



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TRAIL RIDERS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

THE BULLETIN

March 2017

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Stuart R. Watkins

THE RIDES OF 2017

This summer we will have two four-day rides, one five-day ride and two six-day trail rides in Waterton Lakes National Park (a World UNESCO Site) in south western Alberta, Canada. (Note: more rides will be added as demand permits.) We have added the four day rides after listening to potential riders who were looking for a shorter trip because of time constraints. Our base camp will be located just outside of the border of Waterton Lakes National Park (Parks policy will not allow us to have our camp within the National park) and in the same spot as last summer. Inside this newsletter you will see the improvements that we are making to the camp. Our outfitter, Deb Watson, has also added three new rides to our package of trips which allows us to further customize each day and each ride. Our 2017 website has all the details including a special section called, "What's new in 2017." Click here to go right to that section <http://trailridevacations.com/new-in-2017/>

2017 Abbreviated Itinerary:

- Depart the Acclaim Hotel near the airport in Calgary by van with a stop at Head-Smashed-in-Buffalo-Jump, a world UNESCO site. <http://www.history.alberta.ca/headsmashedin/>. We were there two years ago and it was VERY popular with our guests and we had many requests to return. After a hearty lunch at camp, we will have a short three-hour "primer ride" on the Waterton Lakes/Golf Course loop which will include a safety talk by the guides.

- During the next few days we will have some spectacular rides to Lone Lake, Goat Lake, and Addison Lake/Carthew Summit (all new rides) which will be added to our standard rides of: Blue Lake and the spectacular Spionkop Ridge, "the Lion's Head," Avion Ridge, Twin Lakes, Rowe Lakes, Crandell Lake, the Horseshoe Basin, and Loon Lake. Our goal on each ride

will be to evaluate the guests' riding ability and the weather. Thus, each day and each trip will then be customized so that each person is in the best position to see new countryside, but based upon safety and weather. Additionally, we are making an improvement to the optional boat cruise down Waterton Lake to Goat Haunt in Glacier National Park U.S.A. Departing at 10:00 am, the passengers will disembark for a short 45 minute hike to some falls, guided by a U.S. Park Ranger. After enjoying their picnic lunch, the guests will then return on the 2:00 pm sailing to be followed by some shopping in the Village of Waterton.

- Each day will we will return to our camp by shuttle for the usual fare of great food and fellowship. (not sure how to improve on Ashley's hot Saskatoon pie and ice cream!)
- Our evening Doughnut entertainment will be quite different this year; a step in a new direction and you can read more about it in this newsletter or by clicking on the "What's new in 2017" on the website. <http://trailridevacations.com/new-in-2017/>

We have some incredible rides this summer; a summer you will not want to miss! Bookings will be on a "first come first serve" basis and we strongly suggest that you complete your registrations as soon as possible as our bookings are already up 300% over last year. Click here to see availability: <http://trailridevacations.com/ride-availability/>

Don't forget that members receive a 20% discount and the U.S./Canadian exchange rate is very favourable at around 30%, although that is decreasing slowly, so BOOK NOW!

Letter From the President

Dear Fellow Trail Riders:

In November, I attended the Canada West Marketplace Convention in Jasper, AB. In my opinion, this was the biggest marketing event the TRCR has ever been a part of. The three-day convention consisted of attending meetings sponsored by Travel Alberta and having ten minute “speed dating” meetings with tour operators. I had over thirty-five appointments and our product was very well received. I also had a meeting in mid-February in Calgary with Anderson Vacations, one of the largest receptive tour operators in Canada and made a presentation to all of their staff.

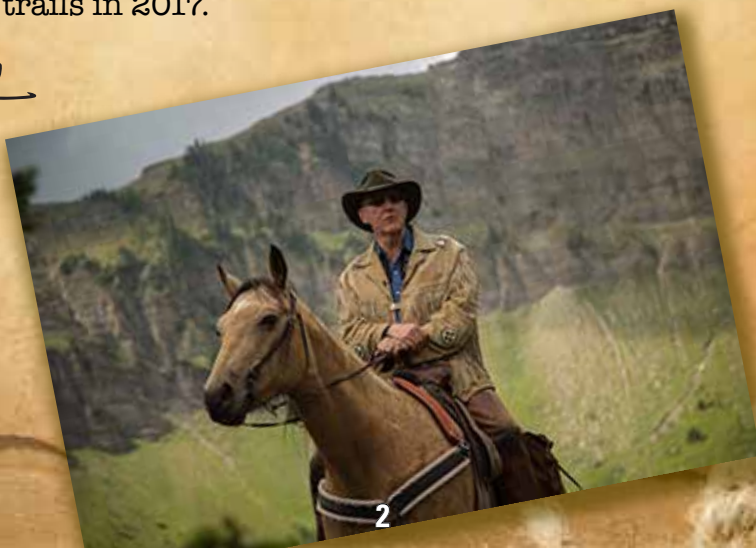
Our goal this summer is to fill 5 rides, and add 5 more if possible. The TRCR has had to undergo some changes in recent years in order to be competitive in today’s transitional and competitive tourism market. This summer that will include: improvements to our camp, more customization of day rides, and hired Emcees/musicians. We must constantly improve our product and those improvements have come largely from you, the membership. The surveys that were completed by attending members was a real help to the board and we have listened to your comments. Thank-you.

