

THE BULLETIN

February 2015



Editor: Judy Fleetham

Publisher: Stuart R. Watkins

THE RIDES OF 2015



This summer we will have six, six-day trail rides in [Waterton Lakes National Park \(a World UNESCO Site\)](#) in south western Alberta, Canada. Our base camp, will be located in the Waterton Springs Campground, a two minute drive from the border of Waterton Lakes National Park. Our camp will have our own teepees, tents, kitchen and doughnut with the added benefits of flush toilets, hot commercial showers, and electricity.

We will be operating our own camp independent of the outfitter.

Teepee Town will be in a secluded area of this public campground to enhance our own privacy. Deb Watson of Alpine Stables our outfitter, has suggested we have day rides into the spectacular backcountry of Waterton Lakes National Park. Each day we will be shuttled from camp to the

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear fellow Trail Riders:

Over the last year and a half the board of directors has conducted several strategic planning meetings and retreats to discuss the future of the T.R.C.R. We were assisted by a professional strategist as well as two T.R.C.R. past Presidents. Additionally, we have received input from you, our membership, as well as new riders through our extensive surveys after each ride. Finally, I've had many discussions with T.R.C.R. former Presidents. Here is what we have concluded:

1. The "Banff Management Plan," limiting horse use, was passed by an act of Parliament a number of years ago, and there's nothing we can do to change it.

The best option we have is to make suggestions, continue to send letters from our membership, and work with Parks Canada as best as we can. It is not easy for us to find locations and outfitters that can support us or maintain our status quo operations.

2. There is a considerable change in the demographics of our riders today as opposed to 20 years ago. Then, there were more families and many people under the age of 35. Today over 50% of our riders are over the age of 50, and 75% of our riders are female. More importantly, only 4 years ago we used to have 60% return rate. Today because of changing factors in tourism that figure has been reduced to 15%. People attend a ride and have a wonderful time, but do not return year after year like they used



to, because each summer they wish to have a new and different adventure. The slang term for this is, "bucket list travel". Our surveys tell us that the reason people do not return has nothing to do with our product or price.

3. The T.R.C.R. with a Board of Directors of three volunteers does not have the time or expertise, nor does the club the finances to market the rides in today's competitive tourism industry including the above changes in demographics.

In conclusion, we realize that the old business model that the T.R.C.R. is obsolete. If we do not adapt to the above points, we will not survive.

After 18 months of discussions, negotiations, and help from professionals including Travel Alberta, I am pleased to announce the new business model to take us to our 100th anniversary in 2023 and beyond.

1. The T.R.C.R. will be moving outside of Banff National Park some years as is required. We will be looking at moving our operation into areas we have never been to before. This may result in changes to our operations which is the case for the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

2. After several discussions and presentations by Travel Alberta we have decided to turn most of our marketing (except for things that we can do for free) over to them to market for

us at no charge. Largely this involves Travel Alberta introducing our rides to tour operators who will then market on our behalf in North America and overseas. These operators of course need to make a commission which is why we have raised our prices by 20%. In the interests of supporting our membership which is now quite small, we are offering a 20% discount to you our existing members. (see the website for details)

Some of the changes to our operations will be viewed as being very positive by some of our members and other people will be disappointed. We have learned that we cannot please all of the people all the time, but we are doing our best to offer different products in different years based upon restrictions by Parks and changes in tourism markets. We feel that this is the only way that the organization can survive.

On page 1 and concluding on page 14 of this Bulletin you can read about our 2015 product which has some very exciting changes to our regular operation. I am delighted to inform you that in 2016 we will be going into the Tonquin Valley in Jasper National Park. Again, the operation will be quite different from what we are used to, but it does fulfill the mandate of introducing our guests and members to new country in our spectacular National Parks (and it gives us a place to ride!) I visited the Tonquin Valley for the first time last August on a “scouting mission” and it was an absolutely spectacular trip! I would rate the Tonquin as being as good or better than Mount Assiniboine. Our numbers will be very much restricted in 2016 so please register as soon as possible when we have our 2016 website up and operational next December.

Through the dedicated work of your volunteer Board of Directors we believe that the T.R.C.R. will make it to its 100th anniversary and beyond (Plans are underway for that celebration.) Please join us this summer for what will be a very new and exciting adventure!

Happy Trails

S.R. Watkins
President, T.R.C.R.

**CALLING BACK ALL
TRAIL RIDERS!
IT'S REUNION TIME!**

Further to our Presidents letter on page two, there are many positives to our new summer operation. We will have easy access for anyone that wants to visit the camp. The Board of Directors decided that this is a golden opportunity to welcome those members who may not want or be able to do any riding, but may wish to join the fun. You are welcome to join as using the “Companion Option” below as an unaccompanied guest.

