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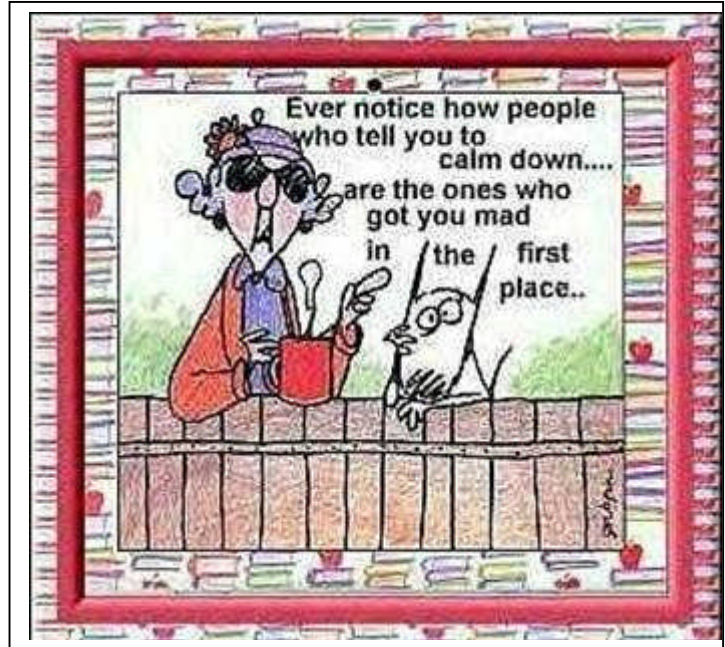
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Private Facility has room for 1 outdoor horse. Indoor & outdoor arenas with ample free arena time and trails. Lessons available 1 night per week. 15 minutes from Sherwood Park or S. Edmonton. Contact Colleen at @ (780) 417-6629.

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2 HORSE TRAILER for sale: Tall, straight haul, bumper pull, large walk in tack room, hay rack on roof. Good floor but needs new tires and some work on the shell. Asking \$2,750. Call Dave Lawrence @ (780) 922-2227

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“Across the creek – down a country lane – to a beautiful farmyard on a gentle southern slope.” This charming 2250 sq. ft farmhouse is nestled on 17.42 gorgeous acres. This comfortable home has 2 large additions plus a fully finished basement. It boasts a huge country kitchen, 4 bedrooms up plus 3 down with master bedroom on the main, 4 baths, main floor laundry with utility room and pantry. Great back entrance with loads of closet space. Triple attached garage – heated, 220 wiring. Additions made to the garage for workshop and storage. Huge enclosed machine / hayshed with access for convenient feeding of livestock. Large shelter for animals. Property all fenced plus corrals and 2 auto waterers. This perfect setting is a farm that families dream of. Only 1.25 miles off of Hwy 28 south of Gibbons and only 20 minutes from Edmonton.

Directions from Gibbons: south on Hwy 22A to 1st intersection. Turn west on Twp. Rd. 560 and go 1.25 miles. Property is on the north side. **Please call Dennis or Margaret at (780) 992-0780.**

For sale - 1979 Delta mini-motor home 24 ft Ford 460 chassis. Many options including 4000 watt gen. & 80 watt solar panel. Can pull bumper pull horse trailer. Has hitch & all wiring. Asking \$6500.
For more info call Murray & Barb Few (780) 434 2000....email mbfew@planet.eon.net

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Our sincere condolences go out to long time member George Robb whose daughter, Cheryl, passed away on Saturday, March 27, 2010. Cheryl had been battling cancer for some time and lost the fight.

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Congratulations to Ken Zelt who accepted the nomination for VP of Recreation at the recent Alberta Equestrian Federation, Annual General Meeting.

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The ATRA Board is working on compiling a "Vet List" for members to have. The list would be handy for emergencies when you are away from home and are in need of a local vet. If you use a particular Vet or Clinic, please submit their contact information to a board member so that we may add it to our list.

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HORSES FOR SALE: a) 2 yr. old QH stallion, will be grey in color, black mane, tail & legs, leads well. b) 1 yr old QH sorrel colt, white socks & blaze. c) 3 yr old QH mare, dark bay just starting ground work. d) 2yr. old QH. Mare, dark bay, leads. e) Sweet Baron's Doc 14 yr old open brood mare.

All these horses are or can be Registered and are from good Foundation breeding. Phone (780) 878-3756 for more information.