We rely on our membership to help the four board members to keep this historic club (94 years young!) in operation. We continue to persevere as we feel that the TRCR is an important part of our Western Canadian cowboy culture; one that should continue. Can you help us by:

1. Writing letters to Parks Canada.
2. E-mailing your pictures for the Townsend Trophy competition.
3. Posting on the TRCR Facebook account.
4. Telling your friends about TRCR; bring one with you next summer! (and receive a \$100. discount)
5. Write a story and publish it in local papers/magazines.
6. Book soon!

See you on the trails in 2017.

Stuart





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

The Board of Directors decided that this is a golden opportunity to welcome those members who may not be willing or able to do any riding, but may wish to join the fun. Our camp location will allow for easy access for "alumni riders" who are welcome to join us using the "Companion Option" below as an unaccompanied guest.

THE 'COMPANION OPTION'

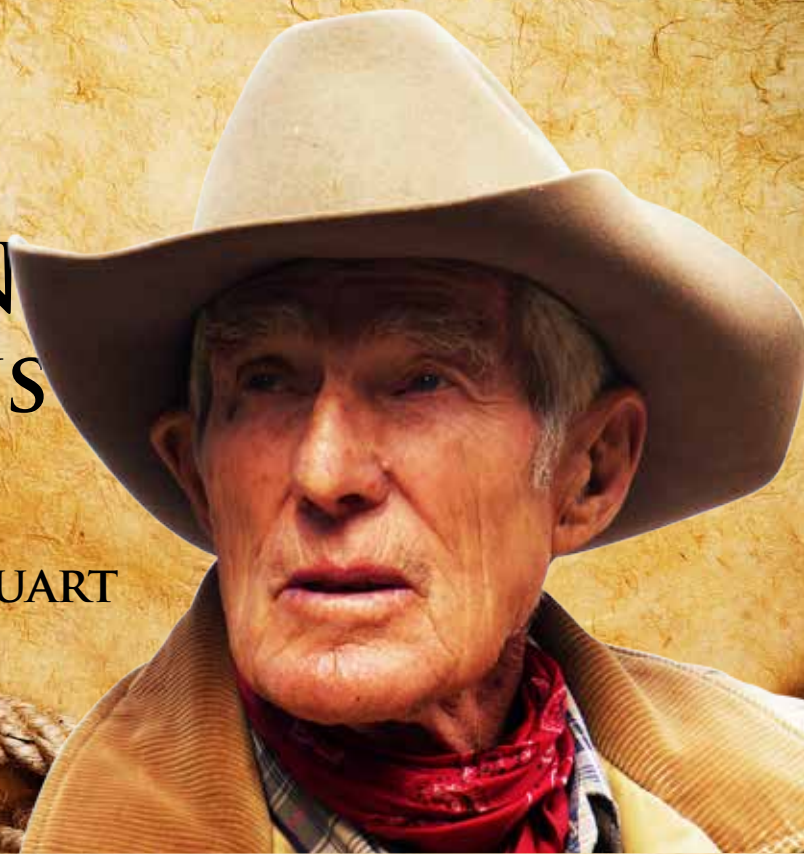
This option allows long time, returning riding guests who no longer ride to bring a friend, spouse or other family member for activities that are not on horseback. Or, if you are already a TRCR member, join us at camp! Utilizing our daily shuttle, our companion guests and T.R.C.R. members can ride to 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!

THE LEGEND OF WATERTON DEE BARRUS

BY RYAN STUART



DEE BARRUS: FOREVER AT HOME ON THE RANGE

Like learning to walk for most people, Dee Barrus doesn't remember the first time he rode a horse. The owner of Alpine Stables, the Trail Riders' outfitter in Waterton, grew up on a farm outside Cardston in southern Alberta. He rode horseback five kilometres to school every day until he was eight. After riding five kilometres back he'd jump back on and go exploring on the prairie and into coulees, tracking animals and having fun. So, while horses were just a part of Barrus's life, he remembers discovering the mountains.

As a teenager he volunteered to protect herds of sheep in the foothill canyons north of Waterton Lakes National Park near Trail Rider's destinations like Blue Lake and Mill Creek. His father and other ranchers dropped the sheep and Barrus off in the canyons at the start of the summer and then came back to pick them up in September. Barrus's job was to keep the grizzlies and sheep apart. He's got more than a few wild tales of lost sheep, charging grizzlies and firing a shotgun blindly into the night. But what stands out more than 60 years later, is how those teenage summers under the big peaks percolated into his soul. "That's when I developed my interest in the mountains," he says. "That's when I started wanting to get into the mountains as much as I could."