**NEW THIS YEAR!
THE 'COMPANION OPTION'**

Do you want to attend a ride this summer but your spouse does not want to or cannot ride? By exercising the “Companion Option” a registered rider can bring a friend, spouse or other family member. Utilizing our daily shuttle this companion guest can ride to the Town of Waterton, go on small day hikes, take a boat cruise to Glacier National Park, take a much shorter ride or perhaps just stay in camp and relax for the day. Please see our website for further details.



Tell us about your ride from last summer. Share your thoughts, pictures and questions about the T.R.C.R. We will keep you posted with the current news too!

NEVER TOO OLD TO RIDE

A Multi-Generational Family Adventure!

Submitted by Emcees Joel Lipkind and Ted Watchuk

15 riders rode into Flint's Park camp on a nice warm day, weary after almost 30 km up the Cascade fire road. Not the most memorable ride in, but everyone managed it. We were greeted enthusiastically by Barb and Bea (our cooks for the week) who had a scrumptious dinner waiting. Needless to say most people organized their tents and hit the sack eagerly shortly after supper.

The next morning Head Guide Lindsay and able assistant Meaghan wisely took us on a shorter ride along the Cascade River so everyone could recover from the previous days ordeal, which set the stage nicely for rides up the North Fork Creek Valley, a high ridge near Cuthead Creek and into Rainbow Lake (one of my new favourite rides). There is great scenery in this area of Banff Park, although all the large 4 legged animals were hiding from us, perhaps because of hot days during a good part of the week. The horses were all surefooted and of good temperament, the guides were pleasant and able and we had no accidents at all. It was interesting as this group were mostly experienced riders, either from home or having been on several trail rides. Almost everyone was able and eager to help unsaddle their horses in the corral. Hats off to the guides.

We all enjoyed Flint's camp, a semi-permanent camp site has its advantages. Good layout, nice tents with wood floors and solid wood beds, wood structures for the biffies (clean we might add) and a great shower. The food was delicious and each day we were provided with a treat upon arriving back in camp after a ride. Thanks ladies.

What kind of a group were we, besides friendly, easy going and congenial? Well, Stu (Web Webster) brought along one-half the ride with 4 generations of his family. Web is a real trooper and enthusiast of T.R.C.R., this being his 28th ride and he just turned 85 (I hope I am not out

of line here Web). Web was awarded the Golden Horseshoe Award. The youngest and probably the most enthusiastic person on the ride was Jackson (a great-great grand-nephew to Web) who was given a presentation by the staff for all the help he provided. His mom, Larissa kept tabs on the young fella. The rest of the Webster group included Kim, Tim, Ross and Brennan all returning riders. Darlene and Lori were new to T.R.C.R. but enthusiastic riders from Pennsylvania and Jodi and Ron returned to T.R.C.R. from Wisconsin. Lise and Gerry from Ottawa rounded out the group while Joel and Ted shared the Emcee duties. Ted kept us all enthralled with his geological explanations of the mountains on our rides (if you believe him!) and entertained with his skit nite observations of horses and riders on the trail. Barb was kind enough to recite some of her cowboy poetry and Lindsay did some entertaining with guitar and singing.

Overall it was a good week of riding, food, company and even weather, so much so that at the stables on Saturday when our ride was finished, it was sad that the ride was over and we were parting ways.



STAR GAZING ON THE RIDE

By Ride #9 Emcee, Robert

After the day's ride, a fabulous meal, and a sing along around the campfire, we did something a bit different. We went outside and looked up at the stars and wondered at the sight of the Milky Way spread above us.

Katherine, our avid amateur astronomer, was our guide to the heavens as part of our theme ride. She made it easy by using her laser pointer to highlight the stars and constellations that we could see with great clarity. Part of the joy of being in the Banff National Park back country is the lack of light pollution to mar our view. She pointed out several key stars to help us orient our view. With the aid of a star chart that she gave us, we could then interpret what we were seeing.

Of course, most of us could easily identify the Big Dipper (with the latin name of Ursa Major or Great Bear) and how to find Polaris, the north star. I could easily point out Cassiopeia which looks like a lopsided W towards the north. Katherine then pointed out some of the other constellations and we learned where Deneb and the northern crosses are located. From these key reference points, it was then easy to trace lines to find the other interesting objects in the sky.

If we looked at one part of the sky, we could see moving objects. These were satellites and we quickly challenged each other to find more, which we did. It's amazing how many there are. Occasionally, we saw a streak of light or falling star. These are meteors, most the size of dust particles or very small pebbles, which are burning up as they enter the earth's atmosphere.

Other things that we learned ...

- Vega is one of the first stars to appear at night and you can see it by looking straight up.
- Acrturus also appears in the early evening and is in the west.
- As you eyes grow accustomed to the night sky, any bright light, such as a flashlight, interrupts your viewing. Red lights are used instead as these don't affect your eyes so much.
- The sporatic lightning flashes that we saw were caused by the heat, not thuderstorms.

Katherine had some powerful binnoculars mounted on a tripod that we used the following night to see some distant objects. We saw a constellation that looked like a coat hanger and globular cluster.

