



ATRA ON THE TRAIL

April 2017 Newsletter

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ATRA was established in 1973 for people interested in recreational riding & driving.

2017 Club Executive

President: Shirley McFall

Vice-Pres: Maggie Portas

Secretary: Allison Downer

Treasurer: Cindy Hanas

Membership: Cindy Hanas

Directors: Marjorie Phillips, Tracy Campbell, Murray Few, Regina Landeck, Doug King, Cam Stevenson, Alexys Mishak, Paige Stocks

***Webmaster:** Erin King

Newsletter: Lisa Harrison

Contact to run an advertisement or send an article to be considered:
lisa_f@mailcan.com 780-237-7587

ATRA is a non-profit family oriented organization that encompasses a variety of equestrian activities that promote safe horsemanship, ongoing education and responsible use, maintenance and development of trails.

General Meeting Thursday April 20 at 7pm in Edmonton at Kirk United Church.



What should you carry in your Saddlebags?

Find out, after our short business meeting, when Bruce Zawalsky will present a "Surviving out of Your Saddle Bags" and deal with both basic survival techniques and the specific survival gear you should always carry with you when you ride out into the Backcountry. Bruce is the Chief Survival Instructor at the Boreal Wilderness Institute.

ATRA meets at 7pm the 3rd Thursday of the month Jan-Apr & Sept-Nov upstairs at Kirk United Church, 13535-122 Avenue, Edmonton.

Visitors are welcome at any meeting. Website: www.atra.ca

Membership for the calendar year is \$20 single, \$35 family.

Riding members must have current ATRA and AEF memberships.

Upcoming Events

ATRA Trail Ride at Blackfoot Central Sunday April 16. Ride out at 11am, don't be late. Access staging area from RR 200 and Wye Road, follow signs. Bring a lunch as we will stop half way out on the trail. Please note this is a walking ride with no dogs allowed and no one is in charge of guiding. This is just a way for members to meet up with one another to trail ride.

If anyone is planning to ride and wants to invite members to join them, please post on our Alberta Trail Riding Association facebook page. Email Lisa (lisa_f@mailcan.com) if you need an invite to the facebook group.

If anyone hears of any other Alberta trail rides of interest to the club members, please let Lisa (lisa_f@mailcan.com) know so she can include in a future newsletter or eblast.

Clinic information and registration form for upcoming ATRA clinics can be found in March newsletter. Please note some clinics have space but others are taking waiting lists.

Past Events

ATRA Trail Ride at Blackfoot Waskahegan Sunday March 19.

Ride out at 11am, don't be late. Access staging area from RR 210 north of Wye Road or south of Hwy 16. Bring a lunch as we will stop half way out on the trail. Please note this is a walking ride with no dogs allowed and no one is in charge of guiding. This is just a way for members to meet up with one another to trail ride.



ATRA Meeting Thursday, March 16

over 40 members attended to listen to our guest speaker, Gary Millar. He did an inspiring talk about what horses can do for kids and for us. Our original guest speaker and clinician for the GPS clinics had to cancel just a few days before, so we were happy Gary was able to move up from his scheduled April date. The GPS clinics will be rescheduled either in the fall or next spring.

Past Events

Bombproofing/Liberty Clinics with Katelyn Carter at Paints-Plus Equine Center on March 21, 23 & 24 went really well. Pictures are below.



Charity Rides

ATRA Cancer Ride: COME RIDE WITH US AND HELP FIGHT CANCER!

Come ride with us on our 39th Annual 'Trail Ride Against Cancer' to be held **Saturday, May 27th** at Able Ranch, north of Bon Accord. The ride will be a slow pleasure ride of approximately 3-4 hours, **Join in with other riders or head out on your own** through multi-use, natural lands. Riders may arrive on Friday, May 26th and camp overnight in Bruno Neuville's pasture.

Start collecting your donations for the Canadian Cancer Society – using the pledge sheet and/or on-line. Prizes will be awarded to the top collectors. A minimum donation of \$50 for adult riders and \$25 donation for riders 14 years and under is required.