Now at 82 the interest shows no signs of diminishing. Even though it seems like the natural fit, *Alpine Stables* and guiding trail rides were actually part of Act Two in Barrus's life. After the three room school house he rode to each day became a one room school, Barrus's dad moved the family into Cardston and commuted to the mixed farm and ranch. Beyond horses, Barrus grew up loving automotive mechanics. Out of high school he worked on Chevys and Fords out of a Cardston garage. "After a number of years I decided I didn't want to grow old swinging wrenches," he remembers. He always had an aptitude and interest in sharing his knowledge with others so he took a job at a high school in Lethbridge teaching auto mechanics. Twenty three years later high school lost its charm and he switched careers again; this time to work for *Alberta Fish and Game*. He'd drive around the province to small communities teaching people how to run their own trap lines and licensing new trappers. He even converted himself. Barrus still runs three trap lines in Alberta, one near Cardston, another near Bragg Creek and the main one in a roadless stretch of northern Alberta near Lac la Biche. He spends less time on the trap lines these days; a few weeks versus the whole winter, but he still loves the work. "It keeps me involved in a country I dearly love," he says.



Barrus retired from the Fish and Game job in 2015 to focus exclusively on the trail riding business he started in 1969. That's when Waterton Park was looking for a new horse guiding business. Barrus and his brother-in-law put in a submission and won. *Alpine Stables* was born. At that time there was nothing at their present location just north of the townsite.

"It was a struggle to finance it," he says. "No ordinary financial institution wanted to put out money for it." But he managed to make it work on his teacher salary. It was a dream job for Barrus. "I was riding in the mountains, I liked to work with people and I was sharing all my favourite spots," he says. Business steadily improved. Today, beyond outfitting the TRCR for the last two summers, *Alpine Stables* is as busy as it can be running day trips and hour long rides from its base. A sister operation, *Blue Ridge Outfitters*, to the north of the park and the TRCR base camp is equally busy. Luckily for Barrus he has his family to fall back on when things get too crazy. His brother-in-law left after only a few years as a partnership, but the business has always been a family operation with his wife Lorna, kids and their kids; all working alongside Barrus over the years. "It makes it easy to find good help," he says. "They've all been raised in the business. They know what it's about and what they have to do. It's not like bringing in a kid from Toronto and trying to teach him how to operate a trail ride."



He wishes he could say the same for the other half of the trail riding equation: the horses. Finding good trail horses is harder than ever. "Most horses are trained to go round and round an arena - they're not broke at all," he says. "What's that horse going to do if a rain coat falls off the horse in front of him or something jumps out of the bushes? It will be at least two years before you can trust him." Instead, Barrus is always looking for horses broken on the trail or on the prairie where they've lived with rain storms and high winds, animals jumping out of bushes and herding cattle. "They're totally different horses," he says. Even then, new horses are only ridden by a guide for the first summer or two. It's just another challenge for Barrus who's never shied a challenge. He has more to come. As anyone that's ridden with Barrus can attest, he may look like he's spent 82 years on a horse but he doesn't act it. He hops in and out of a saddle smoother than most people ever will. Still, he is in his 80s and "five foot seven inches and shrinking." How many more years will he keep guiding trips? "As long as I can," he says. And when he can't anymore? He laughs: "I guess I'll go ride by myself."

Editor's Note:
I am extremely grateful to Ryan Stuart for donating this article about Dee Barrus to the TRCR Bulletin. Ryan is a professional freelance outdoor writer living in Comox B.C. with his wife and daughter Paige. He and Paige attended ride number two last summer as he was contracted by the TRCR and Travel Alberta to write an article about us that will be published in the March edition of Explore Magazine. "Explore" is Canada's largest outdoor magazine and when the digital version of Ryan's story is available, I will forward it to all club members.

WE NEED YOUR VOICE!



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 2015 (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 increasing the number of riders per day.

Please note, we have been told that a letter (the old kind on paper with a stamp!) will get far more attention than an email. It can be the same letter to each person. Thanks!

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 Catherine McKenna

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

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau

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

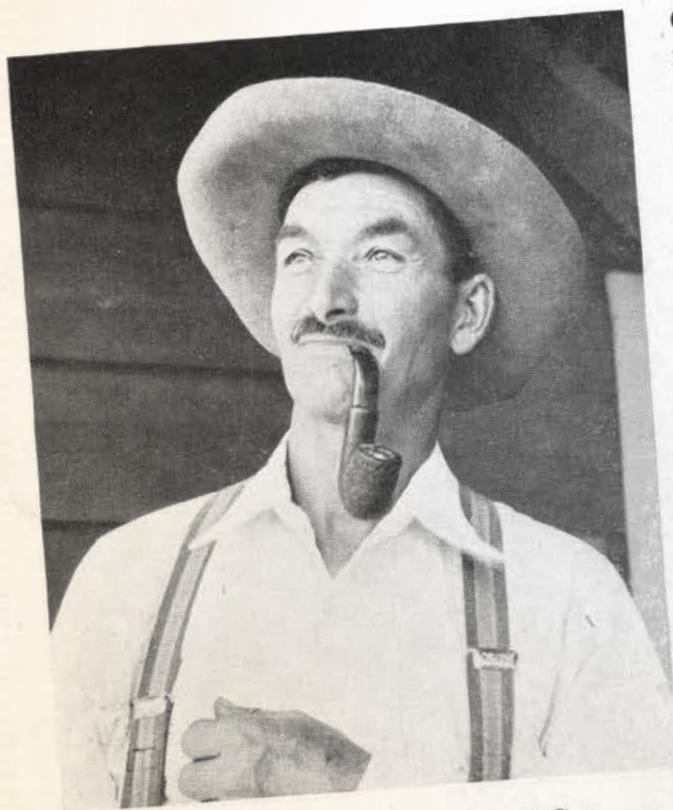
For our Canadian club members, please write your local Member of Parliament as well.

