



ATRA ON THE TRAIL

Sept-Oct 2018 Newsletter

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

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Vice-Pres: Alexys Mishak
Secretary: Allison Downer
Treasurer: Cindy Hanas
Membership: Cindy Hanas
Casino: Shirley McFall
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To run an advertisement or send an article to be considered contact: 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.

September 20, 2018 General Meeting

Members will be showing pictures and sharing information from all our 2018 events held so far. If you have pictures, please bring them on a memory stick. Come socialize and enjoy some refreshments for the evening.

October 18, 2018 General Meeting

Guest Speaker: Ron Anderson will be talking about Trading Horses: Are you buying or selling, maybe both. Points to consider in each transaction. *Ron was born and raised in a rural area on the west side of Calgary. He has been a life-long horse professional with involvement in a wide variety of equine areas. He and his wife currently operate Sylvancrest Stock Farm east of Calgary. Sylvancrest is a small boarding and training facility relocated and down-sized from the west side of Calgary. In addition to training and coaching, Ron has provided horse auction pedigree and commentary for over 40 years. His voice is familiar to many as a premier agricultural event host. Whether it is a sale, a competition or an evening of equine celebration Ron will most likely be in attendance. To quote Ron, "I like horses, horse people and horse events. The order of preference for these 'likes' varies from day to day."*



The ATRA Website has a new look! www.atra.ca

ATRA meets at 7pm the 3rd 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

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

Riding members must have current ATRA and AEF memberships.

Upcoming Events

16th Annual STARS Trail Ride on Sunday, Sept 23 at Ministik Bird Sanctuary

Please join us to raise funds for **STARS** – a valuable service that some horseback riders may find necessary to use during their lifetime, especially in wilderness areas. Bring your horse, pack a lunch, water/juice and experience a 3-4 hour autumn get-away on a beautiful guided trail ride.

To ride: You may: 1) make a donation directly to STARS 2) buy 1/more poker hands (\$10 each) and take a chance to win cash for drawing a winning hand **or** 3) choose a combination of both. Riders may even bring in donations from friends or businesses (cheque made out to STARS with correct mailing address) and/or cash to play poker hands for them.

To donate if you can't ride: Donation forms will be available at the ride or from: www.atra.ca.

Let's have fun and make STARS the big winner. Receipts will be mailed for tax purposes.

Meet at 10 am to saddle, make your donation or register/draw your first cards. Ride out at 11 am.

This walking trail ride is for **intermediate riders** and **trustworthy horses**. We ride through wilderness areas and could come in contact with cattle and wildlife (moose, deer, etc). Non CLSC / ATRA members will need to sign a waiver. No smoking or drinking alcohol on the trail. An out-house is available at the staging area and at the lunch spot.

Note: Wasps could be present. Club not will not be selling hot dogs or pop after the ride.

DON'T TRUST GOOGLE MAPS! Directions: From Hwy 14, go south on Rge Rd 215 (which becomes RR 220). At Twp Rd 504A, (about 3½ mi), look left for the staging area. Watch for signs-(STARS RIDE). **OR Going east on Hwy 625** (Nisku-Beaumont Rd.) / Twp Rd 504, cross Hwy 21, turn north on Rge Rd 221. After ¼ mi, turn east on Twp Rd 504A for 1 mile. Watch for signs.

For more information call Vicki @ 780-922-2227 or vickilawrence@interbaun.com.

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

Friday: 4 hour guided trail ride at 2pm, arrive by noon, 3000 acres to ride by Pembina river

Saturday: Cattle drive, starts at 10am, lunch & dinner provided, all day ride, moving several groups of cows, with farm wranglers.

Sunday: Obstacle Play Day 10am-5pm.

Cost is \$210 for the trail ride and cattle drive. Obstacle Play day is \$25/horse. Camping is \$25/night/rig, firewood included. Bring your own feed and water pail. There are 8 pens for horses, on a first come first serve basis. The rest can use your own panels, or electric fence, or hi-line.