After the ride join us for a BBQ (Burgers/Hot Dogs) **at no cost**. For your comfort, bring your lawn chair.

Please go to www.atra.ca to download/print your rider package, copies on hand at our general meetings or do feel free to photocopy someone else's forms.

The Cancer Ride Committee can always use extra help. For more information or to volunteer, contact Allison 780-910-4639 or alcarter@telusplanet.net. If you can't make the ride, mail in your pledges or make a donation to someone who is planning to ride. **Non riders may also use the pledge sheet to collect donations and come out to enjoy the day.** We hope to see you there. Don't forget to pack a lunch!

Other Charity Rides of interest to ATRA members



Battle River RIDE FOR STARS®

Hoops to Helicopters

JULY 15, 2017
Hosted by: Bar L Lazy T Ranch

Rider Fees waived with Minimum Pledge of **\$45**

PRE-REGISTER BY JULY 1, 2017
Contact Carol: 403-882-2515 or Henry 403-741-5092

Registration: 8:30 – 10:00 am
Gates close at 10:00 am
LUNCH & SUPPER provided for Riders

Ride for Stars Raffle: \$2.00/ticket

PRIZES:

- MYSTERY BOX VALUED AT \$600
- FRAMED ART VALUED AT \$300
- BATTLE RIVER RIDE FOR STARS HOODIE

Contact Henry for tickets 403-741-5092 or email brrfs@gmx.com
Look for us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/brrfs](https://www.facebook.com/brrfs)

DIRECTIONS from Castor: East on Hwy 599 to RR 123, north to TWP 390A, east to gates.
From Alliance: East of Hwy 602 then south on RR 123, north to TWP 390A, east to gates



Ride A Thon
Brightwood Ranch
(9 Kilometers Southeast of Entwistle)

All money raised will help underprivileged kids go to camp

11th Annual

June 3
Sign in 8am
Info: 780-727-3840
Grand Prizes: Yearling Filly or New Saddle!

Ride your own horse or call to reserve one of ours
3 or 5 hour ride or ride in a wagon. Followed by supper and a short camp presentation.
\$300 sends a child to camp! To register or donate go to www.hopemission.com/summercamp

MISSION 

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always Catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food..
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair..
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing Jello to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.

SUCCESS:

At age 4 success is Not piddling in your pants.

At age 12 success is . . . Having friends.

At age 17 success is . . Having a driver's license.

At age 35 success is Having money.

At age 50 success is . . . Having money.

At age 70 success is Having a driver's license.

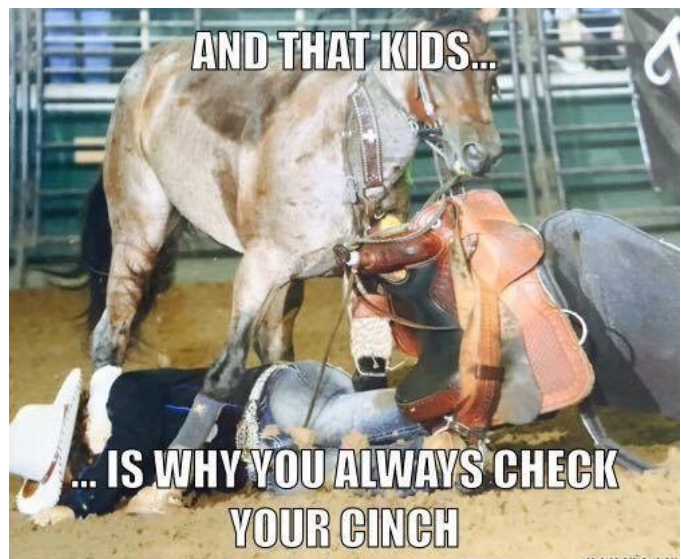
At age 75 success is Having friends.

At age 80 success is Not piddling in your pants.

Pass this on to someone who could use a laugh.