Thank-you.

WE NEED your voice !

Note to foreign members: Please do not think that your voice does not count since you are not a Canadian citizen! On the contrary, as a person bringing foreign currency into our economy, your voice is very much heard in Banff and Ottawa!

OUR COLOURFUL HISTORY



Walter Nixon of Invermere, B.C.

WALTER NIXON, veteran "mountain man", Canadian Rockies guide and rancher, guided the Earl of Athlone and Princess Alice on their hunting trip through the East Kootenay area during which the

Governor General brought down a large mountain goat.

Walter Nixon, pictured here, is one of the best-known guides for big game hunting on the western slopes of the Canadian Rockies adjoining the Simpson Summit and Mount Assiniboine, which districts he traps during the winter months.

Originally from Ontario, Guide Nixon has ranched in the Upper Columbia Valley, B.C., for almost forty years; has been a game warden in that area and in the Kootenay River and Leancoil districts.

In addition, he was one of the founders and charter members of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, an organization now world-famous. The birth place was the Wolverine Plateau in British Columbia west of the Banff-Windermere automobile road.

Walter has marked on a Government Survey Map (here reproduced) the location of the basin and lake where the Governor General bagged his mountain goat. This location can be recognized by Trail Riders from its proximity to Og Lake. If we are not mistaken it is on the route of Walter Nixon's winter trapping lines.

Reprinted from TRCR Bulletin 1935



WHAT'S NEW IN 2017

After each ride, club members are asked to complete a survey about their experiences over the last week rating all of the events, food, horses, rides, camp etc. Each survey is then given to our club President and he painstakingly reads every comment and then compiles the information into a report which he then presents to the Board of Directors in the fall. ALL comments are taken seriously and the board listens very carefully. Thank-you to everyone who contributed (especially the riders from ride #3). We have heard you loud and clear. Here are the results of those surveys and listed below you will see the actions that your board, working on your behalf, has taken to address them.

Survey Results:

Very high marks and wonderful comments about our outfitter. Dee and Josh, are the best! People were very grateful for all the personal service and hospitality. Attention to detail, guest comfort and safety was noted by everyone.

The food was highly rated. The breakfasts were amazing and a complete make-over from last year. The variety of options were noticed. Thank-you! Same goes for the lunches. Everyone was well pleased with the variety. Dinner was hot and enjoyed by all; the desserts were a big hit! (especially the Saskatoon pie!) And there were lots of comments on the great service.

The Bar U stop was well-liked by all.

Comments about the camp were all over the board. A list of 12 Improvements to the camp will be made this summer. Thank you everyone for the feedback.

NEW ENTERTAINMENT AND EMCEES!

BRAD BISCHOFF

We are pleased to announce that the TRCR has contracted its hosting and music duties to three entertainers that we know you will enjoy.

Bradley Bischoff is a founding member of "The Wardens." Riding horseback patrols as a National Park Warden began in 1981 for Bradley where he was stationed in the rugged and remote South Boundary, in Jasper National Park's Brazeau District for seventeen days at a time. For the next thirty years, Bradley has worked in Parks from Nunavut to Newfoundland to the Pacific Ocean. His diverse career which includes working as a farrier, ranch manager and teacher are reflected in his songwriting.

Brad, his wife Debbie and their two daughters live in Canmore, Alberta.

Brad will share original songs and stories about the history and traditions of *Canada's National Park Warden Service*. Superb musicianship, haunting vocals and chilling tales from a man who spent his career in the most rugged of all places; Canada's Rocky Mountain National Parks, true tales from this "Man for the Mountains" and great campfire sing-songs in our Doughnut tent.

"The quintessential mountain-culture concert experience."
- Jamie Bliss, Kootenay Mountain Culture Magazine

"Yours is the best all-encompassing show I've ever seen. Visual, musical, knowledgeable and truthful. My attention and enjoyment never wavered." - Terri Mason, Editor, Canadian Cowboy Magazine

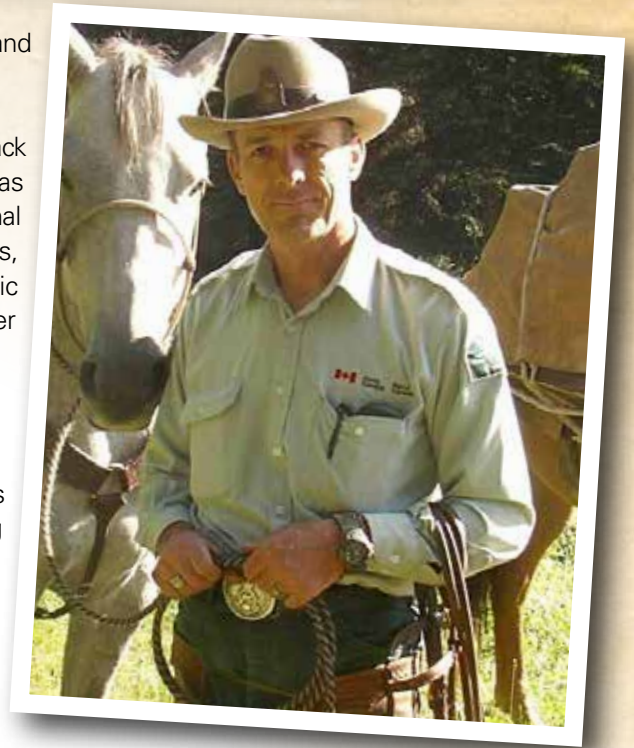
Brad will be the Emcee and musician for rides 1 (July 17 – 20) and 3 (July 31 – Aug 4).