Sorry Katherine, yyyaaawwnnn, but it's getting late and all this fresh air and ride activity has made me so sleepy. I'd love to see more but my eyes are not co-operating. However, I'll be joining Katherine's astromony club in the fall when they have one of their open nights to again see the wonderous sights above us. Thanks for this facinating insight to the stars on our ride.



Poetry & Art from the Trail

WHAT I LEARNED AT FLINT'S CAMP

by: Emmie Jenkins

That it lies two floors down: green meadow
at a stream
it comes with tents, hot coffee, real cowboys*
and scenes

from those movies: high peaks and valleys,
where a soft wind blows.

Until you wake up - with frost on your nose!

That: The cook tent is the best place to be:
It is warm, smells great, and the smiles are free.

That: Horses come in tall, wide,
sometimes grumpy,

You need to watch'm, or you'll end up lumpy!

That: The land is untouched and the air is clean.
To ride these ridges is like a dream
of explorers, railroads, Swiss guides and such.
Since they rode these valleys, has it changed
all that much?

But: In Flint's Camp to-day, the water is hot;
the food a sure treat.

The campfires are fun and the music is sweet.
It is nice to dream, but in the end.....
I'm grateful for that electric fence!

(*and girls!)



FIRESIDE ENDING

By Jen Tempest - Edmonton Rider on Ride #5,
2014 (Rick Godderis Emcee/Musician)

The flames flicker across the chopped wood.
Fighting for a chance at the strengthening fuel.
The embers glow white, burning to keep
the rest warm.

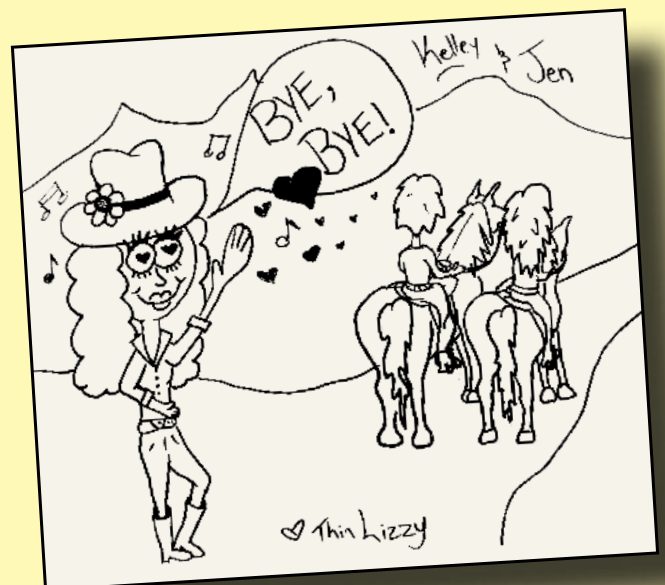
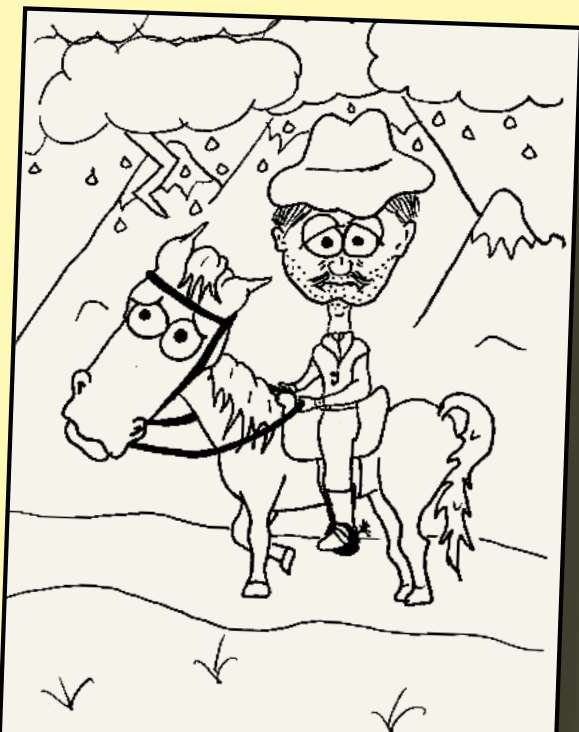
The light from the flames flickers off them
Making them sparkle like perfect jewels.
As the flames reach for the night sky above.
The smoke trails up through the trees
looming high.

It spreads through the darkness quickly
with the breeze,

Now naked to the sight of you or I.

Music drifts up, following the smokes path,
Reaching those who have yet to arrive.
A mix of voices meld, with the sweet melody,
Of the guitars matching each other's pitch.
In the still dark night, this music is lost.

Into the vast, beautiful, mountainside.
But inside the tent, the music remains,
And for one group, it is the perfect ending to
their day.