ATRA's donation to AEF helped to support the program 'Live Outside the Box'

The board decided to support the silent auction to raise funds for this youth program by partnering with Lorna Amlin who makes custom made chaps. We donated a gift certificate for pair of custom made chaps.

"Live Outside the Box" is a program for youth to motivate them to 'unplug' from electronics and get outside to spend time with a horse. The youth track their time, submit the details and are eligible to receive prizes. The youth are recognized yearly at the annual general meeting for AEF.

ATRA donated a bursary of \$1000 to the Olds Agricultural College to financially assist a mature student with post secondary costs to attend Advanced Farrier Science.

On March 24, Shirley McFall and Carl Hoybak attended a Student Awards and Donor Reception evening at the College. ATRA was recognized as being one of a few new donors. They had the pleasure of meeting some of the staff and students in equine science programs.

The recipient of the ATRA bursary is Chad Thomson from Black Diamond. ATRA members wish him well in his new career.

Horse Showcase - Sunday May 24th
at Strathcona Olympiette Centre - Fultonvale

This is a free event to help celebrate "National Horse Week." It is for all ages and features a display of the breeds, disciplines, commercial and non-profit exhibits, kids' activities and lots of fun. There are both indoor and outdoor activities so dress for the weather.

ATRA is having a booth at this event and needs people to volunteer.

If you can help with set up on Saturday afternoon or at the booth on Sunday please contact:
Shirley at 780-6624747 or smcfall@telusplanet.net

“As trail riders in the Eastern Slopes, we share the space with the Grizzly Bear. We should be aware of the ongoing discussions and factors that may influence the management of the bears.”

The Grizzly Affair

by Rob Miskosky “Reprinted with permission, Alberta Outdoorsmen Magazine”.

Over the years I’ve tried to disparage many of those who claim to protect our predators and then ask for money from the uninformed to “help their cause” - namely groups such as Y2Y, Defenders of Wildlife, the Wildlands Project and so many others who use predators as a means to solicit money from city-dwellers, all the while furthering a re-wilding agenda.

A simple Internet search will show there are thousands of groups like these with hundreds more popping up regularly. One has to believe it must be a lucrative business this “protecting the world from people stuff.”

Media darling Jim Pissot immediately comes to mind as one of those so quick to move from one cause to the other under a different guise. Hence his new position as executive director of the Wild Canada Conservation Alliance after the American-based group Defenders of Wildlife decided he was no longer needed on the payroll; after all, advocating for the protection of wolves in a province where wolf numbers are clearly out of control... well, let’s just say you can only pull that off for so long before it stales.

I’m not quite sure what the modus operandi of the Wild Canada Conservation Alliance is yet as I can’t seem to find a website anywhere that would tell me, or any literature for that matter. I have to assume it is the same as all the others though because truly they all seem concerned about the same thing; removing man from vast tracts of the Rockies and its foothills.

So for now the media speed dialing Pissot will focus strictly on the grizzly bear; there’s a lot more money to be made here, regardless if you get the numbers right or not.

And even when you don’t, contemptible journalists like hunter-hater Michael Platt of the Calgary Sun will put whatever number in place that works for the current column. For years Pissot hollered that there were far fewer than 500 grizzlies in the province, maybe as few as 300, and Platt sopped it up and wrote it more than just once. Funny thing is Platt recently wrote, “It turns out Pissot, executive director of Wild Canada Conservation Alliance, was dead on...” Sorry Platt, but wasn’t that number less than 500, maybe even 300, not the 700 you now say Pissot implied? Dead on?

Platt once wrote: “I feel sorry for many of the weekend killers, simply because no one has recognized and offered to treat what is obviously a deep-rooted sickness.”

“Getting a thrill or rush of power from killing qualifies the killer as mentally unbalanced, be it a grizzly or gopher in the cross-hairs.”

And more recently: “You can almost hear the itching of trigger fingers, hankering for bear.”

But I digress. Platt can take the low road all he wants, it’s what he does best.

For now though, let’s examine a few grizzly bear notions, one being the historical range of grizzly bears in this province. Some suggest the great bear once roamed all parts of Alberta in untold numbers, thousands of them perhaps. Others suggest the numbers were much more limited than that, including Utah State University ecologist and wildlife historian Charles Kay who recently insisted, “There is no evidence to support the notion that grizzly bears lived in large numbers outside of the Rockies.”