<http://www.banffwardens.com>

LARRY KRAUSE

Larry is from Paddockwood, Saskatchewan and has been a headliner for Grandstand shows, performed on the mainstage at major Country Music Festivals, played for international trade shows, has been featured on television specials, entertained around the fire after a long Cowboy day, and just about everything in between. Repeat invitations to be a Feature Artist at major Cowboy Poetry Gatherings, Western Music Festivals all across Western Canada, Community Hall Concerts, as well as the Calgary Stampede, speak very well of the following his prairie based original music has developed. Larry has released three albums; *"True Blue,"* a Western album, *"The Gate is Open,"* an SCMA Award winning Country Gospel album, and his most recent release, *"Northern Range"* that hit the ground in the summer of 2010, to very favorable reviews on both sides of the border. Country radio stations across Western Canada, Europe, Australia and the USA, regularly play songs from his CDs. His down-to-earth, standup performance style and solid vocal delivery combined with his ability to bring the story in the music to life, make for a memorable and enjoyable entertainment experience.

Larry has heard about the TRCR for years from his neighbour, Lois Laycraft,



NEW ENTERTAINMENT AND EMCEES!

a past President of our club and will be joining us as Emcee/Musician (along with his wife, Gail) on ride 4 (August 8-12) and ride 5 (August 14-19).

"I have always genuinely enjoyed your recordings, and I trust my CMN reviews, past and present, have alerted other people to your work." - Larry Delaney, Country Music News

"Very entertaining, good story telling, everyone enjoyed the show. Some said could have listened for another hour. You are a very talented man with an amazing voice, and we WILL have you back."

- J.S.-Unity Ag. Society

<http://www.larrykrause.ca>

DENNIS ORR (along with club President, Stuart Watkins)

The July 24th ride will be hosted by club President Stuart Watkins and past President, Dennis Orr.

Dennis was Stuart's music teacher way back in 1970 and Stuart brought Dennis on his first ride in 1971. Dennis was the musician on that ride and afterwards was both musician and Emcee for many years. Eventually Dennis was elected to the Board of Directors and was club President in 1975 and 1976, and our outfitter in 1994. Dennis is one of the many "unsung heroes" whose sacrifice and hard work has kept our club still in existence today. He is retired after a 40+ year career as a public school band/music teacher and still keeps busy performing professionally about 2-3 times a month. We are delighted to have Dennis back with us this summer.



THE TOWNSEND TROPHY



The Townsend Trophy, inscribed "Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies COUNTRY LIFE TROPHY for the best nature photography taken on the Official Trail Ride presented by Reginald Townsend"

— **Reginald T. Townsend** (1890-1977),
the editor of the American edition of *Country Life*



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 are 5 categories:

- Flora & Fauna
- In Camp
- Mountain Scenery
- On the Trail
- Horses and People

Our judges are volunteers from the Calgary Camera Club, with head judge Graeme Kershaw.

Graeme has outlined below how the judges approached this task, "Pictures are 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.

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.

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 black-and-white. All entries become property of the TRCR for our calendar, albums or advertising.

The deadline for the photo competition from the 2016 rides is March 31st.
Send your photos to admin@trail-rides.ca

Have fun choosing your best 3 or 4 in each category and good luck everyone!

WHAT'S NEW IN MARKETING

HERE ARE THE TRCR MARKETING PROJECTS FOR 2016/17:

1. Strong Coffee Marketing, an Edmonton based social media company that specializes in tourism, has been retained again to conduct diagnostic Google Analytics work on our website to determine exactly how we are and are not, getting bookings. In addition, they will be launching several campaigns using Facebook and Instagram so please, do search for these and "like it;" add them to your own social media groups and help get the word out!

2. We are continuing our listing on the:

- a) Alberta Country Vacations website: <http://www.albertacountryvacation.com>
- b) Equitrekking website: <http://www.equitrekking.com>
- c) Hidden Trails website: <http://www.hiddentrails.com>
- d) American Round-up website: <http://www.americanroundup.com/canada/Alberta>
- e) <http://www.riding-vacations.info>
- f) <http://www.ridingholidays.com>

3. Travel Alberta has the TRCR listed on their website and they are working with tour operators to "spread the word" about us. There is also a story about us on the "horse page" of the Travel Alberta website. <https://www.travelalberta.com/ca/things-to-do/summer-outdoor-activities/horseback-riding/>. Travel Alberta is also putting us on the German addition of their website and we are now listed on the Australian and British Travel Alberta sites as well.

4. There have been many upgrades to our website:

- a) new videos including some amazing testimonies (you can watch 4 videos in under 10 minutes)
- b) new "slider pictures" on the home page
- c) a new pull down menu called, "What's new in 2017."