THE TOWNSEND TROPHY

The history of this trophy goes back to the very first trail ride in 1923, not long after the first national parks were created. During those early years, Reginald Townsend was the official photographer for the T.R.C.R. In 1929, he donated the Townsend Trophy to be awarded annually to the best amateur photograph taken on the trail.

There were 95 entries for 2014 in 4 categories:

- Flora & Fauna
- In Camp
- Mountain Scenery
- On the Trail

The winner in each category will receive a framed plaque and their photos will appear in the TRCR calendar. The winner of Best of Show will receive a miniature of the original trophy donated by Reginald Townsend in 1929 as well as an engraved plaque that will be added to the base of that trophy.

Our judges were 3 volunteers from the Calgary Camera Club:

- Graeme Kershaw
- Bill Ramage
- Wolfgang Juchem

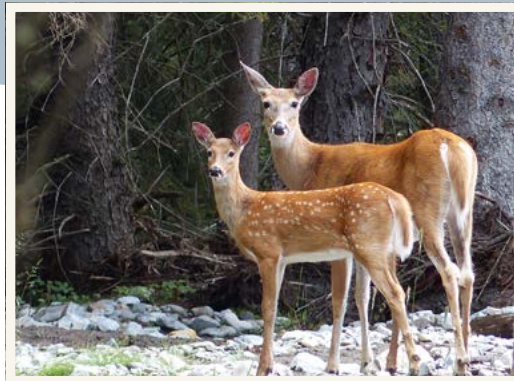
Graeme has outlined below how the judges approached this task, "Pictures were judged based on technical merit and WOW factor". The technical side included such things as pictures:

- being sharp and in focus
- proper exposure
- good composition i.e. don't cut off a horse at the feet.

The WOW factor is what makes a picture stand out. It may be in part technique but is usually due to having a new or unusual subject or an old subject presented in a different way. Generally speaking technique is learned and planned. WOW factor maybe planned but is often just being in the right place at the right time. All of this year's pictures had good technique and attractive subjects. Many were great. The challenge was to agree upon the greatest of the great. I hope you agree with our choices."

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT TO WIN!!

The photograph should epitomize Trail Riding, including elements that are distinctly representative of the TRCR, (horses, riders, teepee town, campfires, mountain scenery, etc.) and can be color or back-and-white. All entries become property of the TRCR for our calendar, albums or advertising.



2014 Best of Show.

OUR COLOURFUL HISTORY...



RAY BAGLEY: COWBOY POET



by Daryl Drew

When I opened the package on my desk I found a small book. It had been wrapped in plain brown paper and white string and tucked inside was a typed note that stated, "Thought you might enjoy reading this." There was no sender's name or return address.

The book's blue linen cover and gold lettering of the title, "Those Other Days" has seen some wear. Taped to the inside front cover there is a fragile yellowed newspaper obituary and an inscription in fading blue ink. Self published in 1969 the book is 102 pages of cowboy poems written by Alberta rancher Ray Bagley.

The obituary explained that Ray (Raphael Venearz) Bagley was born in a cabin near Sidney Iowa in 1880 and died in Calgary in 1973. He was a horseman, cattleman and poet. In 1892 Ray and his parents George Albert and Mary Bagley along with three siblings migrated by covered wagon through Nebraska, the Dakotas and Emerson Manitoba to homestead near Lacombe Alberta. Ray married Elizabeth Swanson in 1902 and they homesteaded near Joffre east of Red Deer along the Red Deer River. They had seven children in all. One son Earl became a guide/ outfitter based at the Crowsnest ranch and another son Bill managed the Brewster dude and pack horses at the Kananaskis Ranch.

In the 1920s Ray raised Thoroughbreds. Sons Jim, Bill and Dude all jockeyed before their teens. The race horses got broke to ride through daily use as the only way to get to school in those days was to ride there and back. In the early 1920s Ray partnered with chuck wagon driver Tom Lauder who used several Bagley Thoroughbreds to pull Tom's wagon,

winning the Calgary Stampede and Edmonton in 1924, the first driver to win both cities in one year. They also won at Edmonton in 1925.



When the Great Depression hit in the 1930s, Ray, Elizabeth and their youngest daughter Tessie moved to Onion Lake Saskatchewan with their livestock hoping for better conditions. With World War Two the economy improved and they moved back to Alberta in 1942, this time to the Crowsnest west of Coleman. The military was recruiting and paying a dollar a day so it was hard to find cowboys to trail a herd. The cattle were shipped by train but over 100 head of horses

were trailed out to Morley Flats by son Bill and his friend Ivor Clarke where they wintered over. The next spring they trailed south to the Crowsnest.

Ray was naturally insightful into human behavior and about how ranching shaped peoples lives in distinct ways. That shows up in his poetry as he had a gift for writing in verse, stories characteristic of ranch life. He was no stranger to hardship and lost a 12 year old son Patrick when he was struck in the head with a hardball. In his book there is a poem called, "God Has Called My Baby." He had little formal education but in the cabin at Crowsnest ranch, Ray kept about 200 books on Canadian and American history near the small desk where he wrote his poems.

