

The Bulletin

Fall 2018 Newsletter of the



TRAIL RIDERS

of the Canadian Rockies

Box 8646 Canmore, Canmore, Alberta T1W 0B9 ♦ Phone: 1-844-560-5522 ♦ Email: admin@trail-rides.ca



We're Excited!

We're "Back in Banff National Park" in 2019 & there's "More"

Hi Trail Riders

2019 - Our 96th Year is nearly upon us. Here's looking excitedly to 2019 and moving forward towards our 100th Year Anniversary in 2023. We have Great News!

This Newsletter is focusing on getting the news out about plans for 2019.
February's Newsletter will include Photo's and Stories from the amazing 2018 rides.

But first let's announce the 2017 Townsend Photo Contest Winners – Congratulations to All !

(All 1st place winner's photos are featured in last summer's handout TRCR Calendar for 2019)

Thanks to all who entered. See T.T. Section below for how to enter this year.

Drumroll..... AND THE 2017 T.T. Photo Contest WINNERS ARE:

Grand Prize - Townsend Trophy	Linda Bittner Pics next page.
Flora & Fauna	also Linda Bittner (different photo)
In Camp	Jude Fleetham
Scenic Views	Alexa Wilson
On the Trail	Jude Fleetham
People and Horses	June Jansen

Index

[TT Icons & Intro Pg 2] [2019/2020 Official Rides Pg 2] [2019 Official Ride Pg 3] [Alternative Rides Pg 3]
[Townsend Trophy Pg 5] [Hats Off to Volunteers Pg 5] [TT Winner Photos Pg 8] [Cascade Ride Photos Pg 11]

Townsend Trophy Photography Contest Winners

(larger versions of pics at end of News letter Pg 8)



T.T. Winner
Linda Bittner



Fauna & Flora
Linda Bittner



Camp
J. Fleetham



Scenic View
Alexa Wilson



On the Trail
Jude Fleetham



People and Horses
June Jansen

Intro

My name is Rick Godderis (*aka RickyG*). I'll be bringing you the TRCR News this time. Renee Delorme, my professional writer friend, who has recently ridden the Waterton Area, did the header and will join me in future publications. Both Renee and I hail from Bragg Creek, AB in the foothills just 30 miles west of Calgary.

I've owned horses. I've been a TRCR member since 1980, a 3 times past president (1983, 2006, 2007) who has ridden 34 glorious official rides with TRCR, visiting all sites a few times. And I have many more unofficial camp set-up/tear-down rides under my belt buckles (yep got a few). I've been a camp Host & Musician for most of my rides. Obviously, I enjoy horses and the splendor of the high mountains on horses. And tops through the years has been the joy of meeting, greeting and sharing our back yard with folks like you from all over the world.

Renee and I have huge shoes to fill in meeting Stuart Watkins' excellence, depth, research and style in publishing the recent TRCR Bulletins. Stuart has retired from duty. His knowledge of the TRCR was astounding and we owe gratitude to his skill in sharing that with us in The Bulletins he wrote.

Thank you Stuart - whole heartedly! (See further acknowledgements of Stuart's many other efforts in the "Kudos to Our Volunteers" section below).

Our 2019/2020 Official Rides

After 4 successful years in spectacular Waterton with wonderful Dee, Debora and Crew, yes, we are back in Banff National Park. We are riding with Banff Trail Riders Ltd as our outfitter. The new owners (Julie Canning and Jonathan Welsh) rebranded Warner Outfitting to **Banff Trail Riders (BTR)**. Since the 70s Warner was our main outfitter when in Banff Park, so we have some of the same staff, tack and horses and all their same sites with many updates to the sites. We also rode with **BTR (Banff Trail Riders)** in 2014.

The evening before each ride, **BTR** have invited us to a "Welcome Reception" between 5 and 6 pm at their barn. It's still signed as Warner Stables on Sundance Road (go through the downtown, cross the bridge and turn right on to Cave Ave - in 700M turn right on to Sundance Rd.). With drinks in hand, you'll get to meet your head guide, wrangler, staff and ask any last-minute questions. Your TRCR Host will be there too. And this is where you would be able to park your car for free while on the ride. Details will be in your confirmation package.

