

RANCH AT A GLANCE

October 2021



Thanks for the positive feedback on the first newsletter. Very much a team effort. Suggestions, recognitions, buy and sell items welcome.
nancyandrossbarrett@gmail.com

In this month's newsletter:

Operations

Ranch Club

SPOT Device

Frisbee Golf

Social Committee

Housekeeping - roads and cardboard

Outside the Gate

Guess Who?

Who Are Your Neighbours? Kelly Long and Noble Bison

Did You Know?

Saloon photo - honouring Ross Depner



OPERATIONS - Grant Kelba

We have renewed our water license for another 10 years, until September 1, 2031. This is good news and an 8 month undertaking.

Exterior painting of common areas continues until the snow flies. Then we move in doors on more "Ranch Beautification" Projects.

We have a new cooler in the saloon, so check it out.

Make sure you clean up after your dog.

Please don't put items in the burn pile that have non-burnable components (plastic or nails, for example).



RANCH CLUB - Kym Penner

The Ranch Club met as a group in person on September 2nd for our monthly meeting. We reviewed our presentation to the Board on August 25th and decided we would move forward without Board funds for the repair of the riding arena. The Ranch Club looks forward to holding clinics and equine demonstrations for the entire community to enjoy.

Another topic for the Ranch Club Board was our insurance requirements. In order for us to be in compliance with our insurance ALL people who ride on the property must sign our waiver. If you need a copy of the waiver for a guest or yourself, please ensure you contact Lori ASAP. This document serves to protect the entire community.

Did you know - The Ranch Club has a Spot Device for staff that can be loaned out to community members when not in use by staff.

What is a Spot Device?

“SPOT determines your GPS location and sends your location and pre-programmed message to communication satellites. ... Your location and messages are delivered according to your instructions via email, text message, or emergency notification to the GEOS International Emergency Response Coordination Center.”

If you are going out into K country or even venturing into the West Pasture by yourself, it is a good idea to take some precautions. The Ranch Club Spot can be found in the feed room in the barn.





There will be a sign out sheet that we ask you to use when taking it and ensure you return it to the barn as it is imperative that it is available to staff when they are out and about working alone.

Currently the settings are to send emails and text messages from the help button to Kym Penner, Lori Collins and the Office, along with the 911 being routed directly to the emergency response center for dispatch. Simply Turn it on - remember it should always be attached to you, so it does not get lost and you have easy access.

If you are interested in buying your own unit they can be purchased from Amazon or any sporting goods store. The most popular brands are Spot and InReach from Garmin. You buy the unit and then it is a subscription service. Always a good idea to let a neighbor know if you are going out alone as well!



FRISBEE GOLF in the pond pasture! Word is some of us are already out there honing our skills! Perhaps a competition fundraiser? Lots of fun in the snow too! Please put the frisbees back where you started.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE - Patricia Kelcher

Since the last newsletter there have been increased Covid numbers and now restrictions in place. Therefore we had to alter plans for a large group gathering. Instead we have tried to include some outdoor events or spaced indoor offerings (which are subject to change, due to Covid rules and weather permitting).

For those interested in Leandro's take out, he will be here every second week. As before, there will be a menu sent out at the beginning of that week and orders need to be in to him by midweek. He is open to feedback and requests for new dishes, or particular favourites.

Please keep in mind the following dates. Further notifications will come out closer to the activities.

October 3 (Sunday) - Group walk/hike. **Meet at the saloon at 11:00 a.m.** Destination on or off the ranch will be determined by the group that day. Private booking in the saloon that day

October 8 (Friday) - Games night- **Meet at the saloon at 7:00:p.m.** Ideas - lawn games (ie horse shoes, bocci ball, ladder ball or frisbee golf).

Campfire. Bring your guitar, voice, spoons, percussion instruments or indoor games such as Scrabble, Canasta, Scotland Yard, Uno, Horseopoly etc subject to gathering requirements at the time.