Always remember to forget the troubles that pass your way;

***BUT NEVER* forget the blessings that come each day.**



Overnight Camping Rides 2017

These trips are for ATRA members, with their own horse, trailer & camping accommodations. Horses and riders should have trail riding experience and be fit enough for 4-8 hour day rides. We recommend all horses have 4 shoes prior to coming, as there is lots of rock on the trails. If you are using boots instead, make sure you fit and practice with them ahead. Make sure your horse can handle saddle bags, rain slickers, creeks, mud, bogs, dogs and wildlife. Also make sure your truck has enough power and trailer has working brakes for the steep hills. Trails in these areas range from easy flat valley rides to high steep mountainous areas. There are many beautiful trails, some hard to find and not well marked, so if you haven't been there before, this is a great opportunity to come with the group, who can show you the trails. We tend to split up and ride out in various smaller groups to different destinations. Unless noted, there is no limit on number of members that can attend. We do ask that you **REGISTER** with contact or sign up at a spring meeting so we know you are coming and can send additional information on group activities, meals travel and directions to destinations. The ATRA banner will be displayed at our campsite. Unless noted, most campgrounds are free and have no water, RV hook-ups or power. There is no cell phone service at any campgrounds. BYO cubes preferably, as hay can introduce weeds to the area. At free campgrounds, facilities include outhouses (BYO TP), high-line poles (BYO rope). You can tie or panel beside your trailer. No electric fences or grazing.

What to Bring for your Horse for overnight rides: saddle, cinch, saddle bags, breastplate and crouper, 2 saddle pads, grooming kit, horse first aid supplies, halters & long lead shanks, high line rope, rain sheet/blanket (it gets cold at night & horses can't move much to keep warm), feed tub, water bucket, helmet (optional, but ATRA recommends), horse fly spray, sponge, scraper and small bucket, manure tubs and forks or shovels to take manure to pit, hobbles (optional for lunch grazing only), easy boot (in case you lose a shoe – note most horses need a size bigger than shoe size), tag with phone # on halter (in case you lose your horse)

What to Bring for you for overnight rides (suggestions): personal clothing and toiletries, TP, bug spray, first aid kit, medicine, binoculars, camera, batteries, rain gear, winter jacket, chair, flashlight, garbage bags to haul out garbage, multi-tool, bell or whistle, bear spray, duct tape, compass or GPS, folding saw, pocket knife, axe, sewing kit, tarp, cooking supplies and food and drinks, lunch kit, generator. Medical information card that has name, next of kin & phone # & relationship to, location of truck/trailer keys, AHC#, medications, allergies, medical conditions or any health concerns (ATRA has these so ask trail ride organizer on the day you arrive)

May Long Weekend Camping Trip to Horse Creek Ranch, Fort Assiniboine May 19-21 — www.horsecreekranch.ca
Cabins & horse pens are booked. To go on waiting list, contact Barb 780-434-2000 or mbfew@planet.eon.net. Cost is: \$25.20/person/horse/rig/dog/power site for weekend—chq payable to CLSC by May 1. Give cheque to Barb.



Overnight Camping Rides 2017

MSW Farms Camping Trail Ride June 9-11, 2017. Located on the Battle River near Ponoka. Deposit required by April 20. Cost is \$10/person/night and \$10/horse/night. 3 person cabins are \$65/night or \$150 for 3 nights. Sheilassharko57@gmail.com or 780-686-2534. From Ponoka: 5 miles West on 53, 5 miles North on 795 and 1.5 miles W on 435. From Meniak overpass/Hwy 2: North 4 miles, West on 265 0.75 miles. mswfarms.com



June 18-23 Hummingbird Maintenance Mountain Camping. The equestrian campground is 100km SW of Rocky Mountain House. Take Hwy 752 (60km, 40 paved/20 gravel), south west of Rocky to the Forestry Trunk Road 734, turn right (west) at that T-intersection (41km to camp). After crossing the South Ram River-steep hill, the road turns west for a mile or so then goes north. Look for the Hummingbird sign on the west side. Turn left & follow the road to the staging area. Continue on the road past the information signs in the first parking lot (day use area). The road climbs a short hill then makes a sharp u turn across a small creek then continues west. The equestrian loop camping area has a sign and an entrance, on the left (south). Ken Z will be staying at the campground and doing day rides and likely one campground cleanup day. Please plan to help with picking up garbage and clearing trails if you come on this trip. Fuel costs may be partially reimbursed to those that submit receipts to Shirley by the September meeting. A creek crossing is required to access trails. Ken Zelt 780-922-3222 or kawlzelt@gmail.com