Welcome to stay Sunday night and go home Monday, so can enjoy campfire and tell stories. If you need accommodations, they have 1 cabin with a double bed for \$60/night and 1 outfitter tent with stove --\$50/night. Sleeps 5-6, BYO cots. Contact Megan at riverwoodranch@xplornet.ca or 780-996-8070 to sign up by Sept 20, \$110 deposit required. Website: www.riverwoodranch.ca



Clinics

Chainsaw 3 Year Certification Courses for ATRA Trail Maintenance Projects

Dates: Sept 29 - Level 2 Recertification (1 day)
Sept 30 & Oct 1 - Level 2 Certification (2 days)

Time: 9am–4pm, Saturday, Sunday and Monday

Each course maximum is 8. The recert course has 2 spots left and the cert course has 6 spots left. Bring your Lunch, Chainsaw, Sturdy boots, gloves and Personal Protection Equipment. Dress for the weather.

Cost: Recert \$180.00 & 2 Day Cert \$300.00 without preapproved credits.

Location: Vic Newman's property & shop for lectures. 51271 Wye Road (RR 203). Access from Hwy 14 East, then North 1.6 km on RR 203, on East side of road.

ATRA is subsidizing the courses up to 100% on a preapproved basis in order to update the list of members who are able and willing to assist with trail clearing on ATRA sanctioned projects on public land, such as, but not limited to Blackfoot, Ministik, Hummingbird, Panther, etc. Chainsaw certification is required by the AB Government because of OH &S Protocol requirements and Liability issues on public lands. Participants are agreeing to assist on a volunteer basis with trail maintenance when asked.

Contact Doug King for info 780 916 7474 king519@telus.net and submit clinic form (on page 4) & payment to Cindy by Sept 20 meeting.

Biomechanics, Anatomy, Saddle Fit & Stretching Exercises Clinic with Certified Equine Therapist Jody Shultze on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at her place, near Thorsby. We will use her horses for the demos and exercises. Cost \$75, max 15, Register by September 20. Contact Marjorie: maphill@telus.net or 780-919-6035 www.brokenspurequinetherapy.com



We are 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 clinic committee or board meeting.

Clinics

Horse Hauling Course with Jen Woods March 2019 Beaumont Aquatic Centre

Date and cost TBA. This interactive course covers: trailer design, animal behaviour and handling, handler safety, biosecurity, horse comfort during transport, incident (accident) response, transport regulatory requirements for Canada, insurance requirements, manifests, horse permits

Jennifer is a livestock handling specialist based out of Blackie, Alberta, Canada. Jennifer obtained her undergrad degree in Animal Science at Colorado State University and her masters degree in Veterinary Preventative Medicine from Iowa State University. While studying at Colorado State University, one of Jennifer's professors was Dr. Temple Grandin. This was the beginning of a relationship that has continued with Dr. Grandin for over 20 years as a mentor, colleague and friend. Jennifer has over 25 years experience in the livestock industry and has worked as a consultant to the industry since 1998. Her areas of expertise include euthanasia, animal handling and behavior, animal welfare auditing and assessing (slaughter, farm, feedlot and transportation), livestock emergency response, transportation, and facility design. Jennifer's work has taken her all over North America, across Europe, South America, and down to Australia.

ATRA 2018 Clinic Registration Form

To register, send payment/form to Cindy Hanas, 25 Linden Street South, Spruce Grove, AB, T7X 2G6 or email form info below and payment by e-transfer to **abtrailriding@gmail.com**. Please make your security question the Club Name Abbreviated (ATRA).

