

CALGARY REGIONAL APPALOOSA CLUB (CRAC)

SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

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Grooming for Parades

Parade season is coming up and it's time for a reminder on how to prepare yourself and your horse. Check with the parade director at rej@rprappaloosa.com to find out his expectations and find out if there is a theme for this year's parade.

How to Prepare Your Horse and Yourself for a Parade

- ✓ Get in shape. Parades are surprisingly taxing physically and mentally for both horse and rider
- ✓ Practice going past a variety of obstacles, noises, and disturbances. You don't want your horse to spook during a parade. If this is your horse's first time we will put them in the middle between 2 experienced horses.
- ✓ If this is the first time you or your horse are riding in the Calgary Stampede Parade, you must first be in the Airdrie Parade.
- ✓ Ensure your horse has the right footwear for the parade. Shoes are not necessary but the feet need to be nicely trimmed. Shoes are more comfy for the horse.
- ✓ Bow out when you realize that you and your horse aren't ready for this year's parade. Practice for next year's.

How to Spiff up Your Horse the Day Before a Parade

- ✓ Groom your horse well.
- ✓ Scrape manure off hind legs
- ✓ Wash your horse with soap and water, rinse well
- ✓ Comb your horse's mane and tail. Pull mane and tail as needed.- Wait a minute- We are talking Appies here- pray they have a mane and tail!
- ✓ Trim the bridle path.
- ✓ Braid both mane and tail the night before the parade and leave the braids in until morning
- ✓ Clean your horse's hoofs and we will go around and put clear polish on them.

- ✓ Trim whiskers around your horse's mouth, eyebrows and ears (show clip)

How to Spiff Yourself up Before a Parade

- ✓ If you are riding both parades you will get your outfit at Airdrie. You will keep it and bring it to Stampede. Please have black jeans, dark boots and dark belt. We provide everything else. (Hat, clean shirt, hat bands)
- ✓ Make sure your outfit is clean
- ✓ Polish your boots.
- ✓ Trim your mustaches and beard if you have them

How to Spiff up Your Tack Before a Parade

- ✓ Clean and polish your saddle
- ✓ There will be a serape to cover your saddle pad.
- ✓ We will be providing the headstall, reins, breast collar, clear hoof polish. Bring a bit and chin strap to put on the headstall.

The Day of the Parade

- ✓ Meet behind the UFA in Airdrie by 8:00 at the latest on the morning of the Airdrie Parade, July 1.
- ✓ Most people camp out at Fort Calgary the day before the Stampede Parade. If possible be there close to noon on Thursday July 3 as the parking situation can be tricky. Your parking passes will be handed out for the Stampede Parade at the Airdrie Parade.
- ✓ Clean the manure off its legs again
- ✓ Check tack- be ready to attach your bit and chinstrap to headstall.
- ✓ Check your outfit. There will be someone handing out and keeping track of who gets what.
- ✓ We will be judged at 9:00 at Airdrie and at 7:00 am at Stampede.
- ✓ Make sure you have water and other supplies for your horse
- ✓ Make sure you have water and other supplies for yourself. There is a potluck snack after the Airdrie Parade and a potluck lunch after the Stampede Parade.
- ✓ We will have safety walkers to give us a hand from the ground and hand out water enroute if it is hot out.
- ✓ You are an ambassador for the club and for Appaloosas. Wave, smile, look suave and debonair. Practice your YAHOO for Stampede and Happy Canada Day for Airdrie. Mostly have fun and be safe.

Bring on the Youth

We have 2 more youth members in the club this year so far (Woohoo!!) so we must do all we can to help them along. Youth is the future. Sue Gatenby is our Youth Director. Contact her about what things the youth can get involved in with our club. These new youth members have offered to carry the banner in this year's Stampede parade. Their help is greatly appreciated.

The First Club Ride of the Year

The first club ride of the year took place last weekend at North Fork at Mesa Butte. A keen group of ten riders and three dogs set off at around 11:00 am. The trail was still quite muddy. Half way to the lunch stop we had a nice soft beautiful rain which didn't last long before the sun came out again. It was so nice to see green and feel that summer is truly on it's way. Please check out our Facebook page or website for pictures.



Recipe Corner

I like to eat well. While I usually cook things from scratch, I sometimes have no time. Right now, my days start at 6:00 am and end at 10:00 pm. During that time I put in a regular work-day, as well as do chores, cook and complete contact work. When I make my meals, I make enough for left-overs.

My recipe corner suggestion for this newsletter is to plan to have left-overs or 'warm-ups'. Plan to cook food that is delicious cold. When I make a salad, I make it

for three meals. When I cook meat, I think of all the ways I can use the left-overs. Most of those ways make a delicious meal along the trail.

Congratulations are in Order

Gina Howard took her mare, Keesha, to an Extreme Cowboy Alberta Winter Series and they won their first (but not last) buckle ever. The events are held at the Cochrane Ag Center and the summer series is starting on the May long weekend in case anyone wants to try it out.



Mark Your Calendar

July 1 - Airdrie Parade. If you would like to be part of this parade, please contact Rej at rej@rprappaloosa.com. Remember to arrive at the latest by 8:00 am so we can all park close together. We will meet behind the UFA store (613 Edmonton Trail NE).

July 4 - Stampede Parade. (You must ride in the Airdrie Parade prior to being in the Stampede Parade if you or your horse haven't ridden in the parades before.) Please contact Rej (rej@rprappaloosa.com) for details if you want to be part of this event. It is a wonderful opportunity to show off in front of millions of spectators.

July 4-13 - During the Calgary Stampede, many Calgary Regional Appaloosa Club members showcase their beautiful Appaloosa Horses in the Appaloosa booth in Horse Haven. There is also a pageant that goes on during the Stampede week where CRAC members can ride in the new Agricultural Building in front

of a full house as part of a showcase of the different horse breeds of the world.

CRAC members can also offer a demonstration of their horse in the Northern Lights tent where many people watch you ride your horse and describe the breed to the audience. After they may come into the arena to pet your horse and have a photo taken with him/her. Some visitors have never touched a horse before. This is a chance to have your horse admired and for you to answer questions.

* Note: Ensure that you have a competent colleague to spell you off during these sessions.

July 19 - 20 - CRAC's first weekend trail ride will take place at Mountain Meadows Ranch, located just east of Waterton Lakes National Park. This ride is hosted by CRAC. We now have 20 riders that were needed to make this event a go, but you are welcome to put your name on a waiting list. Please contact Rej at rej@rprappaloosa.com to 'register'

August 16 - 17 - Weekend ride will be at Blue Rock, west of Turner Valley, if the flooding hasn't ruined the campgrounds or the trails too badly. We will be checking things out as soon as the weather allows. For details, contact rej@rprappaloosa.com

September 20, 3:00 pm - Highway clean-up (22x and 137th Street). This annual event may not seem glamorous but it is an important and fun event. After the clean-up, CRAC hosts a pizza and beverage get-together at the Priddis Restaurant or Pub. Bring your friends and family and make an afternoon of it.

Happy 'Year of the Horse'

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.