July 17-24 East Drummond Creek Trail Relocation at Whitehorse Creek Campground 60km South of Hinton. 4km West of Hinton turn South on Hwy 40 for about 50km. Turn right at T and its 5km past Cadomin. Ken Z has reserved all the equestrian sites so you must sign up with him to get a site. They cost \$11/night + \$2/horse/night. Sites have tie stalls or box stalls (not covered so bring rain sheets or tarps/bungies) and bring manure forks and muck buckets. Outhouses and firewood are provided, no hookups. The group will be clearing the overgrown Drummond Creek trail. Ken will use the trail clearing criteria to choose crew from the sign up list based on required skills. Members not involved in the trail clearing are invited to come, ride the area and socialize around the campfire if extra campsites are available. Those volunteering may be partially reimbursed for fuel costs if they submit receipts to Shirley by the September meeting. Ken Zelt 780-922-3222 or kawlzelt@gmail.com



Overnight Camping Rides 2017 continued...

July 20-28 Panther wilderness trail development ride This trip is a working/riding week into the isolated non-motorized Panther area SW of Sundre. This ride is oversubscribed, if you are interested in being on the cancellation list contact Shirley, 780-662-4747 or shimcf@mcnet.ca

Aug 5-13 Yaha Tinda Eagle Creek Campground — 85km SW of Sundre. Directions: 10km west of Sundre turn left/south on Coal Camp Rd, after 50km (25 km paved/25 km gravel) turn left at T-intersection Hwy 734, stay on the north side of the river (do not cross blue bridge, go past no exit sign at bridge, but do not take the 2nd no exit sign to the right) it's 25 km to the Eagle Creek Campground, look for campground sign on your left, YMCA will be on right. FOESA also has their fundraiser poker ride at Bighorn Campground August 6 - ride or volunteer. Contact Allison Downer for more info: alcarter@telusplanet.net 780-910-4639



Aug 18-21—Ride at Cowley's Rafter Six Ranch with Kateri, Kananaskis—www.raftersix.com
More details will be sent to those signed up by April 20, as a deposit will be required. Camping fee **\$25/night + \$10/horse**. Group will also have to split the cost of the guide for Saturday and Sunday rides 4-6 hours each at \$50/hour. Horses available for rent at \$40/hour. Shoes required. No hookups. Water for horses only at corrals. Accommodations nearby - 5 minutes from Stoney Nakoda Casino, & 15 mins from Copperstone Resort at DeadMan's Flats. Many from this ride will continue to Mesa Butte (below) for the week. lisa_f@mailcan.com or 780-237-7587

Aug 20-27 Mesa Butte, Kananaskis Campground — ~20 km West of Millarville along SH 549. Take Hwy 22 south of Calgary to Millarville. This equestrian campground has 15 sites and 32 covered tie stalls with easy access water and manure bin by stalls. No power. Bring 2-3 bags of shavings/horse and fork to clean stalls. Cost is \$33/night per site including 2 horses, \$7/night/additional horse. No reservations – that's why we're going Sunday. Contact: Lisa Harrison lisa_f@mailcan.com or 780-237-7587



Sept 1-4 (Long Weekend) Drayton Valley Riverside Trails. Come ride along the Pembina River. No shoes required. Great training area with Bridges and river crossing. Trail loops vary from 2 hours to 8 hour loops. Camping at a first come basis. Some sites have tie stall, box stalls or hitching rails. Contact Cindy at 587-986-1535 or chanas@finning.com

Classifieds

For these items, contact Cindy at 780-962-2690 or chanas@finning.com to bring to a meeting or ride.