And if we take into account that grizzly bears don’t recognize borders, it would be safe to offer that so-called British Columbia grizzly bears, estimated at 17,000, may be wandering into Alberta and Alberta bears may be wandering back into BC, would it not? In fact, to suggest otherwise would be deceitful.

So, knowing this to be true, can we ever put a real number on so-called “Alberta” grizzly bears? Is it even possible to think that 691 bears is the answer to the \$2 million dollar question?

The Alberta Wildlife Status Report No. 37 (Update 2010) by Marco Festa-Bianchet outlining the status of grizzly bears in Alberta is purely an estimate of 582 grizzly bears based on the DNA capture-mark-recapture (CMR) sampling of as many bears as could be snagged by baited, barbed wire enclosures.

(continued...)

Areas that didn't see these barbed wire bait stations had their populations estimated, "based mostly on habitat quality", to hold another 15 Eastern Fringe bears, 23 Swan Hills bears, and 71 Alberta North bears for a total population estimate of 691 bears. Of these 691 bears it is suggested that 359 are mature enough to breed.

However, the report leaves open the possibility that there could be as many as 841 grizzly bears of which 437 would be mature enough to breed. This is based on the high end of a "confidence limit" for the DNA-based CMR estimates. The reports states though, that the estimated number of mature bears in Alberta "suffers from a lack of data." So, it is quite possible that the number of mature, breeding bears could even be higher. Which means that a brand new bunch of grizzly bear cubs will be running around our province this spring, regardless of the number being used.

The purpose of my column here, however, is not to condemn the science behind this report or the report itself. I am here to question the underlying goals of the protectionist regime and their animal-rights allies so committed to removing man from our eastern slopes. Those using the grizzly bear and the wolf as reasons to advance the Wildlands Project, where untold numbers of wildlife corridors designed to keep man out are ear-marked for the North American continent. This is the key question to the grizzly bear debacle, not the hunting of the bear. But rather, who will be making the decisions in the future regarding wildlife use within these regions? Will it be the protectionist regime that holds so much disdain for hunters and hunting? Or will it be wildlife managers trained in all aspects of wildlife management?

It also has to be asked, who will be making future decisions regarding land-use in this region? Will it be the Y2Y's of the world who promote their re-wilding concept, or will it be government agencies and elected officials?

Will the United Nations continue to pursue World Heritage Site designations in our eastern slopes, successfully taking leverage in determining the future conservation of this region possibly through recommendations made by the Y2Y consortium?

These are important questions that must be asked. Because without a basic understanding of who will be determining conservation policies within our province, 1.2 million square kilometres of land, from Yellowstone National Park to the Yukon (Y2Y), much of what is in Alberta, will be controlled by a protectionist regime that uses the grizzly bear to justify the need for the Wildlands Project, which includes the implementation of mass human relocation from these regions.

This is the true reason behind the "Grizzly Affair", the grizzly bear being the pawn in a radical environmental scheme where human land-use is promoted as the limiting factor to grizzly bear survival, and as such man's footprint should be removed from the scene.

Look at the numbers. The grizzly bear is not on the cusp of extinction; that is an exaggeration. Its numbers may very well be what they should be; their numbers from the past are based on "anecdotal" evidence and comparing them to today's numbers can't be justified (right Jim?).

In the words of Jim Pissot, "The plural of 'anecdote' is not 'data'." - unless of course it suits your needs.

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Motion 507 Willmore Wilderness Park

Mr. Campbell (West Yellowhead MLA) moved:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to not bring forward changes to the Willmore Wilderness Park Act which would restrict traditional land uses such as outfitting, trapping, hunting, and fishing. MOTION WAS PASSED

Please note that several members spoke in favour of this motion saying it was preferable to leave the management of the Willmore in the hands of Albertans rather than to an International organization such as UNESCO. A full transcript of the discussion and motion is outlined in the Monday April 12, 2010 Hansard Report. If anyone wants a copy, please email our office and we will have the attachment forwarded to you.

Kudos's to Robin Campbell and those who supported this motion.

Thanks, Basil Leonard

The Prospector & the Gunslinger

An old prospector shuffled into the town of El Indio, Texas, leading an old tired mule. The old man headed straight for the only saloon in town, to clear his parched throat. He walked up to the saloon and tied his old mule to the hitch rail. As he stood there, brushing some of the dust from his face and clothes, a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whiskey in the other.

The young gunslinger looked at the old man and laughed, saying, "Hey old man, have you ever danced?" The old man looked up at the gunslinger and said, "No, I never did dance... never really wanted to."

