

The Bulletin

February 2019 Newsletter of the



TRAIL RIDERS

of the Canadian Rockies

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We're Excited!

We're "Back in Banff National Park"

Hi Trail Riders and Happy 2019 to Ya'll

This a shorty to update you on availability on this summer's rides and to remind you of the **Feb 28th deadline for Townsend Trophy Entries** – Please get yours in! And not many ride spots left, so make your reservations soon.

We also have a neat poem from Ride #4 Host Jude Fleetham and a backcountry poem courtesy of Ride #2 Host and musician Brad Bischoff (a retired Park Warden and member of "The Wardens" band).

Our 2019 Cascade Valley Ride

We have added 3 extra rides to meet the demand this summer so, if you are wanting to go, check back in to our web site www.trailridevacations.com. Remember, occasionally there are cancellations so if you can only go on a specific ride that's full, you could ask Robert to put you on a cancellation list. Following is the status of the rides:

Rides with possible availability

June 28 - 8 spots

July 12 - 2 spots

Sept 2 - 2 spots

Aug 16 – call for availability on this BTR Cascade Valley ride (same ride but not exclusive to TRCR)

Sold Out: July 5, July 19, July 26, Aug 9 and Aug 23

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

Note: Banff Trail 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.

Cascade Valley Pics (larger versions of these pics plus more at bottom of Newsletter Pg 8)



Water Crossings



Mountain Riding



Swim Lake



Camp Tents/Platforms



Skit night laughs

Check www.trailridevacations.com for even more great pics and details

Check our website above for details and availability or

Call our Administrator Robert at 1-844-560-5522 Email: admin@trail-rides.ca

The First Proposed “TRCR Alt Ride” - sponsor Ted Watchuk - see separate previous announcement.

The 7 day Moving Camp ride with Paul Peyto starting at Lake Louise down the Red Deer River, up the Clearwater River over to the Pipestone and out onto the Icefields Highway at Mosquito Creek is full with the max of 8 riders.

If there is enough interest there could be a possibility of a 2nd ride of up to 8. If you are interested call Robert to add your name to a standby list. - See Robert’s info above.

LAST CALL Feb 28th for TOWNSEND TROPHY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ENTRIES

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 an 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. Graeme has outlined below how the judges approach the task. Pictures are judged based on technical merit and 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.

2018 Townsend Trophy Photography Contest Winners

(larger versions of pics at end of News letter Pg 5)



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

The Adventures of Ride# 4 by – a poem by Host Jude Fleetham

Every day we rode in Castle Park; up ridges, by streams, through the woods
 We then sat around telling stories; laughing so hard sure felt good
 Trail ride emceeding was fun and all but more than I bargained for
 It was going fine until the fire was getting too close to ignore

Josh came back said we had to leave; it was starting to get dark
 We packed up everything we had and evacuated Castle Park
 We rode into the deep dark woods but no one felt any dread
 The horses took the trail with ease and brought us to the trailhead

At midnight we got to Pincher Creek to motels booked by Robert
 Next day we bussed to Waterton to continue our ride unhurt
 Kudos to Deb and Jenica, they found us places to stay
 The town folk put us up in their homes; we rode two more glorious days

Ashley and crew took great care of us; the food was excellent to be sure
 I can't say enough about all of the staff, and the riders, well what an adventure
 Emceeding for ya'll was wonderful, as trail riders you couldn't be beat
 An experience I will never forget with the best folks I ever could meet

From Brad Bischoff - Host and Musician – 2018 Ride 2 - July 16 to 21

"I love this Jim Deegan poem, have read it at campfires everywhere.

It makes me proud to have been a Park Warden in Banff."

UP THE CREEK

When you break trail
up the Forty Mile
and reel and curse and sweat,
trip up in the willow brush
and get your snowshoes wet,
stagger up the sidehill,
wrestling with your rucksack,
you holler to your sidekick,
"How Goddamn far's that shack?"

Lord, I'm going to pass out.
"Another mile, you say?"
Now I know why mountain men
are prematurely grey.

You struggle through the dismal snows
like an ancient clot;
any normal-living person
would think you had been shot.
Your partner starts to babble,
pointing o'er the hump,
but you can't see a gosh-darned thing
except maybe a stump.

O, Mystic Shack, I see you now;
I'm smiling like a goof;
I'm grinning like a stud-horse
because I'm standing on your roof!

You heave with all your ebbing strength
to open wide the door:
"I see by your feeble actions
that you have been here before."

To those poor men who snowshoe
to the terrain of Mystic Peak,
to them I take my hat off
'cause they're really up the creek!