Although Ray began writing poetry in the 1930s this did not become known to the public until his nephew Claude Brewster, an outfitter for the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, invited him in the early 1950s to take part in the trail rides and read

poems as part of the nightly entertainment. The T.R.C.R. began in 1923 as a way of getting people out into the backcountry from the CPR hotels such as Banff Springs. Some of the early supporters were outfitters Jim and Bill Brewster and legendary guide Tom Wilson. Their trademark became the tepee and it still is today as they continue to venture into mountain places best seen from the back of a horse.

Ray had a dry sense of humor when he joked with riders or when he made ranch signs. His gate sign read, "Hell hath no fury so they say, like a woman scorned, but anyway, close this gate for I'm telling you, I get pretty damned fussy too." He sent out some of his writings in Christmas cards to numerous trail riders and by request eventually published his book, dedicating it to his son Bill and the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies.

By the time Ray had written the inscription on the inside cover of the book his hand was clearly getting shaky. It reads, "To Annie, the friend of a lifetime friendship is beyond price and a few flowers scattered along life's pathways are far better than a wreath on the grave, Ray". I have found no evidence as to who Annie was or why Ray gave her a copy of his book. That like the identity of the person who gave me this copy might have to remain a mystery.

Writing history is a lot like building fences because in both endeavors you are never really quite finished. Just when you think you have one mystery solved or the last gate hung another one shows up. My wife says I shouldn't complain though, she calls that job security.

One of his most popular poems read around the trail rider's campfire is entitled, "A Bright Eyed Filly."

*A bright eyed filly with a lean grey mare, sway- backed
pot- gutted and old,
That had weathered years of mosquitoes, and
Pawed snow in the winter's cold.*

*Followed a path down a deep ravine
That led to the Little Red
The bright eyed filly trailing close
The wise old mare ahead.*

*The old mare stops her head aloft,
Nostrils spreading wide,
Scenting the breeze from the nearby hills,
To sense what they might hide.*

*A cowboy comes ridin' over a hump
With a loop that is hungry and long,
Pickin' his way 'mongst rocks and sticks,
Singin' a cowboy song.*

*He sees the filly with the big bright eyes,
The mare with the cones in her tail
And he figgers he'll beat 'em down to the forks,
And goes sliding down the shale.*

*He stands up a loop in the filly's path,
A' runnin' like the breeze,
The rope tied fast to his saddle horn,
His hoss goes to his knees.*

*He ties the filly hard and fast,
Shoos the mare away:
Gentles the filly best he can
Working day by day:*

*She follows him now without the loop,
Bright eyes meek and mild.
The old grey mare roams the hills,
Lonesome for her child.*

*And this is the warning I'd give to you
Mares so grey and old.
Hide away among the hills,
If your fillies you would hold.*

*For cowboys ride and always will
With a long and hungry loop
And for old grey mares among the hills
They do not give a whoop.*

Our sincerest thanks to Daryl Drew and
Canadian Cowboy Country Magazine
for allowing us to reprint this article.

I fondly remember meeting Ray with my
Dad in the 1960's and still have Dad's copy
of "Those Early Days" . (SRW)

Testimonials: What Riders Said in 2014

“My 13 year old daughter & I thoroughly enjoyed our 6 day trail ride in Banff’s backcountry. Our camp was nestled next to a river at the base of a majestic mountain. With no electronics and despite being the only child on the ride, my daughter flourished in this wild & beautiful environment, making many wonderful new friends amongst both our fellow trail riders and the staff. We loved bush whacking in the pristine mountains... no crowds, no litter, no texting just alpine beauty delivered via the backs of our trusty steeds. I’ve always been suspicious of the quality of “rental horses” but the responsive & sure footed horses on the T.R.C.R. ride were a credit to our outfitter and the staff were very helpful & friendly. And we ate like kings...all in all, a truly exceptional experience.”

— *Rachel, Sherwood Park Alberta*

“If you want to escape the crowds and get into the majestic Canadian Rockies this is the way to do in. We saw no other people during our ride and had spectacular places to ourselves. Some riding experience would be helpful however the horses are well mannered and sure footed, so you can soak up the scenery without watching your step. Beginner and experienced riders were very well matched with their mounts. Guides and staff are very knowledgeable and nothing appeared to be too much trouble.....champagne was served to the shower queue!!!!!!! The food is divine and plentiful, our belts needed letting out a hole by the end of the week We had a super compatible group and we have many new friends. Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies are superb and I would love to return.”

— *Ruth-Ann New Zealand*

“A most memorable experience. I have been on two trail rides with T.R.C.R. and loved them both. The staff, camp setup, food, horses, wranglers, trails and overall camaraderie were fantastic. The wranglers selected a horse that matched my riding ability and I was able to keep up and ride comfortably with the other riders. The food was amazing and I loved sleeping in the teepees. Seeing parts of the parks that most people never get to experience was

something very special. These rides were one of the best experiences that I have ever had!”

