meet our operating costs.

The remainder of the Casino money was used for fencing, and the purchase of a new flat deck trailer. The next casino will be held in the spring - March 19th and 20th, 2012.

A grant was received from the Alberta Community Spirit Program, and was used for advertising - the large billboard on Highway 22, and an ad in the magazine Cowboy Country – and also to pay our insurance costs. Income from the Bar U Legacy Fund was used to purchase prizes for the Ranch Rodeo.

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

ALBERTA COMMUNITY SPIRIT GRANT PROGRAM

We received a grant of \$8,122 this year - this amount matches \$ for \$, the donations we received to the Bar U Legacy Fund, for weddings held at the Bar U, 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 Committee – Brian Garstin

There are currently 11 Longhorn cows and 20 Shorthorn cows at the Bar U. With the strong market right now we were able to sell 18 Shorthorn calves and 11 Longhorn calves at a considerable increase over last year. Haying netted us 100 bales this year. Also ran 32 yearlings this summer that we were able to use in the Ranch Rodeo.

SPECIAL EVENTS – Renie Blades

The Bar U Historical Ranch extends the opportunity for people to experience ranch life past and present. Special Event Sundays showcase events that might be part of ranch life at work and at play at present and in the past. In general things haven't changed so much in the ranching world that is really quite refreshing. While technology has touched us all with modern gadgets when it is time to brand a calf or gather and move a herd most ranchers saddle their horse in time-honored tradition and get the job done the same as their fathers and grandfathers did. For a look into a window of the west join us at the Bar U for a Special Event.



Once again ranching history came alive on opening day as the Bar U celebrated the 100th anniversary of Parks Canada. Cake and coffee was served from the Cook house. What could be more western than beef stew and biscuits cooked over a campfire at the Chuckwagon Cook-Off?



The Percheron Horse contributed in no small way to the opening of the west. History came alive at the Percheron Horse Show in June.

The cowboys and the traditional players squared off once again in polo at the original Bar U polo field. The traditional players re-gained the trophy this year while they entertained a good crowd. If you have an interest in playing cowboy polo next year please let us know.

The Ranch Rodeo was again a popular event with contestants and spectators. It has become a tradition for the Bar U to sponsor the team who wins their ranch rodeo at the Heritage Ranch Rodeo in Edmonton. This year the Meadow Springs Ranch won the honor of riding for the Bar U brand November 6-8th. It is great fun to take in the ranch rodeo and cheer on the Bar U team.



First Nations Day took over round-up camp and filled the day with native dancers, drummers, teepees and elders relating legends and stories of their people.

The Chore Horse Competition is a great event that demonstrates horsepower combines with teamster skills. The teamsters are gaining in enthusiasm as they competed and then headed for the hay field to start a new sod breaking and re-seeding project.

As the cottonwoods along Pekisko Creek shed their leaves the gates have closed on another season at the Bar U. Once again we take our hats off to Ken, Deb, Jim, Jean and all the Bar U staff who do an amazing job. A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who make the Bar U such a special place to visit, and of course all of the Friends of the Bar U who contribute in many ways. GOOD JOB EVERYONE!

COLLECTIONS – Bette Murin

It was a joy to reunite and dig into some new donations, and review some of last years left overs. Our group remains intact with, Roger McDonald, George Morgan, Frank Bedu, Lorne Fuller, Nora Tettensor, May Robson, Bette Muren and Ethel Schlosser. We are always hopeful of recruiting new members. It is sure a fun place to be.

The men were very exited with several items of farm implements that were donated by Darwin and Dorothy Larson of Stavely, Ab. A 1947 Dodge Truck was of special interest, as it took them no time at all to get it up and running under the watchful eye of Lorne Fuller.

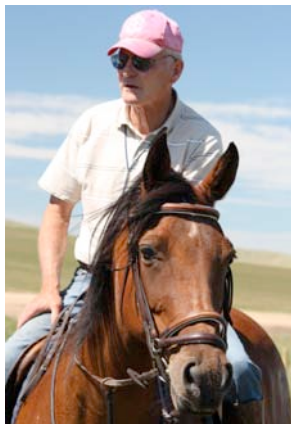
We women kept busy with accessioning new items and the Memory Book.

As the Historic Site is maturing, and more restoration is taking place, there is always something new to look forward to. We are all very excited with the ever growing development of the Percheron Horses on the Ranch, and all the interest that the Ranching community in the area are showing in replicating the history of these most beautiful working horses.

As always many thanks to Ken, Deb and Jim et al for all the support they give us and for making the Bar U a special place to come to.

A special Thank You!!!! to all of you who saw the foresight in recognizing the importance of this special place in ranching History, in the most Beautiful spot in the foothills of Alberta, and making it become a reality.

POLO –Byron Palmer



The annual tournament was held on Sunday, July 24, 2011 at the Bar U polo grounds. The traditional players had a scrimmage between themselves to start off and then the cowboy teams did the same.

The announcer this year was Bill Thorburn, who played traditional polo at the Calgary Polo Club for years. He was able to provide a description of how the game is played, as well as some history. The umpire for most of our previous years has been Rich Roenisch, but he could not make it this year, so Byron Palmer filled in for him.

The final chukkars saw the Cowboys playing against the Traditionals for the cup. Spurs were awarded to the most sportsmanlike player in each category. Jack Schneider won for the Traditionals and Morgan Chattaway won for the Cowboys.