Clinic spots are 1st come, 1st served until filled., based on payment received and current ATRA/AEF memberships. To see if there is space before mailing cheque or sending e-transfer, please call/email Cindy at dich@telus.net or 587-986-1535

Name & Location of Clinic: _____

Date of Clinic: _____ Registration Fee: _____

Name of Participant: _____ AEF # _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Your registration is not confirmed until your payment has cleared and both AEF and ATRA membership have been verified. AEF not required for non-riding clinics. No post-date cheques or spots held without full payment. No refunds after registration deadline unless a vacancy can be filled. We appreciate horses attending are healthy and up to date worming, shots and farrier. Please withdraw if your horse is sick or has been in contact with sick horses within 3 weeks prior to clinic. Waivers are required at most facilities.

**spectators are allowed to attend any of the riding clinics at no charge*

**no food is provided at any of these clinics unless specified so bring your own lunch*

***unless otherwise noted, any clinic not 80% filled by deadline will be cancelled.*

Past Events

Summer Parades — report by Vicki Lawrence

Another parade season is complete, just have to inspect and repair any costumes and put them away for the winter.

Leduc Black Gold, June 2:

This was a new parade for us, and the horses were not fazed by the low flying jets on their



flight path into the airport, or by the train running parallel to them. We won the fancy ribbon for 'Mounted Equestrian'! We had 7 riders: Laurie & Grace Gaboury, Celina McElroy, Allison & Pleman Downer, Dave & Vicki Lawrence. Unfortunately we were unable to find any banner carriers.

Ardrossan, June 16: Catherine Seale joined the Downers & Lawrences to ride down RR 222 and then into a tight loop through the town. Thanks to Downers' grandsons who carried our banner. Our horses waited patiently while we enjoyed a burger and pie lunch and checked out the fair.

Sherwood Park Canada Day, July 1: We had glorious weather and the parade route was full of spectators. Celina, the Gabourys and Lawrences made up this group. Dave surprised us by finding 3 bystanders who agreed to carry our banner on the route.

Edmonton K Days, July 20: The rain quit just in time for us to get ready. We were entry #75. This was a rather short parade down Jasper Ave, but the spectators were not in short supply. A real bonus to this parade is that a prepared announcement was broadcast to the crowd in about 5-6 locations as we paraded past. A great advertisement for ATRA! Catherine, Celina, the Gabourys & Lawrences rode, & Carolyn Wulf left her busy work at home to carry our banner.

Here is what was broadcast: *ATRA is a non-profit family oriented organization that encompasses a variety of equestrian activities. Beside trail riding in local areas, we often explore trails on the eastern slopes of the Rockies. We host monthly guest speakers and a variety of clinics, with topics such as horsemanship, first aid (people, horses & wilderness), chain saw certification, environmental issues and GPS training. Trails are very important to all trail riders, so you will see ATRA donating their time, effort and funds to plan, develop and maintain trails throughout Alberta. ATRA also supports the Canadian Cancer Society, STARS, Little Bits Therapeutic Riding, Equine Foundation of Canada and a farrier scholarship at Olds College. Take a look at our website at atra.ca.*

And here is a quote from Mike Zelenak, an ATRA member who works with the Northlands parade group in the equestrian section. It's great to be organized by someone who knows horses.

"Your team did a great job again. Looked great & very professional. You are great ambassadors for equine, as I noticed how many people came by to talk about and touch/smell the horses. You guys allowed them the time and taught them a few things. That makes their parade experience that much better, I can assure you. Thanks again to ATRA for contributing huge to the parade."

I would like to thank the members of our group for coming out and enduring the early mornings required to meet the parade committees' deadlines. A great group with well behaved horses!

Past Events—May

The 40th ATRA Trail Ride against Cancer was a fun and successful day, 52 Riders, \$13,651 in donations and a hot spring day! The presence of Julie, a representative from CCS made it even more special! Big thanks to Bruno & Elsie for once again allowing us to hold this event at their home, Able Ranch.

May long weekend about 30 ATRA members rode the Fort Assinaboine Sandhills Trails and camped at Wierenga Flats .