Also Banff Trial Riders are offering a 10% discount for 2019 to all TRCR/BTR riders for:

- All items purchased at the Trail Rider Store (132 Banff Ave) prior-to/after your ride and
- 10% off all their hourly horse-rides/steak-rides they offer

Just show your 2019 TRCR ride purchase confirmation.

Refer a Friend – You get a \$100 discount towards this year's ride for each "new" rider you refer - What a deal!

2019 Official Ride – Cascade

(larger versions of these pics plus more at bottom of Newsletter Pg 11)



Water Crossings



Mountain Riding



Swim Lake



Camp Tents/Platforms



Skit night laughs

Check www.trailridevacations.com for even more great pics and details but here's a short description. During our 6 day backcountry rides we will visit two awesome permanent **BTR** camp sites with wall tents on wood platforms (with raised beds/thermarest mattress's) and large heated kitchen/dining tents (No Teepees in camp this year).

After a short 10 km van trip from **BTR's** Banff barns, the riding will start from a corral near Lake Minnewanka (Last biffie chance until camp). We'll mount up, ride out, cross the Cascade River and mosey up this gorgeous valley to settle in at camp Stoney Creek on the banks of the river. It had to be rebuilt after the 2013 floods. On this first night of the ride, it is possible we could share this camp with another BTR ride of up to 6 riders. The rest of the week's the camps are exclusive to us!

We'll settle in for the night with supper, evening festivities and a wee sleep. Next morning hop out of bed, have a full breaky, pack a lunch and be on our way, continuing further up the Cascade and over to their Flints Park Camp. We'll stay 3 nights and have 2 day rides out of Flints. The third morning in Flints we'll head back to Stoney on a different trail closer to the river for a one-night stay. On our final day we ride a totally different and beautiful area on a trail over Elk Pass, ending up at a permanent corral area by Mount Norquay Ski Hill just above Banff.

These very remote camps are in the heart of the amazing towering Rocky Mountains. Rides will be limited to 12 people plus the TRCR Host. Cold beer and wine will be sold in camp (bring cash). Rides will be exclusive for TRCR members as long as there are more than 6 TRCR members booked by a set date (5 of our 6 rides already meet that). Hence, in Sept, albeit unlikely, there is a possibility of both members and non-members on a ride. All staff, food, services and facilities are provided by and are the responsibility of Banff Trail Riders Ltd. Rides will have a TRCR Club Host/emcee, some of whom may also be musicians.

Get your reservation in quickly as currently there are only 6 rides available for a total of 72 riders and 62 spots have already been sold (Only 10 left). If demand is there more rides may be added.

Check our website www.trailridevacations.com for details and availability or call our Administrator, Robert, at 1-844-560-5522 Email: admin@trail-rides.ca

2020 Ride

We again have an agreement to ride Banff Area with **Banff Trail Rides**. Details to be worked out.

BUT there's "More" very Exciting News for 2019 and beyond

As an experiment in 2019 TRCR will be approving some "alternative" rides identified as "TRCR Lite Rides".

- 1) "TRCR Lite" was conceived to add variety to our options for members to connect and ride together. An example is in 2017 a group of 8 TRCR members rode to The Tonquin Valley near Jasper, an incredible storied valley we had all wanted to ride for years but, despite several attempts, TRCR had not been able to negotiate a contract with them because their camp was not large enough to accommodate TRCR's

annual ridership. Their max was 8 a week. We just signed up individually and all took what they offered. It turned out to be a fantastic ride in new territory!

- 2) Going forward on an experimental basis, any TRCR member can identify any ride they wish, then sponsor it by submitting it to the Board through the Secretary/Treasurer (Robert) for approval:
 - only for the sake of "counting it in the respective rider's records towards their pin counts".

- 3) These are informal rides organized by specific Sponsor members who simply identify a ride (outfitter/where/proposed dates) as one that they are gathering on with other TRCR members. The Sponsor can say it's a prefilled ride with all spots already filled or request the Administrator to identify the ride to the membership at large and ask for "expressions of interest" so the Sponsor can talk to the Outfitter about numbers of people interested.