The final score was 7-3 for the Traditionals who were desperate for a comeback from their loss to the Cowboys in 2010. We had a great bunch of players on both sides and a good crowd to watch the game as well as the half-time entertainment. Matt Schneider (age 9) and his brother, Will Schneider (age 7), gave a very entertaining demo showing how young kids can enjoy the game of polo as much as adults do.

TRAIL RIDE – Avril Chattaway



Our annual trail ride was held Saturday August 6. The polo field at the Bar U NHS was the staging area for the 45 horses and riders along with all those who came to ride the wagon, which was capably driven by Mike McLean. Carole Hergert & Joyce Moore once again kindly handled the morning registration and after checking out the skies and tying on a few slickers the group headed out following Wayne Schlosser and Curtis Bartlett who had scouted out the trail the previous week. After heading down the gravel road a ways we rode to the EP buildings then started out across the fields and hills stopping to enjoy our lunch and stretch our legs, along the shore of a beautiful lake. After tightening our cinches we struck off again, climbing up some of the ridges to take in the spectacular scenery of our beautiful foothills. Many of the riders try to make this an annual event and we are very appreciative of this and hope to see everyone out next year! Thanks to all our 'Friends' members who help make this ride such a success.

GIFT SHOP - Rose Dayment

Another year has come and gone far too quickly. The weather was lovely, other than for the month of June, which made it enjoyable for everyone. The Gift Shop and Shirley reports a season that was interesting and fun with the many visitors who came to the Bar U site and into the shop. Having the tour buses stop, one every other day, throughout the season, helped with the revenue for the gift shop. This year there was a sale table, which helped to deplete some of the old stock, and also the year-end sale went over very well. Many compliments were received from people as they browsed through the nice variety of goods. Shirley says she feels very fortunate in having such wonderful volunteers that do a great job in the shop and would like to wish everyone a super winter and extends a thank you to everyone for their support. Again the shop was capably managed and the Board members extend a thank-you to Shirley. All in all 2011 was a fairly good season.



PARKS CANADA BAR U RANCH – Ken Pigeon

It was a big year for the Bar U. To begin with 2011 is the 100th anniversary of the formation of Parks Canada which became the world's first National Park Service on May 19th, 1911. Bar U Staff were on hand at Lougheed House in Calgary at a special reception in June to help launch birthday celebrations and used Percherons in the Calgary Stampede Parade to draw a Parks Canada themed float. Parks Canada drew up a list of 100 volunteers across the country to help celebrate its centennial and our very own Lorne Fuller not only made the list but had his story featured on the official Parks website. Looking to the next 100 years, Parks Canada launched a historic recipe application for i phones this summer which features two Bar U recipes, bannock and Charlie Lehr's donuts.

With social media, you can now "like" us on Facebook or "follow" us on Twitter. The Bar U is now tweeting in both official languages through the season and the Friends of the Bar U are keeping cyberspace up to speed on the many happenings at the ranch. Both the Bar U and the Friends official websites have been freshened up and feature more timely material. Sometimes the tried and true methods still need to be revisited and the Friends sponsored highway billboard did sterling duty in attracting visitors. Local media gave the Historic Site great support in promoting our Special Events. The word is getting out. The Bar U Ranch National Historic Site entertained over 3200 more visitors this year compared to last. Over 16 thousand people entered the Visitor's Center or took part in the season. Contributing to the numbers was an every other day visit by the American company Caravan Tours, who finally added a Site Visit to what had previously only been a Pit Stop.

Visitors to the Bar U this season found the newly renovated Visitor's Center with more room and new interpretation panels. In the off season, Parks carpenters were at work stabilizing the old Bunkhouse and work on the site will continue this fall and winter.

Some new staff joined the fold for this season. Amy Vail from High River looked after various positions including the front desk in both official languages. Sherrine Englehart from just south of the Bar U brought her knowledge and humour to the Post Office and Roundup Camp. Mike McLean from Pekisko took a turn at the reins as Visitor Experience Product Development Officer.

The Bar U Ranch National Historic Site is looking forward to 2012 which marks 130 years since its founding and will be back at the Stampede as it celebrates its centennial.

Page 6 Announcements:

STOCKMEN'S DINNER: The 13th annual dinner will be at the Highwood Memorial Center in High River on Saturday, Jan 28th, 2012. Tickets \$50 available at VJV Auction, Stavely, Classic Rodeo, Nanton and Bat Sheba Gifts in HR and from all directors. As Pioneer families to honor we have the Burns Foundation, and the families of W.R.Davis, and J.A. Herriman.....Anyone interested in donating any homemade or unique items pertaining to our heritage is encouraged to call Rosemary at 403-652-7656. Thanks.

HERITAGE RANCH RODEO: The Nov. 6,7,8, 2011 event saw the Bar U represented by Meadow Spring Ranch as they won our Ranch Rodeo this August; they made it to the finals on the 8th, but were unable to place in the top 3. Thanks so very much for the great effort! Results from Edmonton: 1st;Gang Ranch,BC, 2nd;High Plains Ranch, Sask, 3rd;Douglas Lake,BC. The Top Hand award went to Jim Orr from High Plains Ranch. Top bronc rider was Colter Schlosser of Mesabi Ranch. Ranch Horse awarded to Kyle Keats.

MEMBERSHIPS: expire Dec.31/11. 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 Stockmen's Dinner and AGM.

AGM: Will be held on Sunday March 4, 2012 at the Bar U Ranch Visitors Center at 1:30pm.

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 - that 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** (\$817 this past year), 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 \$21,000 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**.

CHECK OUT OUR WEB-SITE www.friendsofthebaru.ca

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