5. With the decline of the price of oil, the Canadian dollar has fallen to its lowest in 20 years. That is a real bargain for our U.S.A. members. At the moment our product is being carried by three international companies and we expect that to rise in the next few weeks. Stuart had a meeting in mid February with a large Calgary tour company.

6. Ryan Stuart's article will be published in March in Explore Magazine, Canada's largest circulated outdoor publication and we will send our members the link to the digital version when it becomes available.

7. Our President's trip to the Canada West Marketplace convention in Jasper last November is the biggest marketing event that the TRCR has ever undertaken since the days of the CPR. Stuart met with over thirty-five representatives of various local, national, and international tour companies. The response was very positive, but as he has been reminded by Travel Alberta who sponsored the event, "these things take time."

We need 100 riders this summer to "pay the bills" and keep our historic club in a healthy financial situation. Anything that you can do to help us, is appreciated.



ROAD APPLES, LOOSE CINCHES & TEEPEE TALK



WHERE IS RON WARNER?

Our outfitter for 40+ years Ron Warner, sold his company, Warner Guiding and Outfitting Ltd. in 2014. However, anyone that knows Ron, knows that "retirement" is not a word that is familiar to him. He built a house on an acreage west of Phoenix and spends his winters quail hunting, attending rodeos, and breaking and riding mules. He also bought a team wagon and this past winter has been teaching/driving his mules on the finer art of "wagon pulling." Come springtime, Ron is back in Alberta at his ranch north of Cochrane. Last summer he enjoyed a pack trip from Elkford B.C. to the south Kananaskis Lakes and the summer before that fulfilled a "bucket list event" by driving his trailer to Alaska and back. Ron has been invited to join us for the final night of ride #2. Perhaps he will bring his mules and ride with us during the day! Looking forward to seeing you Ron!

"ROYALTY" COMES TO THE TRCR

King Prajadhipok also known as Rama VII, was the seventh monarch of Siam of the House of Chakri. He and his wife, the Queen, attended a ride with the TRCR In 1932. You can read the entire story by looking at our 2016 Bulletin, page 4 (or click here) <http://trailridevacations.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/trcr-bulletin-2016.pdf>

We are very pleased and excited to inform you, that "royalty of a sense" (at least to us!) is coming on ride #2 this summer!

Dr. John Murray Gibbon, the founder of the TRCR (see our history on the website or click here <http://trailridevacations.com/history/>) was married to his wife Ann and they lived in Montreal where Dr. Gibbon was the publicity agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway, the sponsor of the TRCR. He

and Ann had four children, one of whom was his son Philip. Philip married and he and his wife had three daughters. One of those daughters is Alexa Wilson who, much to our surprise and joy, sent a registration form to attend ride #2 this summer! Needless to say, I called Alexa and had a wonderful chat with her, hearing about her family and her grandfather. Apparently none of Dr. Gibbon's family or descendants have ever attended a trail ride! This is a first for the TRCR, a first for Alexa, and wait....it gets better! Alexa's two sisters sent in their registrations about a week after Alexa did! We now have not one but, three direct descents of our founder, Dr. John Murray Gibbon, attending our rides this summer! The Board and I are VERY excited about this and we look forward to "showing off" our wonderful historic club which would never have come into being without their grandfather, John Murray Gibbon. -Ed.

WEBB WEBSTER CELEBRATES 30 RIDES AND HIS 87TH BIRTHDAY!

Stuart was given the name, "Webb" when he was fifteen years old and it has stuck - for the last seventy-two years.

Webb Webster has ridden with the TRCR for thirty summers, often with his family, but more recently either with his grandson, or as was the case last summer, he just loaded his camper and joined a ride number one on his own. As is most often the case with TRCR, it was only a matter of a day or so before Webb had a slew of new friends.

Halfway through the week, the riders celebrated Webb's 87th birthday and he was presented with a cake and a special commemorative 30th ride belt buckle by club President, Stuart Watkins! Webb rode every day and was and always has been, an inspiration to the younger generation (which is all of us!). Webb now has the record of being the oldest rider with the greatest number of rides in the history of the TRCR! Our actual oldest rider was Charlie Whittaker who retired from the TRCR at age 91, but he did not accumulate 30 rides.



Congratulations again Webb, and see you on the trails!

AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the T.R.C.R. will be held Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Please R.S.V.P. to Robert by April 30th.

For the AGM, a package will be sent in mid- April. If you cannot attend, please send in your proxy that is included in 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.

DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND!

The rides are filling up and we're looking forward to a very successful summer. Check the website for availability. Get your registrations in soon!

...refer a friend is worth \$100 per new rider!!!

CAN YOU HELP US WITH A TESTIMONIAL?

We would like to add some testimonials to our website. Could you write us a few sentences and tell us about your previous rides, how much you enjoyed them and why you are planning to come back? You can also mention specifically what you like about the rides. Again, our best form of marketing over the years has proven to be word-of-mouth.

ARE YOU A SOCIAL MEDIA GURU??!!

The board members are not of the generation of social media!! LOL We are looking for a volunteer to handle and build our presence on Twitter and Facebook. The beauty of this position is that the person does not need to live in Calgary. With modern technology anybody with a level of expertise in social media and an internet connection can handle this most valuable and needed position.

