



# ATRA ON THE TRAIL

## Nov—Dec 2018 Newsletter

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

### 2018 Club Executive

**President:** Maggie Portas  
**Vice-Pres:** Alexys Mishak  
**Secretary:** Allison Downer  
**Treasurer:** Cindy Hanas  
**Membership:** Cindy Hanas  
**Casino:** Shirley McFall  
**Newsletter:** Lisa Harrison  
**Webmaster:** Alexys Mishak  
**Directors at Large:** Doug King, Marjorie Phillips, Tracy Campbell, Murray Few, Cam Stevenson, Rita Power, Sharon Breitreuz  
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*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.*

### November 15, 2018 General Meeting

**Speaker: Colleen DeVry** will be talking about the joys of **Endurance Riding** and show some pictures portraying this sport. Colleen has been a trainer, coach and breeder of Arabian horses for 30+ years, competing in endurance for the past 10. My horse NightWind's Indigo Bey and I recently reached the pinnacle of this sport by being chosen to represent Team Canada in Endurance at the World Equestrian Games in Tryon, NC in September of this year. I am the membership chair and ride manager for the Endurance Riders of AB.



### Allergy Alert: Meet Mabel and Mouse

Please note that Kirk United Church has cats for mouse control.

Please do not let them outside.

**ATRA meets 7pm the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month Jan-Apr/Sept-Nov upstairs at Kirk United Centre, 13535-122 Avenue, Edmonton.**

**Visitors are welcome at any meeting. Website: [www.atra.ca](http://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 Christmas Party—Saturday, December 15, 2018**

**6pm** at Smilies Village Restaurant & Bar—981 Fir Street, Sherwood Park

**Tickets \$30 for buffet, drinks not included** (available until Dec 11 if not sold out—only room for 50 ) from Cindy or at Nov ATRA meeting.

NEWS FLASH - ATRA's Annual General Meeting and Elections are planned for Thursday January 17, 2019 at Kirk United Centre. There will be one Board member vacancy for a general member to fill. The Board members have a lot of fun and satisfaction managing the many dimensions of this club. Please let Shirley know if you are interested in more information on a board members responsibilities. 780-662-4747, [smariem2018@gmail.com](mailto:smariem2018@gmail.com)

ATRA has some committees that are also looking to recruit general members to bring in some new ideas. More information will be available with sign up sheets at the AGM. Your input is needed and appreciated.

The ATRA board is already planning clinics for 2019. If you have an idea for a clinician or guest speaker, please contact a board member so they can bring it to the committee.

## Past Events

Sept Long Weekend Riding and Camping at Drayton Valley Riverside Trails. Two of us rode on Saturday, while three sat in camp. Sunday, we rode with a bunch of relatives . We had a great two days of riding. Report by Cindy Hanas.

**September 20, 2018 General Meeting** Members shared pictures and information from all our 2018 events held so far.

The STARS trail ride at Ministik Sept 23 had only a few people turn up for due to the cold wet weather. Donations/poker hand winnings from the ride, combined with donations from members at ATRA and CLSC meetings, as well as a club donation from CLSC has brought our total raised to \$1725. ATRA normally makes a donation from the casino funds that will be added to the total. Thank you to everyone who contributed to raise funds this year. Report by Vicki Lawrence, STARS Ride Coordinator



## Past Events

### **Sept 28-30 Riverwood Ranch Trail Ride, Cattle Drive and Obstacle Play Day.**

Although only 6 members and a couple others attended the weekend we had a great time. We enjoyed a big fire in their pit Friday evening after a trail ride across the Pembina river through fields of cows and trails with beautiful fall colors. Some of the hills were slick because of the rain and cool weather before, but our horses navigated them safely. We stayed dry, except for those that got wet up to their knees in the river. Saturday we moved two herds of cattle. The first down the road a few miles, with a few exciting moments when a few cows tried to head for the fields instead, but we managed to chase them back. The ranch provided smokies, veggies and pop at the lunch stop. After lunch we moved another group of cattle to a new pasture. The ranch then served a steak dinner with home made desserts and drinks for dinner. We stayed inside the barn and visited that evening. Sunday morning we played with their extensive obstacle course before heading home from a great weekend. Anyone interested, the ranch offers Obstacle Play Days on weekends spring through fall. They also do trail rides and cattle drives regularly. You can go as a individual and join a group. They also have horses available for trail rides and cattle drives.





