

# CALGARY REGIONAL APPALOOSA CLUB (CRAC)

## NEWSLETTER

summer, 2013



The Calgary Regional Appaloosa Club is a family-oriented organization that promotes the Appaloosa breed. We are a regional club of the Appaloosa Horse Club of Canada that facilitates competition and fun activities for people, of all ages, who are interested in the breed.

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### Stories from the CRAC rides:

The first ride of the year was enjoyed by 16 riders, who made their way up the Hidden and Moose Loop trails in West Bragg Creek. After a short and sometimes muddy ride, the group stopped to enjoy a gourmet potluck lunch with delectable delights that included chicken wings, meatballs, salads, desserts, chips, sausage, cheese and crackers. Although the trail had some horse-swallowing mudholes, the weather was reasonably warm and sunny, the group was in good spirits, and everyone had a chance to catch up on winter news and summer plans.



The second club event of the spring took place at the Livingston Gap cattle push. During this event, club members enjoyed a few days of riding into the side drainages of the Oldman River and then on the appointed day, they helped ranchers push their cattle out into the forestry reserve, where they will stay to graze over the course of the summer. For years, members of the Appaloosa Club have been invited to help with this event. Rain, swollen rivers, and steep, muddy conditions can make the event challenging for cattle, horses and riders. Except for a few bumps and bruises, and some publicly hurt pride, club members enjoyed the event.



On June 29, a group of us parked at North Fork. We decided to try the 'usual' trail, and crossed the creek with no incidents. The creek there was a bit deeper, had more rock than usual on the far side, and had lots of sediment on the near side. The trail up the hill was wet and muddy but ok. When we got to Ware Creek proper, we were able to cross, but the trails were eroded and we ran into downed trees, blocked trails, new bogs and other obstacles.

We tried bushwhacking up and over to get to the Death Valley trail but it became dangerous. We retreated and lunched in the meadow that is downstream from where we usually hit that valley, on the north side of Ware Creek.

In all, we rode only 11.3 km (by my GPS) in over 4.5 hours, which shows the stop/start/ retreat nature of our explorations.

And ... after all the recent flood events, the area looks very different ....

On July 1, Canada Day, 13 members of the club participated in the Airdrie Parade. It was a beautiful day and all the new and old horses and riders did really well. Thank you to everyone. We look forward to the "Come Hell or High Water" Parade on July 5. There is still room for participants for the Stampede Parade if you and your horse have ridden in it before. Pictures of the participants are posted on the website.



**Special Note:** Our deepest sympathy goes out to every home and landowner who has been affected by the recent flooding in southern Alberta. Many thanks to everyone who has been able to help friends and strangers through this challenging time.

### Sharing the Trail

In a perfect world, all trail users would respectfully share the trail by paying attention to oncoming traffic and stopping or stepping aside to allow others to pass. Unfortunately, the world is not quite perfect. Sometimes, we come across an obstinate rider or hiker, or someone with a dog that is out of control. Communication between parties can be heated. Tempers flare as entitlement issues emerge.

We all must find ways to share the trails and to be respectful of each other chosen recreational style. After all, we're all out there to have fun aren't we?

### How to Pack for a Day Ride in the Mountains:

Remember to always be prepared for changing weather every time you go out into the mountains. Here is a list to get you started...

- horse, saddle blanket, saddle, halter, bridle, saddle-bags, brushes, combs, hay
- truck, trailer, gas, truck safety kit
- first aid gear for horse and rider. Know how to use them.
- safety gear - fire starter, matches or lighter, snacks, compass and map or GPS or SPOT, bear spray, pocket knife. Know how to use your safety gear.

- water. If it's cold, take a thermos of tea.
- layers of clothes including warm hat, bandana, rainproof jacket, jeans, gloves, and sturdy boots (you may have to walk).
- lunch plus an extra snack or two. A snack for your canine friend.
- personal medications. Let your fellow riders know if you have a health condition such as an allergy or diabetes. Be prepared in case you have to stay out overnight.  toilet paper and a bag to carry the used stuff out with you.
- camera, binoculars
- A change of clothes, a snack and a drink that you can leave in your vehicle.