FOESA work weekend at Yaha Tinda in May

Some of our members went down and helped for the weekend, including assembling the 2 concrete picnic tables donated by ATRA. One went in a riverside campsite in the Eagle Creek campground and the other by the parking lot for the Bighorn Falls, in memory of past ATRA member and president, Don Scott.





Past Events—June

June Wilderness Survival Clinic with Bruce Zalwalsky—cancelled due to low registration

June MSW Farms Camping and Trail Ride—near Ponoka — only 3 riders showed up.

June Scott Phillips Obstacles & Mountain Readiness — report by Marjorie Phillips

Eight ATRA members took this clinic given by Scott Phillips at Spruce View. Because of lack of communication on my part there were misunderstandings about the clinic start time which was 7 p.m. Friday evening. However because of the unsettled weather the classroom part of the clinic was touched upon on Saturday. I did not take a horse and had the privilege of using Ditch and Belle, 2 of Scott's lovely horses. A participant did tell me that she found the campsite, a very large pasture, had easy access and the paddocks with daily manure pick up, excellent.

The Saturday morning started with brief classroom introduction to Scott's program. One of the messages Scott mentioned is being around and handling horses is more about "selfmanship" than horsemanship. Then we went to the arena and did some in-hand work and a few simple obstacles. As this was a group of experienced riders no one had much trouble. One of the horses did take exception to the water but with patience and quiet persistence soon was able to put up with having wet feet! What makes horses so interesting is this is a mare that will wade through deep rivers! Lunch brought more rain and that provided an opportunity to complete the classroom component of the clinic. This covers the muscles and skeleton and how the horse moves and how a horse "thinks" plus other pointers about our equine partners. The afternoon started in hand and then mounted. The obstacles were varied and as the clinic progressed the obstacles and exercises became more challenging. The evening meal was enjoyed around the campfire with Tony the chubby friendly cat joining the party. It is a nice way to have a good visit with fellow members and catch up on their busy lives.

Sunday saw sun and heat. The obstacles had been changed and were again more challenging. The group started in hand and then asked the same questions mounted. One bay fellow who has given Grizzly bears the snub took great exception to a hide on the fence. I guess a fellow has to put his foot down somewhere! This was handled by having him approach the hide where he could stand and look at it. This was as far as he was asked to go in this clinic. The goal of the obstacles is to preset pressure, only to what the horse can handle in order to solidify that pressure means, release and focus on me. This is why a horse is never forced to just "do it". They are to learn to trust you and follow your lead. Two horses became difficult and at that point Scott stepped in to help. He worked on getting the horse's eye, and then the horse's attention on him. It took some time as each horse was pretty sure they had the answer and it did not lie with either the owner or Scott. Soon the horse could settle and follow Scott's lead. At the end of the clinic some took their horses on the trail with several difficult obstacles. Some did it in hand and others rode the trail back to the trailers and onto Hummingbird for the next ATRA event. One of the ATRA members in the clinic mentioned that she appreciated Scott's personalized insight to the horses and their riders. Take home messages for me are, it is never wrong to get off and go back to basics and the rein should mean that the horse gives you their attention and follows your lead. I enjoyed being with this group of like minded people and their lovely horses.

Past Events—July

Hummingbird — 17 members came to ride and clean up our adopted Allenby Trail. Some of the group rode the trail from one end to the other and collected a full bag of trash. The other item of interest, which we were unable to remove, was a dismantled snowmobile. A member has since reported its location to several other departments for its removal. We also did clean up and maintenance in the first equestrian campground. All trash was collected, including a water logged heavy “soft stall mattress”. Total trash collected from this area was about 3 very large black garbage bags. Firepits were emptied of trash and some sites had the ashes removed also. We added new fill to several of the highline areas. All manure was hauled to the manure pit. Since 2007, Allenby Trail and the campground have much improved in regard to the amount of garbage removed. 5 riders stayed until Tuesday and woke up to 6” of wet heavy snow.