## Past Events

### **Panther Corners Work Trip September 6-14**

The work trip originally was planned for a rather large contingent of 14 people in order to ensure that 3 crews would be out daily with or without wagons, while leaving 2 of the group in base camp. In the end Tracy Campbell, Pleman/Allison Downer, Doug/Mary King, Larry Niblock and Rita Power Along with Teamsters and Members Duane Landals, Jay Mills and Rick Krohl were able to make the trip. Unfortunately Ken Komm, Shirley McFall, Carolyn Wulf along with Teamsters Lucille Landals and Judy Orr were unable to make the trip due to medical issues and in addition no one on the waiting list was available.



We had to adjust the trip to a reduced number of people available and to the recent restrictions on the proposed Trail Clearing initiatives this year by Alberta Environment and Parks with respect to OHS approvals even in the Backcountry.

However our smaller ATRA work group with 2 wagons and teamsters made the trip as planned and arrived at the Staging area the afternoon of Sept 6th. Before heading in with the wagons the next day, some much requested signage for the New Panther Wagon Trail was installed around the Panther Staging Area and the new Panther River.

We set up camp just south of the main Panther Trail which runs E/W to Banff, along the Winchester Creek Trail to Dormer Lake. We had great grazing for the horses and enjoyed 4 days of summerlike weather for our initial rides and reconnaissance. Daily crew communications worked well as each work group had a SAT phone or an In Reach when they headed out & a tailgate safety meeting was held each morning before leaving camp.





We found that access to Banff had been closed off by Parks Canada due to the release of the bison in the Bison Reintroduction Program, the closure was effective from July 27, 2018 to mid March 2019. The closure made the planned reconnaissance of the Dormer Trail to Banff difficult to finish. As a result, several reconnaissance rides were undertaken to find a more sustainable reroute along the Dormer River leading to Banff as the 2013 flooding had effectively make the trail impassable for about 1.3 Km, an excellent reroute was flagged and will await a submission to the Alberta Government for approval.



Reconnaissance rides were also undertaken to/around Handout Lake to the east and into the Upper Dogrib Creek East of and to the North of Ice Lake, there are very likely trails that connect to the Sheep Cliffs area of Yaha Tinda from the Upper Dogrib Creek. As a matter of course of riding the trails in the area it was noted that there is significant work required to clear trails that have not recently been cleared. During rides in and out of Ice Lake, Dormer Lake and along Winchester Creek, approximately 10 Km of trail had to be cleared just for passage. We noted a that there is a significant amount of deadfall from old burns in the Panther Corners Area.

Bear diggings were noted along about three different trails and grizzly bear tracks were found along the Panther Trail going by the camp on the 2nd last morning, however the group experienced no problems at all with bears. However there seemed to be a noticeable lack of wildlife in the area.

A loop trail called the Dormer Ridge Trail which was about 85% re-established during the 2017 trip was tied in with a very good reroute and completed (south from the Panther River Trail and west to the Dormer River Trail). For the fishermen of the group, there are new metal hitching rails for horses at Ice Lake. We all enjoyed the almost daily Cutthroat



Trout hors d'oeuvres.

We did get snowed on for 2 or 3 days with night time temperatures dipping to -10ish C, however we had a good supply of wood and the ATRA Cook Tent c/w stove worked really well. Other than 1 snow melting issue endured by Larry and Duane we were all pretty comfy.