Conventional marketing is changing and we at the T.R.C.R. need to keep abreast of new technology and join the social media revolution.

Can you help us?

WANNA HAVE SOME FUN, FRIVOLITY AND FRIENDSHIP?

As part of our contract with our outfitter, we are required to send four to six volunteers to set-up the T.R.C.R. camp and then again to tear the camp down. We offer a free accommodation, meals, fun and silliness with a great team of people, lots of hard work, and.....no pay. Working in camp under the direction of our Vice-President Gary Sandbeck, is a great job and Gary is a "dream boss" to work for. He never gets in a flap and works very well with people.

Come and join us! — Contact Gary for more information: admin@trail-rides.ca

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Join your fellow trail riders on the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies Facebook and Instagram pages.

Share your experiences, photos, and tales of the trails as we count down this year's ride in Waterton Lakes National Park.

Find us at [@trailridersofcanadianrockies](https://www.instagram.com/trailridersofcanadianrockies) on Instagram and search "Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies" on Facebook.

PASSAGES:

Joan Pruden

December 13, 1930 - June 8, 2016

Joan Doris Pruden, age 85 of Drayton Valley, passed away on Wednesday, June 8th, 2016 at Drayton Valley Continuing Care.

She was born Joan Heidinger on December 13th, 1930 in Medicine Hat, Alberta and on April 27th, 1957 Joan married Ronald Pruden.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her loving husband of 59 years, Ronald, two sons, Phillip Pruden and Joseph (Nicole) Pruden, grandchildren, Melanie and Marcie Pruden, Aidan, Erica and Miles Pruden, three siblings, George Heidinger, Ruth (Don) Roth and David Heidinger, sister in law Marie Heidinger as well as numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Joan and her mother Ona Heidinger and Joan's husband Ron rode with the TRCR for many years. Ron (we called him "nice Ron" to differentiate between him and Ron Warner! And yes Ron Pruden was a very nice guy!) would arrive in early July to either help set-up camp, or come on ride one and finish any "loose ends" around the camp. One year he spent a week building a corduroy bridge in the Palliser Pass camp so that the riders could avoid a bad mud bog. He would spend three of his five weeks vacation and then on ride two or three, Joan and her mother Ona would arrive. I have fond memories of watching Ron and Joan square dancing in the doughnut and Ona too. Joan was her mother's daughter, kind to everyone and never a bad word either. They rode with us for over twelve years. -Ed.

Happy Trails Joan.

<http://www.draytonvalleyfuneralservices.com/notices/Joan-Pruden>



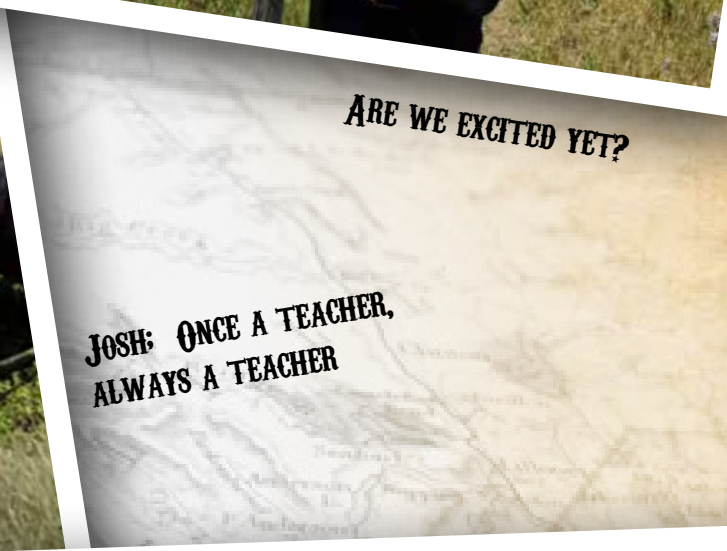
BEGINNINGS:

Ashley Watson and her husband Jared are very pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Josie Lynn Watson on December 8th, 2016 weighing 8 lbs.10 oz. She is another sister to Jaylee Marie Watson, Brynlee Elizabeth Watson, and Cason Jeffery Watson. These are the next generation of the Barrus/Watson clan that in a few more years will be cooking for and guiding the TRCR! Congratulations Ashley and Jared. Looking forward to seeing you in camp again this summer!



THE BAR U RANCH

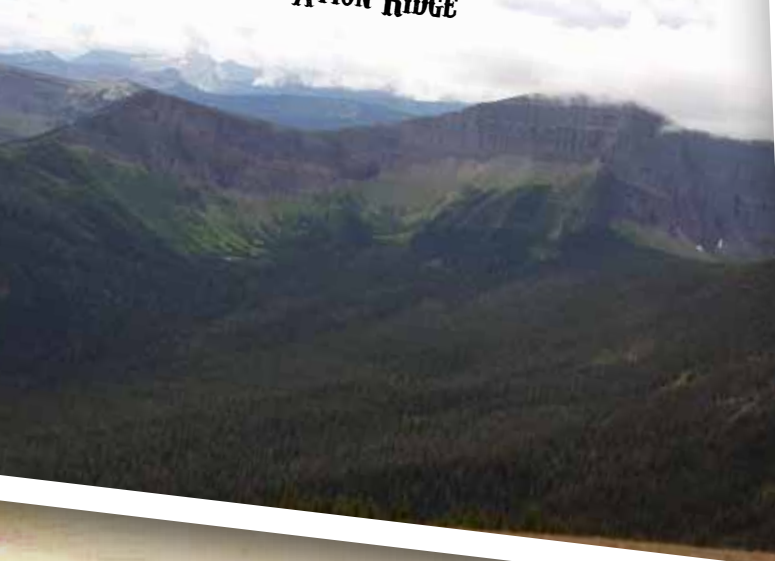
THE RIDES OF 2016



ARE WE EXCITED YET?