Cadomin Drummond Creek Trail Maintenance—cancelled due to lack of volunteers

Cypress Hills West Block Saskatchewan —We had 16 ATRA members attend. The drive was long and smooth, until the last half hour past Maple Creek, where we had to go up a steep hill consisting of switchback turns and signs saying not recommended for vehicles pulling trailers and road impassible when wet, followed by a narrow steep gravel road. The campground was very nice, with good sized pens for the horses, including one large pen where we could turn our horses loose in or set up panels or electric fence pens inside. Firewood was provided, and very clean outhouses as well. The riding varied from flat fields to hills & bush with some great views for lunch. We were able to ride to Fort Walsh too and tie our horses and join the tours there.

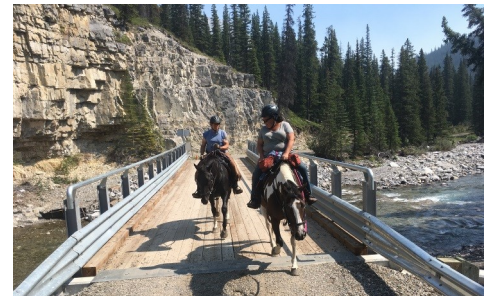


Past Events—August

Yaha Tinda — Altogether and on various days, 26 ATRA members in total, including 1 new member from St. Louis, Missouri and 1 from Australia braved the smoke, heat and wasps. It was not without incidents or adventures, though some were not so enjoyable such as being evacuated on the second to last day due to wild fires in the area. However, and as always, we had a wonderful time including a group tour at The Ranch hosted by Rick & Jean Smith who oversee the day to day operations at the ranch.



Little Elbow Kananaskis — 10 members had the campground to ourselves for the week and were pleasantly surprised by the clear skies most of the days we were there, as it was smoky at home when we left. The horses enjoyed the covered stalls on the one rain day when we didn't ride. We skipped doing the hard climbing ride this year, but enjoyed all the other trails, water falls, and evening fires.





Bison in Elk Island and Banff National Parks

They released 31 animals into the backcountry on July 29, 2018. The herd has since grown to at least 33 animals, with the birth of two new bison calves confirmed on Aug 5.

Following the release on July 29, the vast majority of the herd seem content within 6 km of the initial release site and are well within the heart of the 1200 sq km reintroduction zone. As some of you may have heard, two marked bison bulls with ear tags and GPS collars has left the core reintroduction area and are currently grazing on Province of Alberta lands near the Ya Ha Tinda. We are working with the Province of Alberta and continue to monitor these bulls. Depending on their movements, we may attempt to capture them if this walkabout takes them further east.

Meanwhile, the Province of Alberta has been responding to the Skeleton Fire in the Scalp Creek area. This fire is being managed by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry out of Rocky Mountain House. As part of this response effort, the Province requested that we close the Bighorn Campground as a precaution. Although there are bison are currently in the area, this closure is a result of fire response operations and is unrelated to the presence of bison. The Eagle Creek campground continues to remain open at this time. For more information directly relating to this fire, please contact Wildfire Information Officer Derek Gagnon at 780.499.8178.

If you encounter bison in the area:

- ♦ Maintain a safe distance of 100 metres from bison when travelling by foot or by horse.
- ♦ Use binoculars or a telephoto lens to get a closer look.
- ♦ If you encounter bison, do not approach. Choose an alternate route. Watch their movements and give them space (100 metres).
- ♦ If a bison approaches you, remain calm and do not run. Back away slowly and try to maintain a physical barrier, such as a tree, between you and the bison.
- ♦ Be especially wary of female bison with young calves (spring) and male bison during rutting season (July/August).
- ♦ Dogs must be on leash and under control at all times.
- ♦ Respect all warnings, area closures, and travel restrictions.
- ♦ Report bison sightings on Provincial Lands to Banff Dispatch: 403-762-1470.

Thank you for your continued patience, understanding and collaboration as we work to reintroduce North America's largest land mammal to Canada's first national park.