We broke camp in 2 groups on Sept 13 & 14th and the rides out was pretty cool. In all the trip was very worthwhile, everyone had a great trip and we accomplished a significant amount of work and reconnaissance on behalf of ATRA. Report by Doug King.

## Past Events

### **The Clinic with Jody Schultze on Biomechanics, Anatomy of the Horse, Saddle Fit, Groundwork and Riding Tips.**

This ATRA supported clinic was held October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Jody's home. Fourteen members attended this full day from 9:30am to 4:30pm. The day started with hot drinks and fruit. There were excellent hand-outs for participants and we started with introductions. Two members had driven in from Edson and one participant was Jody's neighbor. The first thing covered was an overview of the skeleton, both Axial and Appendicular, the muscles and resulting conformation of the horse. Jody has a skeleton of a horse and parts of this skeleton were demonstrated as to its' function and passed around to the group. We were able to see where this old horse may have suffered injury and how the bone grew in to help protect the injured areas. A brief discussion of skeletons of other creatures gave us a further understanding of the function of the skeleton. The large muscle groups, their attachments, ligaments and tendons contributed to understanding how the horse moves and carries a rider. The spinal cord was touched upon along with the importance of fascia.



Several of Jody's horses came up in pictures and as we talked about their conformation and the jobs they may be able to perform comfortably and with confidence. Lines were imposed upon the "horse" to further demonstrate balance, strength and short comings. Helpful information in judging conformation.

Following lunch the group met in the barn to meet patient Winston who is black and on his near side Jody and Tracy had painted in his skeleton and large muscle groups. Then Jody moved Winston around and we could see from the coloured paint over each area just what moved when the legs were moved forward or back.

We then went out to the round pen where Jody demonstrated some in hand work, again looking at muscle and skeletal movement with discussion on correct movement in hand work. Is the horse balanced is always an important consideration. Jody did some liberty work and gave pointers on how one would keep a horse's attention etc.

Back in the classroom we viewed on screen some good riding and riding that was not helpful in allowing a horse be his/her best or necessarily stay sound. Saddle fit was touched upon and the importance of a good fitting saddle. Jody did suggest that putting a clean sheet under a saddle or in some cases just using a white saddle pad on a horse needing a bath will give one lots of information as to the riders balance and how the saddle fits or not. The day concluded with a list of books that cover these topics. Thank you to Jody and to the participants. I found the day added to my continued study of the horse.

Report by Marjorie Phillips.



## Past Events

We had 19 riders out Oct 21 for the ATRA Trail Ride at Blackfoot Lake Staging Area. The trails are wide groomed grass so we don't have to ride single file. We rode about 2 hours and had lunch at running dog shelter (pictured below). We rode the same trail back. After the cold wet start to fall it was nice to get warm weather and lots of people out for a trail ride. This staging area closes to horses Nov 30.



**October 18, 2018 General Meeting** Guest Speaker: Ron Anderson talked about Trading Horses: Are you buying or selling, maybe both. Points to consider in each transaction. He was entertaining and informative.





## Past Events

Saturday, Oct 26 transformed my barn into a small engine repair clinic for ATRA members. Under the instruction of Thomas Mulder we replaced carburetor kits, adjusted fuel mixture and got almost all of the engines running. We worked on snow blowers, chain saws, leaf blowers and lawn mowers. Don't think any of us will make this our next vocation, but we all have a better understanding of the workings of an engine. The venue worked perfectly and was cozy and warm on a windy...cool day. Special thanks to Celina McElroy for sending us warm fresh cinnamon buns as well as cheese biscuits. Candace Boger did a great job with preparing the hot drinks. Thanks to all that participated. Report by Ken Komm





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## ATRA Chainsaw Recertification/Certification Course Sep 29/30 2018 Report

As a result of several ATRA members chainsaw certifications expiring in October this year, ATRA sponsored a combined 2 day Chainsaw Recertification/Certification Course with Canadian Woodland Trainers Assoc instructor Mathieu Tounissoux from Jasper.