A crowd had gathered as the gunslinger grinned and said, "Well, you old fool, you're gonna' dance now," and started shooting at the old man's feet. The old prospector, not wanting to get a toe blown off, started hopping around like a flea on a hot skillet. Everybody was laughing, fit to be tied,

When his last bullet had been fired, the young gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned around to go back into the saloon.

The old man turned to his pack mule, pulled out a double-barrelled shotgun, and cocked both hammers. The loud clicks carried clearly through the desert air. The crowd stopped laughing immediately. The young gunslinger heard the sounds too, and he turned around very slowly. The silence was almost deafening.

The crowd watched as the young gunman stared at the old timer and the large gaping holes of those twin barrels. The barrels of the shotgun never wavered in the old man's hands, as he quietly said, "Son, have you ever kissed a mule's ass?"

The gunslinger swallowed hard and said, "No sir.... but... I've always wanted to."

There are a few lessons for us all here: -Never be arrogant. -Don't waste ammunition. -Whiskey makes you think you're smarter than you are. -Always, always make sure you know who has the power. -Don't mess with old men; they didn't get old by being stupid.

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Mel Hyland Clinics -

Clinics-- 9am-5pm. Rider spots are full. www.melhyland.com

Tuesday/Wednesday April 27/28 at Colchester Stables -23230 Twp Rd 520

Riders: Lisa, Nicolle, Dana, Elaine, Don, Linda M, Bruce, Jeanne

Thursday/Friday April 29/30 at Colchester Stables -23230 Twp Rd 520

Riders: Cindy, Paige, Nanci, Murray, Barb, Vicki, Jenny, Carla

Saturday/Sunday May 1/2 at 3D Equestrian – 52140 Range Rd 224

Riders: Ken, Lorry, Doug, Mary, Erin, Smoky, James, Linda H

Clinic participants and spectators are welcome to stay and join us for a campfire, wiener roast and evening entertainment the first night of each clinic at 5:30pm (April 27, 29 and May 1). ATRA will provide the hot dogs and fixings. Please bring potluck items to share (chips, veggies, desserts) and your own drinks and lawn chairs.

Spectators: \$20/day, no need to pre-register, just bring your own lunch, as lunch will only be provided for riders, and if you plan to attend the evening wiener roast, please contact [Barb](#) at 434-2000, so she knows how much food to purchase.

ATRA SUMMER MOUNTAIN RIDES 2010

June 20th thru 27th Hummingbird/Ram Falls

This week long trip is ATRA's annual "Adopt-A-Trail" trail maintenance and clean up ride. The site is about 100 km southwest of Rocky Mountain House. DIRECTIONS: Take Secondary 752 (60km, 40 paved/20 gravel), southwest of Rocky Mountain House to Forestry Trunk Road 734, turn right (west) at that T-intersection (41km to camp). After crossing the South Ram River the road turns west for a mile or so then goes north. Look for the Hummingbird sign on the west side, turn left and follow the road west to the staging area. Continue on the road past the information signs in the first parking lot. The road climbs a short hill then makes a sharp switchback over a small creek, then continues west. Look on the left side for the gravel loop camping area entrance. The loop has nice level gravel sites that should accommodate the big horse trailer/camper combos. Cell phones do not work in this area. There will be a base camp with limited amenities for camping. Highline poles are available for horses, BYO rope. You cannot tie to trees. Rides will be day rides from base camp. Clean up and maintenance will take place in the new and old camping areas as well as on the trails. There are pit toilets. There is no drinking water available, but usable water for washing can be obtained from the river. BYO firewood. Your horse **MUST** have shoes for this ride. For anyone wishing to come camping without horses and still ride some days, there is an outfitter nearby, JH Trail Rides (call ahead to book 403 722-2419). The club will cover part of the fuel costs for each member for this ride, so submit your bills to Shirley by the Sept meeting. For more information and to register for this ride, please contact Shirley McFall @ 780 662- 4747.

July 18th thru 25th Clearwater Wagon Pack Trip.

We are organizing a week at a summer camp at Clearwater. We have arranged for two wagons to carry in our food and camping gear for ~\$200 per person. We will only be able to accommodate a maximum of 12 campers who will need to ride in on their own horses and carry in some of their personal items. Horses will need to be hi-lined and be able to be hobbled for grazing. Our tentative plans are to arrive at the staging area on Sunday afternoon, July 18, and overnight there. We would then be able to be transported in on Monday morning to the camp. We will arrange a meeting of those involved to plan our supplies and menu to minimize weight and duplication. This trip already has a waiting list. Preference will be on a first come basis and a \$200 reservation fee will be required. Please contact Ken Komm @ 780 922-3004 if you are interested or need more information.