Ad Rates	#	Classified	1/4 Page	1/2 Page
Member	1	\$5	\$15	\$30
Member	3	\$12	\$34	\$63
Non-Member	1	\$10	\$20	\$40
Non-Member	3	\$24	\$45	\$84

ATRA Coffee Mug \$15

ATRA Tush Cushions \$10

ATRA Trailer Decal \$10-30

ATRA Jacket \$65



How Hay is Made and Stacked DOES Make a Difference

A year's supply of hay has been harvested. Bales are coming into the feed yard for storage. What is the best strategy to stack and store the hay to minimize weather damage, shrink, and nutrient loss? Preventing moisture from migrating into the bales from rain or melting snow reduces bacteria, mold and fungi growth which reduces damage. Three common methods of stacking hay are compared.

The pyramid stack creates the most damage. Moisture that runs down off the top bale migrates into the middle and bottom rows. Damage occurs where the bales touch.

The mushroom stack results in less damage than the pyramid style. Moisture that runs off the top bale migrates into the upper end of the bottom bale creating damage. Increased soil to bale contact allows more moisture to enter the bottom of the lower bale.

Individual bales stacked in a row with 4 to 6 inches space between the bales results in the least amount of damage. Any rain that falls or snow that melts can run off the bale surface minimizing damage.



Photo Credit: Martina Alder

Barry Yaremcio

Beef & Forage Specialist- Alberta

Ag Info Centre (310-Farm)

Upcoming Events Calendar

DATE	LOCATION	DETAILS
Apr 5	Greg Czech 4 week lesson series start in Thorsby	March news
Apr 9	Beginner & Intermediate Jumping Clinic in Sherwood Park	March news
Apr 12	Katelyn Carter 4 week lesson series start in Sherwood Park	March news
April 16	ATRA Trail Ride at Blackfoot Central —ride out at 11am	Page 2
April 20	ATRA Meeting 7pm — Saddlebag survival kit—Bruce Z	Page 1
Apr 21-23	Mane Event Horse Expo—Red Deer—booth volunteers needed	Barb 434-2000
Apr 22	Greg Czech Clinic in Sturgeon/Cardiff	March news
Apr 25	Greg Czech 4 week lesson series start in Sturgeon/Cardiff	March news
May 4/5	Lavern Schmidt Horsemanship/Trail Skills Clinic—Onoway	March news
May 6/7	Lavern Schmidt Horsemanship/Trail Skills Clinic—Onoway	March news
May 19-21	Horse Creek Ranch May Long Weekend ride	Page 6
May 27	Cancer Ride at Able Ranch (note date changed)	Pge 4
June 3	Parade Readiness Clinic (note date changed)	March news
June 14	Square Dance 3 week practice series start in Sherwood Park	March news
June 9-11	MSW ranch ride and campout (note date changed)	Page 7
June 18-23	Hummingbird trail maintenance ride	Page 7
June 23-25	1 day Obstacle clinics at Courier Park	March news
July 16-21	Cadomin — East Drummond Creek Trail Relocation	Page 7
Jul 21	K Days - participate in parade	
July 20-28	Panther wilderness trail development ride (dates changed)	Page 8
Aug 5-13	Ya Ha Tinda Mountain Camping Trail Ride	Page 8
Aug 12	FOESA Poker Rally at Ya Ha - volunteers & riders needed	
Aug 18-21	Cowley's Rafter Six Ranch ride with Kateri	Page 8
Aug 20-27	Kananaskis Mesa Butte Mountain Camping Trail Ride	Page 8
Sept 1-4	Drayton Valley ride and campout	Page 8

If you have an event we should know about, call Lisa @ 780 237-7587 or lisa_f@mailcan.com

For insurance purposes, each member joining our rides/clinics is required to hold a current **AB Equestrian Federation** membership. Renewal forms are available: www.albertaequestrian.com

All riders ride at your own risk. We recommend helmet use for all riders & **STRONGLY** encourage it for those under 18 during ATRA events. For the safety of all members, ATRA's policy on riding with dogs is: On single day rides or weekend rides with a large group, no dogs are permitted. On longer overnight trips, dogs may be permitted if all riders in your group are in agreement.