For the Recertification, Candice Boger, Carl Hoybak, Dave Lawrence, Doug King, Shirley McFall and Len Weinkauff. All had sufficient Work Credits for ATRA to pay 100% of the Recertification Costs. Unfortunately Carl and Shirley were only able to attend for 1 day. For the 2 Day Certification, Larry Niblock had enough Work Day Credits for ATRA to Pay 100% while Vic Newman was a gracious host, providing his yard, shop, home and Sunroom for a spot in the Course.

The weather was a little nippy in the AM both days but Vic's Sunroom and ATRA's coffee pot made it quite comfortable. Mathieu presented the most comprehensive Chainsaw course I have ever attended. His knowledge and in depth Chainsaw maintenance tips have already proven invaluable. Everyone in attendance agreed that it was an excellent Course and especially that the extra day was well worth it for those who had to be Recertified. Our thanks to Vic and Mathieu. Report by Doug King.



## Classifieds

For these items, contact Cindy at 780-962-2690 or [dich@telus.net](mailto:dich@telus.net) to bring to a meeting or ride.

**ATRA Coffee Mug \$15**

**ATRA Tush Cushions \$10**

**ATRA Trailer Decal \$10-30**

**ATRA Jacket \$65**



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

# ASK AND RELEASE

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ATRA members: \$16 (includes mailing) or 2 for \$20

## Upcoming Events Calendar: See details on website: [www.atra.ca](http://www.atra.ca)

Contact Names/Numbers for events below are provided for those without website access.

DATE	LOCATION
Nov 15	ATRA General Meeting
Nov 18	ATRA Trail Ride — Ministik Bird Sanctuary
Dec 15	ATRA Christmas Social
Jan 17	ATRA Annual General Meeting
Jan 20	ATRA Trail Ride—Blackfoot Waskahegan Staging Area, ride out 11am

If you have an event we should know about, call Lisa @ 780 237-7587 or [lisa\\_f@mailcan.com](mailto: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](http://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.



# Canadian Horse Wellness Expo

- Equine experts will speak on topics that affect your horses day to day. These sessions will assist in maintaining the health, preventing injury and helping your horse.

<h3> Saturday</h3> <p><b>11:00 - 12:15 pm:</b> Is It the Right Fit - Saddle Fitting for You and Your Horse - <b>Julie Fiset</b></p> <p><b>12:15 - 1:00 pm:</b> LUNCH BREAK</p> <p><b>1:00 - 2:15 pm:</b> Enhancing Communications with the Use of Bits - <b>Ron Anderson</b></p> <p><b>2:30 - 3:45 pm:</b> Equine First Aid - <b>Chelsea McKen</b></p> <p><b>4:00 - 5:15 pm:</b> Equine Dentistry for Young Horses - <b>Katie Squair</b></p> <p><b>5:30 - 6:45 pm:</b> Keeping Horses Healthy from the Inside Out - <b>Shauna Cole</b></p>	<h3> Sunday</h3> <p><b>11:00 - 12:15 pm:</b> European DNA Analysis - <b>Magdalena Carr</b></p> <p><b>12:15 - 1:00 pm:</b> LUNCH BREAK</p> <p><b>1:00 - 2:15 pm:</b> Equine Behaviors and Horsemanship - <b>Nettie Barr</b></p> <p><b>2:30 - 3:45 pm:</b> Stomach Ulcers - <b>Dr. Jessica Romanow</b></p> <p><b>4:00 - 5:15 pm:</b> Equine Assisted Learning - <b>Gary Millar</b></p> <p><b>5:30 - 6:45 pm:</b> Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy on Injured Horses - <b>Dr. Jessica Romanow</b></p>
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**November 10 - 11** **Edmonton Expo Center** **Farmfair International**