October 17 (Sunday)- Group walk/hike. **Meet at the saloon at 11:00 a.m.**

October 17 (Sunday) - Intuitive Painting with Jan Frances (Elgar) **from 1:00 to 3:00 in the saloon.** Come and connect with yourself through the medium of painting, with Jan, our local artist as our teacher. Please email her, if you are interested, at elgarjan@hotmail.com and she will fill in the details.

October 20 (Wednesday) - Full moon night at the pond. **Meet at 6:00 P.M. at the pond picnic tables.** If you want to join in on chili or mulled wine or cocoa prep in the saloon, **come at 4:00 ish.** Hotdogs and marshmallows will also be provided.

October 31 (Sunday) - Hike/walk together. **Meet at the saloon at 11:00 a.m.**

November 6 (Saturday) - Making traditional German Christmas decorations/cookies (or your own favourites). **Meet at the saloon at 1:00 p.m.** Will update regarding time and restrictions.

November 12 (Friday) - Games Night. **Meet at the saloon at 7:00 p.m.** Outdoor activity unless indoor option available.

November 14 (Sunday) - Hike/Walk/Snowshoe. **Meet at the saloon at 11:00 a.m.**

November 20 (Saturday) - Christmas Saloon Decorating. **Meet at the saloon at 10:30 a.m.** Let's decorate the tree together and beautify the saloon. Outdoor decorating weather permitting.

November 28 (Sunday) - Hike/Walk/Snowshoe. **Meet at the saloon at 11:00 a.m.**

December 10 (Friday) - Games Night. **Meet at the saloon at 7:00 p.m.**

December 11 (Saturday) - Christmas Cookie Exchange. **Meet at the saloon at 2:00 p.m. Let us know if you want to participate in a cookie exchange by email to**

pkelcher52@gmail.com. Everyone makes their favourites at home and meet to exchange. We need to know who will participate to determine how many dozen we each make. Further info to follow.

December 18 (Saturday) Full Moon Night at the pond. **Time to be determined.**

Christmas week- TBA Caroling? Other ideas?

CPR course - If you are interested and we can get 10 people, we can bring an instructor to the ranch for approximately \$100 each.

Let's cook together. When we can gather, those interested in cooking a three course meal together, let us know (pkelcher52@gmail.com) and we can plan it together. If cooking is not your thing but eating is, you will need to earn it by shopping or being on set up or clean up detail.

Owner sharing series. Maybe you have a topic you enjoy speaking about, teaching or showing like travel, wildlife, a hobby etc.

ROAD ETIQUETTE

Please slow down when passing people and riders. Suggested Ranch speed limit is 30K.

Please do not drive on the road in front of the Saloon and Barn. This is for designated traffic only.

The walkway in front of the townhouses is only to be used for vehicle traffic when unloading heavy items and not as a thru-way. Be careful to avoid damaging the boardwalks.

CARDBOARD in the recycling/garbage area

Guess who has to crush cardboard when we don't? Yup - Clay and Doug. Perhaps not the best use of their time and our money.....Here are some photos of what you **shouldn't** do. Left like this on the recycling shed floor.



OUTSIDE THE GATE

-Beneath the Arch concert series presents the Weber Brothers duo October 23. beneaththearch.com

-Sheep River Library in Turner Valley sponsors a hiking club, literary club, quilting club, musical and cowboy poet presentations plus private rentals for crafts and outdoor activities.

www.sheepriverlibrary.ca/

GUESS WHO?

If you can guess which ranch resident this is send your answer to nancyandrossbarrett@gmail.com. The prize is...nothing....just bragging rights! Please be like this brave soul and send me a picture from yesteryear so we can keep this going. I'm sure there are some little cowgirl and cowboy photos out there.



Foothills-based meat company took business by the horns during COVID

Aug 14, 2021 9:30 AM By: [Krista Conrad](#)



Doug Griller, left, and Kelly Long, owners of Noble Bison, saw exponential growth in the retail side of their business during COVID-19. | Photo submitted

While borders and restaurants closed during the pandemic, a Foothills-based meat supply company managed to grow.