### Before You Go:

- Choose trails and distances that are suitable for your and your horse's fitness level.
- Tell a responsible adult where you are going, i.e. someone who will follow-up if you don't return.
- Check the weather forecast. You don't want to find yourself on a ridge top in a thunderstorm and you don't want to find yourself trying to cross a stream in flood.

### Recipe Corner:

Imagine coming home at the end of a long day on the trail to find a cool beverage and a delicious meal waiting for you. Some of you may have a partner who provides this sort of care. Others of you may have to do your own catering. If you are really organized, you can make up a crockpot the evening before the ride, set it on low in the morning, put some beverages in the fridge and so you, too, can come home to find supper waiting for you.

Good recipes can be found in the Company's Coming Slowcooker Cookbook or on-line. My latest favourite source of recipes is Dee Drummond's [thepioneerwoman.com](http://thepioneerwoman.com). You not only get some good recipes and step-by-step instructions, but you also get a very entertaining narrative along the way. Her recipes make heaps of food so you can have friends over or enjoy leftovers for lunch for the rest of the week.

There have been some requests for recipes from the 2011 Wrangler for a Day event. Here is one of the most sought after recipes (we modified it a bit from this):

<http://thaifood.about.com/od/thaiseafoodrecipes/r/saltandpepsquid.htm>

Bon appetit!

### Mark Your Calendar:

- Don't have an Appaloosa? That's OK. All breeds are welcome. You can paint spots on your horse's hindquarters if you really want to fit in.

- Don't have a horse? That's OK too. Contact one of the club executives and they do their best to match you up with a spare horse.
- Aren't a member of CRAC or the AEF? Do we have a deal for you.... For insurance purposes, you must be a member of the Alberta Equestrian Federation (AEF) before you can ride with the club. Check their website at <http://www.albertaequestrian.com/> for details and how to sign up. If you are planning to ride a lot with the Calgary Regional Appaloosa Club, you can join our club as well. Details about membership can be found at our website: <http://calgaryappaloosa.wildapricot.org/>

- July 4, 2013 All participants in the Calgary Stampede parade camp out at Fort Calgary the night before. Get to the fort early (before noon) if you want a spot to camp. Bring all you will need for the night, for breakfast and for you and your horse in the parade. Club hats and shirts are provided. You must wear nice black jeans and boots and your horse and tack must be gleaming.
- July 5, 2013 Calgary Stampede parade. Contact Rej Gariepy at [rej@rprappaloosa.com](mailto:rej@rprappaloosa.com) if you and your Appaloosa are interested in being part of the parade. If you and your horse have never been in a parade, you must take part in the Airdrie Parade first.
- July 6 - 14, 2013 If anyone wants to show off their colored Appaloosa in the booth at the Stampede Grounds during Stampede please contact Donna Wyatt at [dmwyatt@live.com](mailto:dmwyatt@live.com). You may even be able to take part in the Wild West Show they are planning for the Horse Haven during Stampede week.
- July 20, 21, 2013 Club ride into the badlands starts at the TL Bar Ranch east of Trochu. Check their website <http://www.tlbarranch.com/> for nightly camping fees and other information. Photos from last year's ride can be found on the club website (<http://calgaryappaloosa.wildapricot.org/>). There may be the option to canoe the Red Deer River on the second day.
- August 2-5, 2013 Banff National Park. 3-night pack trip up Johnson Creek in Banff National Park. **THIS TRIP IS FULL**
- August 28, 2013 Board meeting. 7:30 - 9:00 pm at the Spruce Meadows Riding Hall. Everyone Welcome!
- Sept. 21, 2013 3:00 - 6:00 pm. Come and help with the highway clean-up followed by a social at the Priddis Pub. Gloves and garbage bags are provided. Details TBA.
- October, 2013 Livingston Gap. This event is for everyone. Meet at the campground just north of the intersection of the Gap Road and the Forestry Trunk Road, west of Maycroft. Be prepared to camp in the mountains. There are lots of trails to choose from. For safety reasons, the official Fall Gap cattle round-up, held in October, is by invitation only.

For more photographs and information, check out the Calgary Regional Appaloosa Club's website at: <http://calgaryappaloosa.wildapricot.org/>

**Happy Trails!!**