— *Name withheld by request*

“As a total antidote to the crowds in Banff and surrounding areas two friends and I took a road less travelled with the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies. What a wonderful experience. Great horses that were well matched to the experience or lack thereof of their riders. The scenery was amazing and the horses were quiet enough to photograph or just experience it at our leisure. The food was outstanding, especially when you consider that most of it was cooked from scratch with a gas stove and a wood stove. The quiet and tranquillity were amazing, as all supplies and equipment is packed in by mule (and what a great way to maintain traditional skills) so no motors to jar the hearing. For those that were out and about after dark the night sky was spectacular with no light pollution to mar the stars. A little riding experience would be helpful although not necessary with the ever helpful staff on hand to help anyone that wasn’t quite coping with the horseback thing. I would recommend this to anyone that wants to experience the Canadian Rockies and get away from it all...strictly no wi-fi or cell phone reception, a great break from the hustle and bustle of modern life.”

— *Jennie M, Dunedin, New Zealand*

“We had a great time. We had never ridden before, and I have to say, the horses were the best, were good and patient with their new riders. The cowboys and cowgirl were very attentive and great help when ever needed, and they were great fun, too. Can’t say enough for the cooks as the meals were the best and all made from scratch. Amazing! Enjoyed the company very much as always all were good for a laugh or two. Never missed the electronics and we made our own music. This definitely was a great way to see the Rockies, and what great scenery. Loved all the wild flowers, all was so colourful.”

— *Rex & Cathy, Edmonton, Alberta*

“Even as a novice horse rider, I had a fabulous trip and the staff took care of our every need.”

— *Name withheld by request*

MARKETING

As stated in the Presidents Letter, Travel Alberta will be looking after about 80% of our marketing at next to no cost to our club. However, that does not mean that any of us can “rest on our laurels...”

For 92 years, our best form of advertising has been word of mouth. That is still the same today. As club members, we rely on your good graces to do any/all of the following:

1. Come back this summer on a ride!
2. Bring friends, family members etc. (don't forget our \$100. off program if you refer a new rider)
3. Have a T.R.C.R. Round-up in your area; invite friends over, show pictures, talk about the good times you had on previous rides.
4. Write a story and publish it in your local newspaper or any magazine.
5. Post to our facebook account.

Here is what the T.R.C.R. is doing in 2015 for marketing:

MARKETING PLAN FOR T.R.C.R. 2015

1. Sun Media story by Pamela Roth to be published in March 2015 and repeated in other Sun newspapers across Canada.
2. Full page pictorial by Westworld Magazine (aka AMA) in the February 2015 issue. (519,000 copies)
<http://westworldmagazine.ama.ab.ca/i/451367>
3. Story by Matt Bailey to be published in the May 2015 issue of “Our Canada” magazine.
4. Social media pursuits by Matt Bailey on his blog.
5. Media by Karla Bailey TBA.
6. Three FAM tours (familiarization trips for the media) this summer.



FUTURE RIDES

The Board of Directors recently held a two hour meeting in Banff with representatives of Parks Canada. We proposed camp locations, which although were not badly received, still need to be approved. Additionally, your board also proposed using a camp model similar to one that we are using this summer (ie. a front country non-wilderness camp with “day rides”). Although this is not the type of camping arrangements we want, it does allow us to stay in Banff National Park (possibly Jasper too) and it does give us new areas to ride. Our proposed list includes:

Panther River, Johnston Creek, Palliser Pass, Pipestone River, Scotch Camp/Red Deer, and Bryant Creek/Assiniboine on our 100th anniversary in 2023 and of course the day ride option in Banff and Jasper Parks.

Your support is needed in writing letters to Parks Canada and the elected politicians. See page 13 for details.

CAN YOU JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Ah yes, the advent of modern technology....

Since 1961 when the T.R.C.R. became a non-profit society we have operated in the city of Calgary, Alberta. Our mailing box address is there, and as well, most of our Board members live in the greater Calgary area. However, we can now have anyone from any location be on our Board via online video conferencing. Our sister organization the Skyline Hikers has one board member from Ontario who “attends” every meeting without leaving the comfort of their own home! If they can do this, so can we!! LOL

The T.R.C.R. needs members who have a passion for seeing that we continue to operate our club as we have for the last 52 years. Our meetings are two hours or less, once a month, usually the 3rd or 4th Monday evening starting at 7:00 pm MST. We can make arrangements for you to participate and of course there will be an expectation that you would be the chairman of one or more committees. Any volunteer administrative experience is an asset. There is work to do....