For it's up the trail, and over logs,
through muskeg frozen flat,
over hills and gullies, creeks and slides
like a blasted wild cat.

When temperatures drop to zero
and the days grow short and dark
and snowstorms are quite frequent
out where the grey wolves bark,
the warden is patrolling
for illegal furs and game.
The patrol of the Forty Mile
would put a superman to shame.

Yet through the years,
the sweat and tears,
I'll break the Mystic Trail,
when the elk are starving
the bears are sleeping
and the blizzards howl and wail.

Frosted lungs and numbing fingers,
Frozen toes and cheeks,
an apparition from out a glacier
'mongst the forest, vale and peaks.

You saw and chop,
stagger and flop,
and pull the windfalls clear;
then the fearful moment —
"What in hell am I doing here?"

Porcupines, and pack rats,
cougars, lynx and bears,
wolverines and muskrats,
poachers with wire snares.
But when the camp stove's red and cheery
and a moose steak aroma nigh,
then to hell with civilization
to all its phoney hue and cry.
I'll stand up for the back country
until the day I die!

Well that's "it" for now folks.

Meanwhile Check our "Trail Riders of The Canadian Rockies" website for Pics/Info on 2019's fabulous 6 day Official Ride up the Cascade Valley in Banff National Park. www.trailridevacations.com

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

Oh 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!

Cheers and Smiles and Happy Trails

"RickyG, P.P, and Newsletter Communicator Signing off



**PS: The pictures below are all repeats from the last Newsletter but they are well worth seeing again!
Here's larger size Townsend Trophy Pics from 2017 - Get your 2018 ones in before Feb 28th!**



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



1st in Flora and Fauna by Linda Bittner (see the bear?)



1st In Camp - Jude Fleetham



1st Scenic Views by Alex Wilson

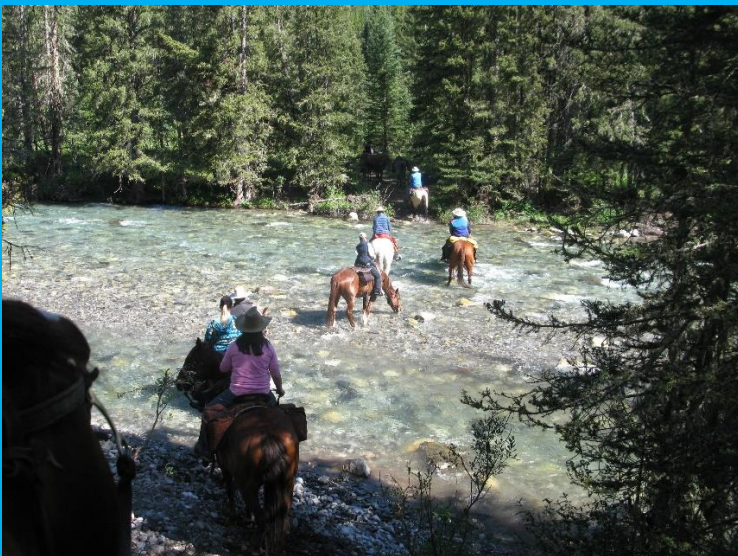


1st On The Trail by Jude Fleetham



1st People and Horses by June Janson

Cascade Ride (2018) by *RickyG and BTR*



Lots of Water Crossings Rivers and Creeks



Riding Ridges & seeing Valleys below & Towering Rockies



Mountain and Valley Views



Lunch Break by a beauty of a Creek



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



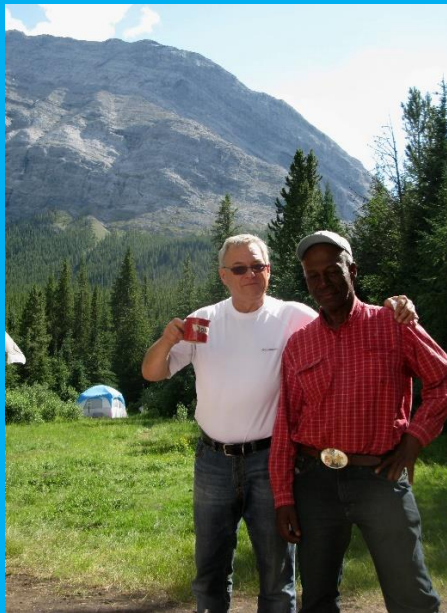
Some Swam, others fished, others hiked, some slept



Skit night fun with the Staff



Camp Tents / Platforms



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