

WILD PINK YONDER 2018

The weekend of June 23, 24, 25 2018 my ICAA registered gelding, Stars Wildfire & I participated in an annual ride to raise money for breast cancer research in Alberta, Canada. The event benefits CRINA ... Cancer Research Institute of Northern Alberta (at the U of A in Edmonton). This was the 10th year for this fundraiser and possibly the last as the organizer is to the age of finding the work more than she can handle. Hopefully there is a younger person willing to take on the project out there! The Wild Pink Yonder has undergone some ride format changes over the years with it beginning as a 23 day, 500 mile long journey from town to town to its present format of 3 different locations over 3 different weekends. To read more go to the website at www.wildpinkyonder.com or check out the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WildPinkYonder/> To date, this ride has donated \$960,270.57 towards cancer research in Alberta.



*Stars Wildfire SL F4-2715
and Linda Hokanson*

I have been fortunate to participate in this event a couple of times. This year it was held at the gorgeous Entrance Ranch located just a few miles outside Hinton, Alberta. The setting is at the base of the Rocky Mountains, nothing more beautiful! The ranch provides great trails to explore along the mighty Athabasca River which was running very high and fast! The ranch has several log cabins that are rented out to guests. This area is my home grounds and it had been many years since I visited the ranch so it was extra special to me. Brought back a lot of good memories of people now gone, the old stories, the history. We parked our rigs on a nicely manicured field, set up electric fence pens and were all set. The ranch provided us with a fire pit area under the trees, picnic table etc. It was perfect.

A group of riders encountered a cougar on one excursion so there was a bit of excitement to be had! Another outing found them somewhat lost but all was fine in the end. I spent much of my time assisting the group organizer work with her mare that was having some issues. We made great progress which was good for horse and rider! I rode Wildfire out several times alone to explore and he was marvelous! No hesitation, no anxiety at all, just interested in where we were going and what was around

us! I was so pleased with him. This was our first excursion away from home alone and he acted like he's done this all his life! Love the mind on this boy, he is a pure pleasure. And a great ambassador for our breed!



Naptime for Stars Wildfire SL after a hard day's work!

He received a great deal of attention from the guests of the ranch that walked past our campsite.....almost everyone had to stop and look at him and of course, give him a pat or two! He would always walk over to visit the people, the only horse there that did that! So they loved him! Doesn't hurt that he is drop dead gorgeous.....

All in all, it was a great weekend. Great company, great riding, great food and almost perfect weather. Sunday evening the ranch manager brought his guitar to the fire and we had a wonderful time singing around the campfire. He is a very talented musician and super story teller. Our cause is close to his heart as he lost his mom to breast cancer just last year. We rode for a good

cause, raised a good sum of money, and got to showcase my beautiful, foundation bred ICAA gelding to many people who have little to no experience with our breed. It is always so satisfying to have someone tell you that your Appaloosa horse is gorgeous and so well behaved! Absolutely love it when little kids come running over and ask if they can pet my “Dalmatian” horse



Stars Wildfire SL and some of other horses that went on the ride.