August 2nd thru 8th Ya Ha Tinda.

This trip will be a week long camping/riding trip at the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch, west of Sundre (and just east of the Banff Park boundary) in the Rocky Mountains. From Sundre, drive 10 km west on Hwy 27, turn south onto the Coal Camp Road, and follow for 50 km (25 km pavement, 25 km gravel). At the T, turn South on to Hwy 734 and don't cross the bridge at Mountain Aire Lodge. Stay straight on the north side of the river on the narrow gravel road and continue 25 km to the Eagle Creek Campground on your left. The ATRA banner will be displayed at our campsite. Camp will be at the Eagle Creek Campsite. The services at the campsite are Pit Toilets. That's it - and bring your own paper! The water source is the Red Deer River. Also bring manure tubs and forks or shovels, as they do have a manure pit so we can keep the campground clean. Cell phones do not work in this area. There is no charge for camping. Sites are first come, first serve. Your horse **MUST** have shoes for this trip. Mountain Air Lodge is approx ½ hour drive away with minimal services and Sundre is 75km away (30km pavement, 45km gravel—the last 20km of gravel is a narrow road). Horse accommodations are hitching rails and high lines within the campsite. Tying to or highlining between trees in the area is not permitted. If hitching rails are full, you must tie to your trailer or highline between trailers. Panels and pens are permitted only if they are against your trailer, no longer than the length of your trailer and no more than 10' out from your trailer. Trails in the area range (continued)

from easy flat valley rides to high steep mountainous areas. There are many beautiful trails out here, some hard to find and not well marked, so if you haven't been here before, it's best to come with the group, who can show you the trails. This trip will be geared towards adult riders, families are permitted, but may find campfire conversation unsuitable for children. A last minute Whitewater Rafting Day Trip may be planned if the weather looks good, so let me know if you are interested. We will do a potluck Tuesday supper. For more information and to register for this ride, please call Lisa Friedenber *g* @ 780 237-7587.

August 23th thru 29th. Kananaskis – Little Elbow Equestrian Campground

This mountain trip into the Kananaskis Area will be a family friendly trip to the mountains. Hwy 66 heading west of Bragg Creek is paved to the campground. Trails are well marked and mapped, and trail difficulty ranges from easier valley rides to rugged, steep and long mountainous trails, including overnight backcountry campsites. Campground is well gravelled and has pit toilets with paper, water taps between sites and firewood for sale. There are also lots of nice hiking/mountain biking trails and it is only 15 minutes away from McClean Creek OHV Campground, where they have coin showers. Horse facilities are double gated tie stalls located just outside the camping areas. (No horses are permitted in the campsite area so if your live-in quarters are in your trailer, plan on putting your tack in your truck to get it to your horse. Other horse trailers can be parked beside the tie stalls). There is a per night camping fee of \$27 for 2 horses and 1 camping unit and \$5 per additional horse per night. You can take your chances and just show up and pick a site in Loop B (covered tie stalls) or reserve a site in Loop A (framed tie stalls, BYO tarp and bungies/twine). Reservations can be made no more than 90 days in advance so May 25 at 9am call 1-877-537-2757 or go to the website <https://reserve.albertaparks.ca> (Little Elbow Equestrian). There is also a \$10 reservation fee. Your horse MUST have shoes for this trip. For more information and to register for this ride, please call Lisa Friedenber *g* @ 780-237-7587.

July 25-31 Cadomin/Whitehorse Creek Campground- (please note the original date has been changed)

This trip will be a week long camping/riding trip at the Whitehorse Creek Campground, in Cadomin, South of Hinton. The services at the campsite are a water pump, pit toilets, firewood and tie stalls for horses. Bring your own toilet paper, and tarps and twine/bungies if you want to cover the stalls! Bring manure tubs and forks or shovels and shavings are recommended for the stalls. ATRA has booked all 6 available sites. This trip is almost full. Sites will take 2 or 3 horses. \$10.00/night plus \$2.00/horse/night with a \$6 reservation fee. We may plan an overnight ride to Miette Hotsprings or a hike (without horses) into the Cadomin Caves if anyone is interested. We can also drive to the ghost town of Mountain Park nearby one evening and go for a walk. It closed in 1950, but there are still a few foundations and mine structures and a recently restored cemetery. For more information and to register for this ride, please call Shantel Perreal @ 780 231-9155.

