

Square Butte Ranch Club
Board Meeting
July 11, 2022

Present: Maureen Heffring, Kym Penner, Louis Delesalle, Keith Almberg, Hazel Sangster

Lori's Report

The Wednesday night riding lessons are going well followed by Ladies' Night in the Barn. This past week an invitation was extended to partners with elk burgers provided by Lori and Kelly and cooked by Louis on our new portable bbq. Thanks to Loti, Kelly and friends and to Keith.

We would like to extend an invitation to the whole community once a month.

Louis is going to move the barrels in the corner of the barn and finish that corner with paneling similar to our medicine closets and a counter.

Hazel put in a request for halter hooks to be installed in the tack room, one per horse.

We would like to put on another roping clinic, this time with horses, probably early September. Dummy horns could be placed outside arena for those of who are rope-twirling challenged.

Since the leased ranch horses did not work out we have been relying on owner donated (big thank you!) horses and horses brought in by Lori for lessons and rides. This is working well. Lori is going to ride a potential ranch horse on Monday and if he is suitable bring him here. Big thanks to Lori for all the help to keep rides and lessons going.

We discussed the possibility of bringing in cattle to eat down the thatched growth in the West Pasture. Lori has discussed this with Murray Bokfis (seventh generation local farmer.) Keith is not in favour of this. He would rather see us using our own grass for hay and feed. Louis explained that the grass is currently poor and needs to be eaten down or mowed to improve the quality of the grass/hay for next year.

We will develop a feasibility study to present this to the Condo Board. Keith will look into current haying costs.

Lori would like to make an arena bulletin for events, bookings in the arena. Hazel has used the Cozi calendar booking system at another barn (easy to use and efficient). Hazel will forward information to Kym.

We currently have a lot of noxious (as identified by Alberta Agriculture) weeds in our fields (Tall buttercup, tri-colour clover, delphinium and larkspur). We will send an email with photo of the offending weeds to all owners and also ask Nancy to put it in the

newsletter, asking for walkers to pull weeds as they walk. Perhaps we could combine this with one of our Friday social with a Weed Walk!

Clinics

We would like to offer a couple of groundwork clinics put on by Instructor Tracey Skinner, Chief Trainer at Meadowlands Stables. Tracey has studied Natural Horsemanship with some of the best practitioners in Canada and the US and teaches groundwork, liberty work and riding. A half day clinic for six participants would cost approximately \$75/pp.

The equine evacuation plan has been forwarded to the condo board.

There is a kids camp next week with few attendants. Next year will organize this earlier as parents book their camps in Spring!

The two main herds will move on Sunday July 13. The Geldings are currently in Fatso Corner East as Lori needed the wire to fence off a portion of the condo portion. The mares are moving into the ravine pasture,

Thanks Lori.

The minutes of the AGM have been approved by us and sent out as information. They will be approved by the members at large at next year's AGM.

The approval of the Articles of Association has been postponed until the fall when Sandy Cameron can attend a meeting.

We do not have a date for our second MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Condo Board. We have forwarded them our Mission Statement and Mandate.

Financials

As emailed to us by Kym.

Cash flow is good

Two owners are over 91 days in arrears on horse boarding..

The negative total in profit and loss statement does not reflect leased horse revenue accrued.

We are still waiting for utility charges from the condo board/renaissance.

Detailed costs for barn upgrade, Kentucky derby party and roping demo dinner are included.

Discussion for upcoming events

Friday Night Regular events. Suggested dates July 29, 19 August.

Roping event plus games.

Motion to approve a bonus for Lori for bringing her own horses for lease, and organizing social events in conjunction with this, providing elk burgers etc)..

Louis/Keith Approved

Summer Horse placement.

In the summer we always have issues over horse placement. This was discussed. We have always emphasized that this is a pasture board facility and horse placement is chosen to ensure horse health and safety and promote pasture health. Injured or sick horses always have priority in the runs, the Q pens, barn paddock etc. This year's storm which downed hundreds of trees and most of the fence in the back 40 meant that horses had to be kept in the inner pastures longer than normal. Very dry weather when they were moved meant that the grass there was slow to grow back. This was followed by torrential rain which made the grass grow but also made the numerous underground springs over react which resulted in boggy conditions in some areas.

We allow for horses/owners to have a two week period in the inner pastures on a rotational basis (but sick/injured horses always have priority.) We do try to accommodate all requests.

In the past we have had a two tier system whereby owners who want their horses close in pay more for the time needed to feed, water, check, take blankets on/off etc. We will look into this and see if it might be feasible for next year.

The next meeting is Friday August 19.