If you have any questions, you can give me a call at (403) 431.1016 or email banff.bison@pc.gc.ca. You can also visit our website for more information about the reintroduction of bison to Banff: parkscanada.gc.ca/Banff-bison.

Classifieds

For these items, contact Cindy at 780-962-2690 or dich@telus.net 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



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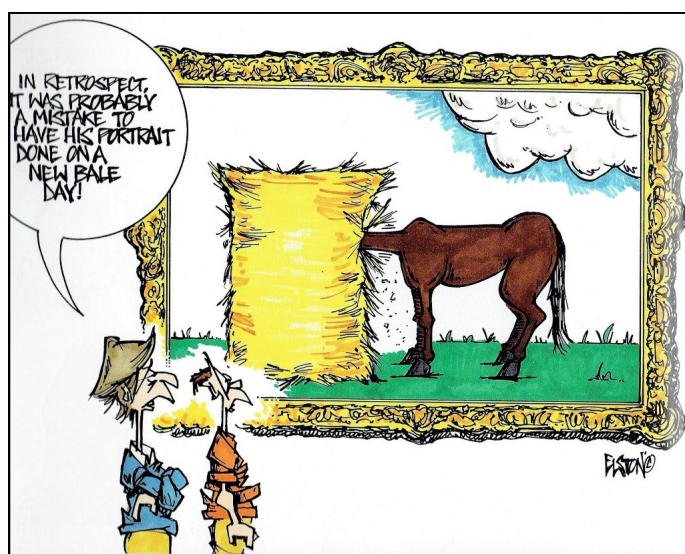
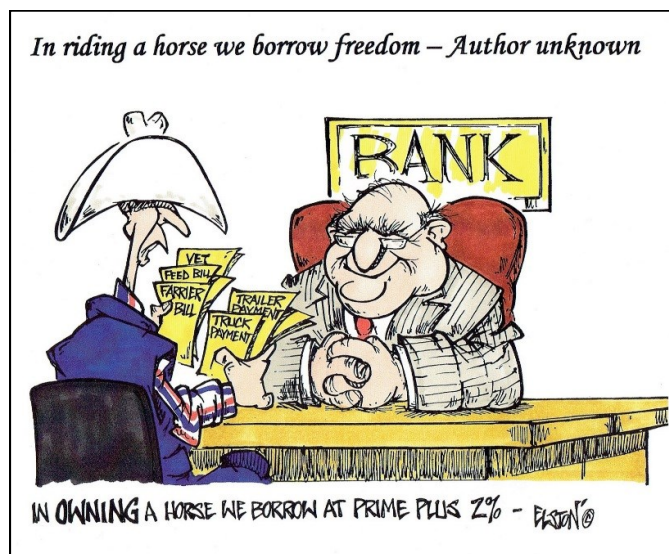
VIEW TRAILER: www.horsetraining-askandrelease.ca

INFO/ORDER: ctozer@telus.net | 780 690 8091
ATRA members: \$16 (includes mailing) or 2 for \$20

Upcoming Events Calendar: See details on website: www.atra.ca

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

DATE	LOCATION
Sept 20	ATRA General Meeting—Page 1
Sept 23	STARS Trail Ride at Ministik Bird Sanctuary—Page 2
Sept 28-30	Riverwood Ranch Cattle Drive/Trail Rides, Evansburg—Page2
Oct 18	ATRA General Meeting—Page 1
Sept 29	ATRA Chainsaw 3 Year Re-Certification Course—Page 3
Sept 30-Oct 1	ATRA Chainsaw 3 Year Certification Course—Page 3
Oct 20	Biomechanics, Anatomy, Saddle Fit & Stretching—Page 3
Oct 21	ATRA Trail Ride—location TBA
Nov 15	ATRA General Meeting
Nov 18	ATRA Trail Ride — Ministik Bird Sanctuary
Dec 15	ATRA Christmas Social



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.