Sept 2-6 Drayton Valley Riverside Trails - Long Weekend Camping and Trail Ride

Come join us and ride over 80 km of trails along the Pembina River. Easy family rides with river crossings and numerous bridges on the trails; one over the river. Both long and short loops are available. No shoes are required. Camping consists of 5 sites with box stalls, tie stalls for 16 horses and some random campsites. (No tying to trees) Water well, 24' x 40' camp kitchen with wood stove, 2 sets of outhouses and manure bin available. www.draytonvalleyhorseclub.com has location and trail maps.

***Please note for all trips organized by ATRA you are required have a current ATRA and AEF membership to ride with us and must hand in a signed waiver and medical form in a sealed envelope (only to be opened in case of emergency) to the ride organizer upon arrival. Ride organizers can e-mail you the medical form and waiver ahead of time or ask for them from the organizer when you arrive.**

STARS receives donation from ATRA

Maureen Henkel from STARS came out to accept a cheque from ATRA board members. The poker hand fund raiser also raised \$160 plus some donations to keep STARS in the air. About 20 members had a wonderful social time and brunch in the sunshine at the Waskehegan Staging Area at Blackfoot. Eight members went on an enjoyable ride afterward in the sunshine.



Birkie was a blast for ATRA volunteers

A hearty group of 10 ATRA members served refreshments at the Winter station at the International Birkibeiner Cross Country ski race held February 13. Seen below: Dave Lawrence, Erla and Bob Stevenson, Cam and Danette Stevenson, Helen Peters, Candace Boger, Roxanne Proudfoot, Shirley McFall and Carl Hoybak.



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MANTRACKER

Terry Grant is a full-blooded cowboy living in the wrong century. This Albertan has been a full time ranch cowboy for almost 25 years. An expert horseman and wilderness professional, hunting, guiding and tracking come second nature. Whether man or beast, he will track them down. His keen instincts, intense character, and specialized skills have made him a crucial member of the Foothills Search and Rescue Team. His reputation is always on the line and he doesn't let up for a second. A steely-eyed cowboy with a killer, never-say-die attitude, Terry Grant is

MANTRACKER and he will be a special ATRA guest next fall. Watch for details in the 'ATRA NEWS'.

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*“When you are dissatisfied
and would like to go back to youth,
think of Algebra.”*

LOCAL TRAIL RIDES & UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	HOST	LOCATION	DETAILS
Apr 27/28 & 29/30 May 1/2		Colchester Stables 3D Equestrian Centre	Mel Hyland Horsemanship Clinics Lisa –780 237-7587 to Register
May 2	DVHC	Drayton Valley Horse Club Cancer Ride	horses@dvhorseclub.com Ethel Mankow – 780 542-6804 emankow@gmail.com
May 8	ATRA	Able Ranch Lily Lake	Cancer Ride – www.atra.ca for pledge forms and details
May 21-24	CLSC	Horse Creek Ranch	Weekend camping and trail ride – Registration required –Barb 434 2000
May 30		Fultonvale Arena	Horse Showcase. Please call Shirley @ 780 662-4747 if you can volunteer at our booth
June 5		Devon, Gramina Hall	Poker Ride- Erin -780 987-6236
June 12	CLSC	Colchester Stable	Annual Pool Party & Potluck Barb – 780 434-2000
Jun 13	ATRA	Fultonvale Arena	Bitless Challenge, BBQ and Fun Day Cindy @ 780 962-2690 to register
Jun 25-27		Rafter Diamond K	Horsemanship Clinic Rafterdiamondk.com
Jun 30 – July 2		Trails for the Troops Trail Ride & Camp Out	Contact: Dianne at – 780 973-6503 or diannebirt@hotmail.com

If you have an event we should know about, call Anita @ 780 475-3858.

For insurance purposes, each active trail riding member is required to hold a current Alberta Equestrian Federation membership.

- * All riders ride at your own risk.
- * We recommend helmet use and STRONGLY encourage it for those under 18 during ATRA events.
- * Please be responsible. Show by example: Clean up and properly dispose of manure - and educate others to do so as well.
- * Please support the Alberta Equestrian Trail Supporter Program – They in turn support our trails.
- Please be aware that the MINISTIK riding area is closed to horses from March 1 to July 15. We ask that you respect this closure and refrain from riding there during these dates.