Often Outfitters will give Group Bookings a 10% or so discount which, if obtained, would be credited to each rider. You will have a time limited opportunity to respond. Riders will be responsible for researching the Outfitter and the Ride and satisfy themselves that it meets their standards and they are willing take a chance along with the rest. Riders are responsible for all arrangements and costs of getting yourselves to/from the Outfitter's meeting spot.

- 4) To qualify these rides are to:
- Have a minimum of 6 TRCR member riders and
 - Be a minimum of 4 days/3 nights and
 - Be into some mountains somewhere.

For this year restricted in The Alberta/BC Canadian Rockies.

- 5) Neither TRCR nor the TRCR Sponsor take any legal responsibility for the ride. These may be untested rides and with untested Outfitters. We all ride at our own risk. All riders, in a desire to simply ride with other TRCR members, must register on their own directly with the Outfitter and pay the Outfitter directly. Their contract is with that Outfitter and not with TRCR. All riders accept what that Outfitter supplies. TRCR has not reviewed nor does TRCR guarantee or insure these rides in any way (examples but not limited to quality, food, safety or content). TRCR do not receive any type of fee (referral or otherwise) from the Outfitters of these rides. TRCR are simply connecting our club members to experience other unique areas together.
- 6) The Sponsor of the ride will submit the names of those on approved rides to The Secretary/Treasurer. The membership paid helps support the club and they would have her/his ride recorded in the TRCR database towards receipt of pins, as well as other member benefits.
- 7) All riders must either be "Life Members" or pay the TRCR annual membership fee to The Secretary/Treasurer or by cheque to the Sponsor at time of the ride - \$52.50 (with GST) for 2019.
- 8) The Sponsor or any rider may write a short report on the ride for consideration to be published in the Newsletter.

The First Proposed "TRCR Alt Ride" - sponsor Ted (An example of what could be possible)

Ted is looking in to a potential 6-7 day High Adventure Moving Camp Ride (moving each day). Starting at Lake Louise up Pipestone River then possibly The Red Deer River Valley, Panther River Valley and then working your way back to Lake Louise. In some instances, your participation may be required in setting-up/breaking-up camp, packing horses and other camp duties. You would be roughing it a bit with food cooked by your guide(s), etc. Anticipate 8 guest riders. Just proposed, No firm decisions yet, Details to follow if arrangements can be made.

THE TOWNSEND TROPHY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

You don't have to be an expert to win!

All 2018 Riders are welcome to submit by Feb 28th, 2019

Email your best 2 or 3 photos in each category to admin@trail-rides.ca

In 1923 Reginald Townsend (1890-1977) was one of the TRCR original founders and professionally was Editor of America Country Life Magazine. In the early years he was the official photographer for the TRCR.

In 1929 he donated our annual amateur photo competition Trophy inscribed:

"Trail Riders of The Canadian Rockies COUNTRY LIFE TROPHY for the best nature photograph taken on the Annual Official Trail Ride"

It's like the Stanley Cup of TRCR. Every year we invite all our riders to submit photos to the competition to win the contest which means having your name inscribed on the Trophy. And your photo will be featured on the coveted front cover of our annual Calendar for the following year.

There are 5 Categories:

- Flora & Fauna
- In Camp
- Scenic Views
- On the Trail
- People and Horses

The winner of each Category will receive a framed plaque and their photos will appear as a Winner in the TRCR calendar.

Our judges are volunteers from the Calgary Camera Club with head judge Graeme Kershaw. This is how the judges approach the task. Pictures are judged based on "Technical Merit" plus "WOW Factor":

The **Technical** side includes such things as pictures:

- a) being sharp and in focus,
- b) with proper exposure and
- c) 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 may be planned but is often just being in the right place at the right time (right light).

Photos should epitomize riding with Trail Riders of The Canadian Rockies:

horses, riders, staff, camp, activities, campfires, mountain scenery, etc.

All entries become property of the TRCR for use in our calendar, albums or advertising.