**JOSH: ONCE A TEACHER,
ALWAYS A TEACHER**

THE VIEW FROM AVION RIDGE



**WHY ARE THERE PEOPLE STANDING
AROUND? WHAT COULD THEY POSSIBLY
BE WAITING FOR???**



RIDE #1



OUR COOKS ASHLEY AND TAMERA! THE BEST!



THEY RODE TO THE TOP OF AVION RIDGE...



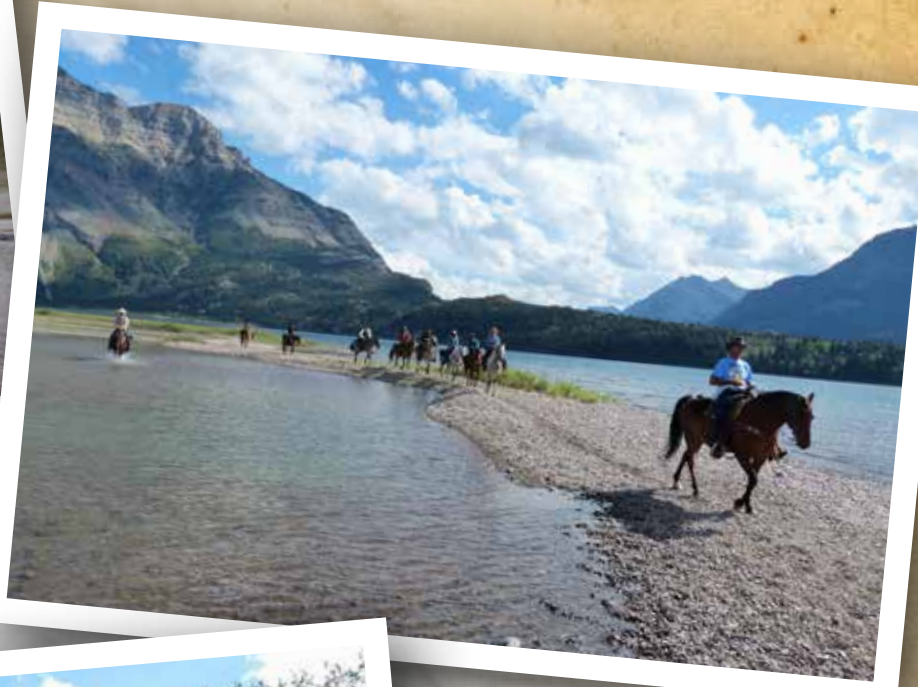
...AND MADE IT!



...AND BACK DOWN TOO! (PHEW...)



THERE IS ALWAYS ONE BRAVE SOUL...



FIRST DAY OUT



HOME SWEET HOME



SHEEP ON AVION RIDGE

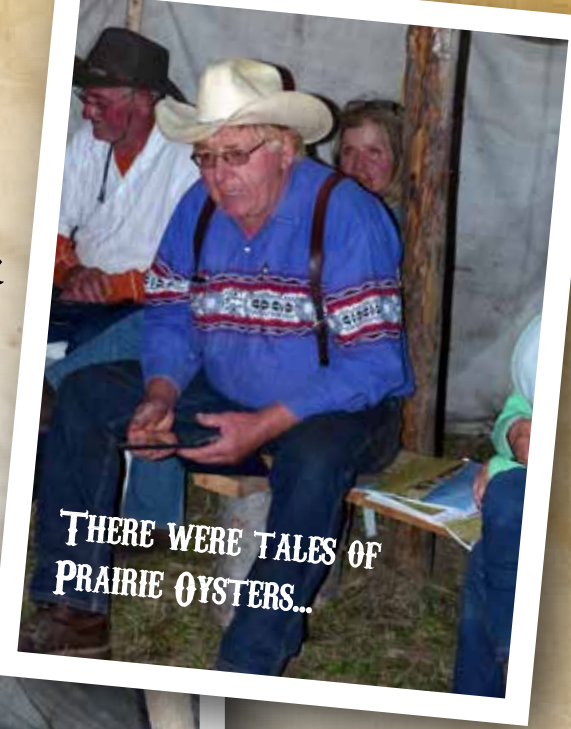


**THE VIEW FROM
SPIONKOP RIDGE**

THE BARRUS/WATSON CLAN



**SKIT
NIGHT
RIDE #1**



**THERE WERE TALES OF
PRAIRIE OYSTERS...**

...STRANGE ANIMAL NOISES



...BIRTHDAYS!



**...AND STRANGE
PEOPLE TOO!**



HAPPY TRAILS EVERYONE "TRAPPER JACK"