If we are going to keep this organization alive, we need some help. Will you join us? Send your inquiries to the President, Stuart R. Watkins. Email: srwatkins@shaw.ca

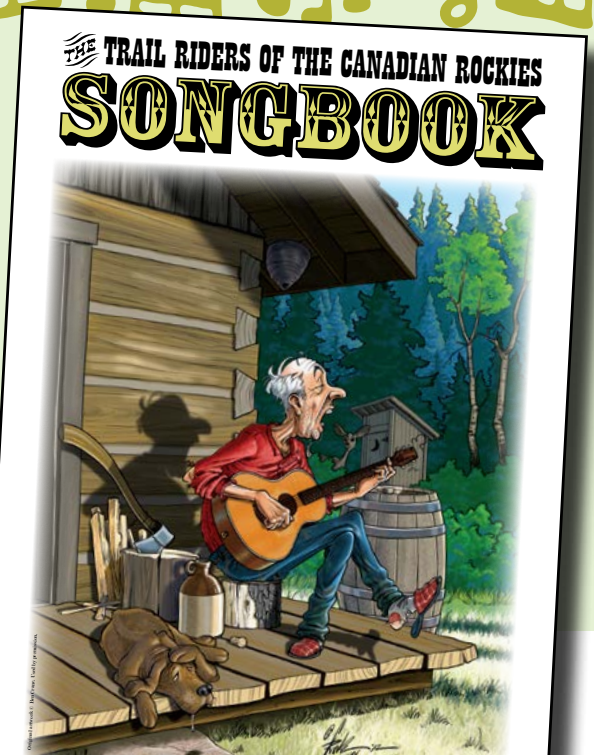


CALLING ALL MUSICIANS AND PROSPECTIVE EMCEE'S!

Ideally we like to have an official musician on every ride. Historically this has been an accordionist and/or fiddle player which is our first choice, and we will accept guitar players as well. Any additional skills in entertaining the riders is welcome too.

We need an Emcee for every ride. There is not a lot of “work” to do, but there is quite a bit of responsibility. We publish an “Emcee’s handbook” and the position is open to anyone that has attended one or more rides. It is helpful to have some administrative skills and of course you need to be a “people person” and be well versed in the history of the T.R.C.R. and our policies and procedures that are clearly written in the handbook.

Musicians and Emcees’ pay the full price of the ride in advance like every other rider. Emcees receive a \$500 rebate and Musicians \$1000. For further information and any questions, please contact our President, Stuart R. Watkins. srwatkins@shaw.ca





WE NEED YOUR VOICE !



The National Parks act clearly states that the Parks are for, “the enjoyment of the people...” The National Parks are not wildlife reserves or wildlife sanctuaries; they are for the use and enjoyment of the people of our great country and our international visitors. This does not mean that protection is not an issue. We the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies have been ardent environmental stewards of this our valuable resource called, “National Parks.” The way we operate our camps today is a, “night and day improvement” over our (and everyone else’s) treatment of the environment 40 years ago. We have been subject to stringent environmental policies and procedures with respect to our camps. Not only have we fully accepted those conditions but agree with them ourselves.

Your Board of Directors will be continuing to put pressure on the government bureaucrats as well politicians. However we very much need your help.

What your Board of Directors, are asking you to do is write to the following government representatives and politicians telling them the following:

- 1) That you were a guest on a trail ride in 2014 (or any other previous year) and thoroughly enjoyed yourself. Further you regard this as an important part of your summer vacation plans.
- 2) That you fully support the use of horses in the National Parks and that you are very much against the elimination of horses for tourism.
- 3) Please remind these government officials in your letter that The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies bring tens of thousands of dollars into the Alberta and Canadian economies every year.
- 4) Please remind these government officials that the National Parks act is very clear and states that, “the Parks are for the enjoyment of the people.” Further state that the T.R.C.R. has as an excellent reputation for environmental stewardship and very much supports these measures. However, National Parks are not wildlife sanctuaries, and the people of this country and our international visitors have a right to see the backcountry of the National parks.
- 5) Please conclude your letter by asking the government to expand the number of campsites the T.R.C.R. can use in Banff National Park. As well as incdreasng the number of riders per day.

Please send your letters to the following people:

Mr. Glenn Kubian

Lake Louise Yoho Kootenay Field Unit
Parks Canada Agency
P.O. Box 220
Radium, B.C. V0A 1M0

Ms. Sheila Louey

Manager, Integrated Land Use Planning & Policy
Banff Field Unit
Box 900
Banff, Alberta T1L 1K2

Mr. Dave McDonough

Superintendent, Banff National Park
Box 900
Banff, Alberta T1L 1K2

Mr. Alan Latourelle

Parks Canada C.E.O.
Office of the Chief Executive Officer
25 Eddy
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0M5

The Honourable Blake Richards, MP

Room 602, Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Leona Aglukkag

Minister of the Environment
Room 458 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Colin Carrie

Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister of the Environment
Room 410, Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper

Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

For our Canadian club members, please write your local Member of Parliament as well.

— Thank-you.

ROAD APPLES, LOOSE CINCHES & TEEPEE TALK...