HATS OFF AND A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Being a not-for-profit group, without our volunteers our 96 year old club would simply not exist. We are incredibly grateful to our following hard working current volunteer Board Members for so many hours of meetings (internal and external) with outfitters & parks, planning, enquiry, coordination, strategy and planning :

Gary Sandbeck - Calgary

Jude Fleetham - Calgary

Al Atimichuck - Calgary

Jim Bradbury - Florida by Skype

Robert Vanderzweerde - Administrator with many volunteer hours minimal pay

A Huge **Thanks** to you **All. Your efforts are massively appreciated!**

And Past President **Stuart Watkins**

Stuart retired this summer. Stuart did amazing things for TRCR over the last 6 years on The Board, 5 of them as President. We are indebted to him for rejuvenating the club after a huge downturn in the ridership to 40 in 2016, bringing the club up to 87 riders in 2018. He worked tirelessly to market the club including engaging with Travel Alberta, Cowboy Trail Association and other agencies. In addition, he was a driving force in establishing a significantly larger presence on the internet including revamping our Website. He attended (using his own funds) the annual Western Canada Travel Marketing Conventions to network on our behalf and learn the ways of connecting with new clients. His dedication was also seen in the quality and expanded content of The Bulletin Newsletters he published. And behind the scenes he collected and managed memorabilia – all about maintaining TRCR History. Stuart is a long term huge part of our history, beginning in the 1970s as a young boy (the TRCR camp man) to the recent years as President. And of course as a member of the Board, he obviously also did all the tasks mentioned above in our thankyou's to the current Board.

For your tireless hours - Thank you sooo much Stuart with Huge Gratitude!

Several members, some of them Past Presidents (PP), have recently joined the re-established **TRCR Council** (an internal group to provide assistance to our Board Members. We are most grateful to: Brad Bischoff, Ted Watchuck, Joel Lipkind PP, Rick Godderis PP, Dennis Orr PP, Ben Bury PP, Terry Stowell PP and Renee Delorme. This group has participated in Visioning Meetings, attends Pre Board Meetings and have taken on various tasks. They give input but do not have a vote during Board meetings.

Also Much Gratitude to:

- Joel Lipkind for storing our equipment for no charge.
- Ted Watchuck for transporting our equipment to and from trailhead in a full horse trailer and pickup.
- Gary Sandbeck, Al Atimichuck, Renee Delorme, Stuart Watkins, his son Steven Watkins and Stuart's friend Little Joe, the Cooks and Crew from Blue-Ridge-Outfitting/Alpine-Stables and Josh's Cardston Boy Scout Troup for assisting with camp setup and/or teardown.
- All those who have taken the extraordinary step of helping TRCR by submitting written articles to your local newspapers, magazines, company or club newsletters.
- Robert Vanderzweerde - for managing our website and creating and managing our Facebook page.
- Graeme Kershaw and The Calgary Camera Club for judging Townsend Trophy Entries
- Rick Godderis and Renee Delorme for Newsletter.
- To All those who have recommended our rides to friends, family and cohorts
- To All those who have taken time to share your TRCR experience on your Social Media.

Volunteer Requests

Board

TRCR needs a few more of you to help spread the load.

We really need more folks (ages 30 to 65) to get involved to spread the load of this volunteer group. Many hands and brains make light work. And to transfer the torch on to a new generation. Quite frankly many of us that have stepped forward like myself are over 70 and regretfully I have physical constraints that eliminate my ability to help with lifting tasks. Our board needs 4 more people. Please put your name forward to Robert admin@trail-rides.ca to join the board and give your ideas.

All Members - Your Word of Mouth and/or Social Media sharing are critical to our success.

Please like/share our Trail Riders of The Canadian Rockies Facebook Page and spread the word with your own stories and pics on Facebook and Instagram

Our budget for formal advertising is very small & basically limited to our Web Page & Facebook presence so we really need your help to attract new people. And Bonus to you is a \$100 Refer a Friend Credits.

From the beginning to now, our biggest source of new riders has always been “Personal Referrals”.

This could involve conversations with: Friends, Family, CoWorkers.

Tell them about/show-them-a-few-pics (or the calendar) of your amazing “Adventure Vacation” riding the high mountain passes of Alberta. Tell them about the spectacular sights you saw: the ranges of mountains, the crystal clear turquoise lakes, the skies, the glaciers, and at night the million stars and moon (away from city lights), the animals, the sounds and the quiet. And the people you’ve met. It’s spectacular! Tell them they do not need to be highly experienced riders. It’s one of those Bucket List items for many and it often feels so good that some of us turn into “Repeaters”. Invite them along to join you or suggest they try it on their own.

How about submitting a story to your local newspaper, company newsletter or riding club newsletter. Single stories in newspapers even from smallish communities have resulted in up to 10 new riders.

Wow that would be magical for a Not-For-Profit Organization like us.

And We Thank YOU!

Well that’s “It” for now my friends (except see the beautiful photos below)

Happy Trails through the Holiday Season

We’ll be back in February with last year ride stories and updates

Meanwhile Check our “Trail Riders of The Canadian Rockies” website for Pics/Info on 2019’s fabulous Official Ride. www.trailridesvacations.com

Like/Share TRCR on Facebook and talk us up with Family, Friends & Cohorts & bring them along or send them. Remember also that there is a \$100 Refer a Friend Credit (see website).

Ohh and Last Year Riders be sure to email your favorite pics for Townsend Trophy Entries by Feb 28, 2019
Email to admin@trail-rides.ca Jude Fleetham is excitedly waiting for your entries! Pg 5)

Cheers and Smiles and Happy Trails
“RickyG”, P.P. and NewsLetter Communicator



PS: Starting on the next page are larger size “Townsend Trophy Winner Pics”



2017 Winner of the Townsend Trophy by Linda Bittner - "Dee and Josh"



1st in Flora and Fauna by Linda Bittner



1st In Camp - Jude Fleetham



1st Scenic Views by Alex Wilson



1st On The Trail by Jude Fleetham



1st People and Horses by June Janson

Cascade Ride (2018) by *RickyG and BTR*



River and Creek Crossings



Riding Ridges & seeing Valleys below & Towering Rockies



Cascade Ride - Mountain Valley Views



Lunch by a Lake - Hiked to the top, Swam, Fished



Lunch by a Creek



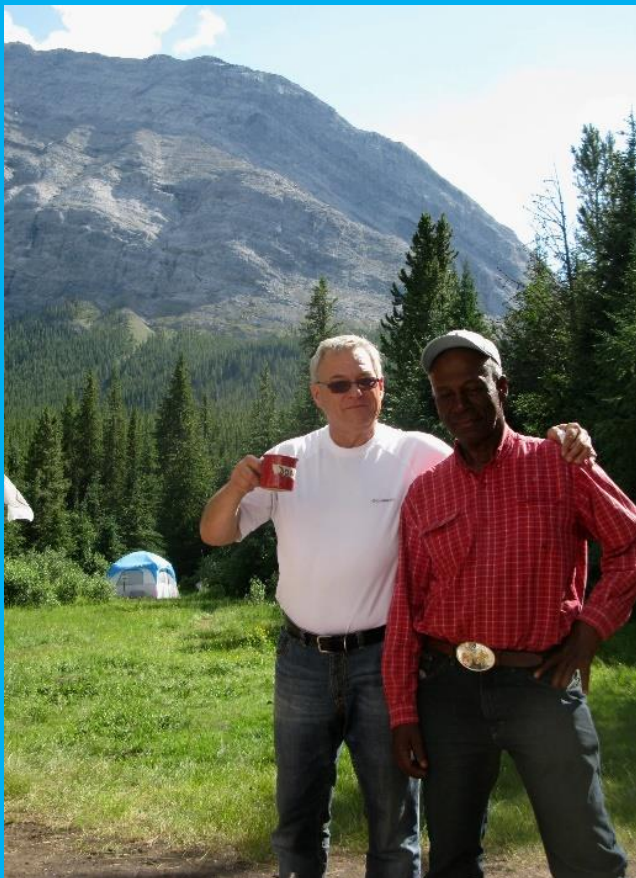
Some Swam, others fished, others hiked, some slept



Skit night fun with the Staff



Cascade Camp Tents / Platforms



Victor Langdon sporting his special TRCR 40th Ride Buckle presented to him on the 2014 Cascade Ride. And Victor has been back for his 41st ride since – amazing!