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the T.R.C.R. will be held Monday May 4th, 2015 at the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Please R.S.V.P. to Robert by April 25th.

For the AGM, a package will be sent in mid-April. If you cannot attend, please send in your proxy (the proxy will be part of the package).

DONATIONS

Our club is always in need of funds to continue to operate, repair and add equipment as needed. We expect to spend over \$30,000 in the next few years to replace canvas tents, teepees, and our kitchen. Your donation to our non-profit club is appreciated.

Are you re-writing your will? Please consider bequeathing some of your estate to help to preserve our club for future generations.

PASSAGES: DAN HEATHER

Dan was the “second guide” on the T.R.C.R. under Mike Crawley, from 1968 - 1973. He was also a packer for us in 1977. He was an experienced horseman who helped “many a dude” to learn to ride the trails with T.R.C.R. In mid-life, Dan entered the movie industry and was well known in Alberta for his behind the scene skills. He passed away last year at his home in Black Diamond. Happy Trails Dan.

THE RIDES OF 2015

(continued from page 1)

corrals, about ten minutes and longer on some days as we go to different trail heads.

Our newly overhauled website has all the details, but here is a brief itinerary:

Depart the Acclaim Hotel near the airport in Calgary by bus with a stop at [Head-Smashed-in-Buffalo Jump](#) on our way to Waterton. After arriving our camp and having a hearty lunch, we will have a short three-hour “primer ride” around the shores of Waterton Lakes National Park. For the next five days we will have some spectacular rides to Twin Lakes, Rowe Lake, Crandell Lake, the Horseshoe Basin and Blue Lake. Each day we will return to our camp by a shuttle for the usual standard fare of great food and fellowship. This year since we will not be having wilderness camp, we will have the opportunity to have different types of live entertainment in our doughnut at night. Details to follow.

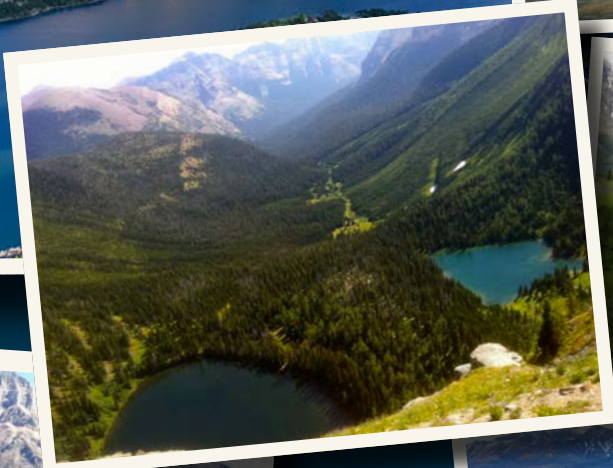
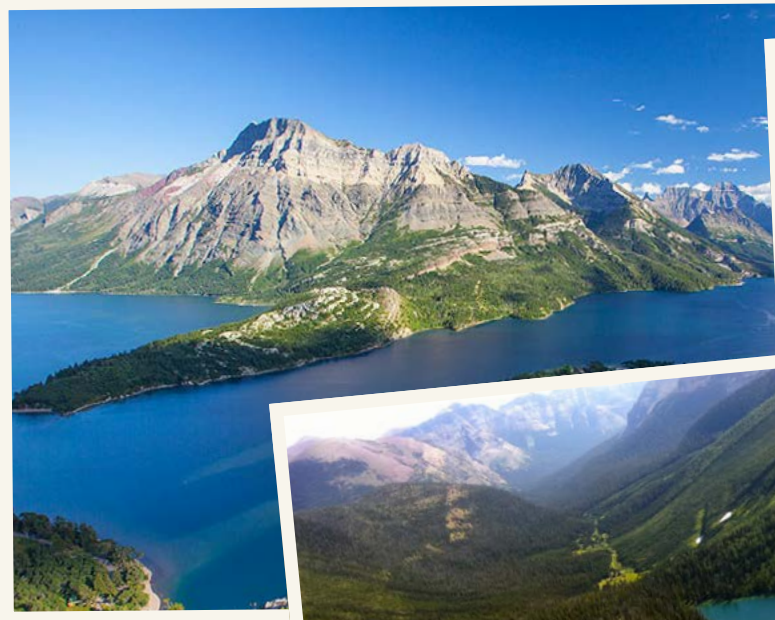
The main reason that people attend our rides is not because of horses, not because of our great food, not because of friends and entertainment as good as all those things are they book with us to see the spectacular Rocky Mountains. This year the T.R.C.R. will be going into areas it has never been before in 92 years. Judging by the pictures and commentary given to us by our outfitter Deb Watson this is truly a summer you will not want to miss. We are not holding space for our membership so bookings will be on a first come first serve basis. We strongly suggest that you complete your registrations as soon as possible.



SNEAK PEEK AT 2015...



WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK



Photos courtesy Robert Berdan ©