Kelly Long, owner of Noble Premium Bison, runs the company from her acreage home in the Square Butte area. Her partner, Doug Griller, raises the animals on his ranches – two in Saskatchewan and one in Manitoba – while Long takes care of the logistics and distribution side of the business.

They had signed a deal with Sysco, a restaurant supply chain, just before the pandemic was announced, but no orders were received due to closures. When COVID-19 shut down a lot of similar companies that dealt only in the food service industry, Long said Noble Bison changed up its sales model.

“We were able to pivot and market into retail,” she said.

The company had been selling to Sobeys in western Canada but pushed harder on the retail front in 2020 and managed to get its product into Costco and Calgary Co-Op as well, and in 2021 Noble Bison was added to the Federated Co-Op line.

It was a far different approach than when the business first started in 2017, selling mainly to European markets. By 2019 they had decided to make their product more prominent in Canada.

"We developed all of the materials we needed and then we went out and started pitching," said Long. "It was good timing for us."

European sales dropped by about 40 per cent during 2020, but domestic sales rose, she said.

According to ratings company Nielsen, bison meat sales grew by 197 per cent across the country last year.

Long attributes the growth to people cooking at home more during the pandemic and branching out to try new foods.

"They were trying new recipes, they were trying new things, and it was a great time for us to be on the shelf," she said.

"People were trying to cook for their family and be more innovative, and doing more research on their food."

She said bison is a nice alternative to beef because it has a similar flavour profile and is not gamey or wild-tasting, so it doesn't take an adventurous palette to enjoy the meat.

It also has a higher nutritional value, she said.

"It's high in protein but it's lower in fat, more nutrient-dense," said Long. "It's got a different fatty acid composition than other proteins, so it's higher in omega 3."

As a leaner meat, bison tends to overcook easily, so she said it's best to keep cooked to a medium.

"Beef has marbling in it to keep it juicy even if you like it well-done, but bison doesn't have that so if you overcook it, it gets a little tougher and because it's so high in iron it gets a little bit stronger flavour when it's cooked really well-done, because of the iron content," said Long.

Seeing the growth of the business has been exciting and it has also been a lot of work, she said.

To help keep up supply Noble Bison has partnered with 28 ranches across Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

"Most of our bison are raised on Doug's ranches, and then we also partner with these ranchers just to fill the gaps," said Long.



About the Author: Krista Conrad

Krista Conrad is the news reporter for Okotokstoday.ca and the Western Wheel newspaper covering Okotoks and Foothills County. For story tips contact kconrad@okotoks.greatwest.ca

[Read more](#)

Comments (0)



DID YOU KNOW?



Project Coyote

December 17, 2019 · 🌐

Has a coyote ever “followed” you or your dog while you’re walking in your neighborhood or in the park? If so, you may have felt afraid, perhaps thought the coyote was stalking you, or that an attack was imminent. But don’t fear. Coyotes are naturally curious animals, and often engage in this behavior called “escorting”. Escorting is when a coyote, sometimes with its mate, makes sure that you are leaving its territory. This behavior is most often seen from early March to late April, when coyote parents are protecting their precious puppies. Escorting most often happens in early morning or in the evening, and because they may see dogs as a threat to their babies, it’s most often seen by dog walkers.

*

*

What do you do if you’re “escorted” by a coyote? Don’t panic; the coyote is much more terrified of you! If you don’t have your dog leashed - which you should in coyote country- immediately leash it and keep it by your side. Calmly keep walking, slowly, as normally. Soon enough, you’ll be out of the coyote’s home and he will stop escorting you! On the off chance the escorting coyote starts to approach too closely, shout and wave your hands to frighten it away. As we humans develop more and more woodlands, coyote coexistence has become even more essential; we simply must learn to speak their language.



New residents and guests wonder about this framed photo in the saloon.

Ross Depner, brother to former resident Linda Durward, was a lawyer and designer/developer of houses in Whistler. He joined the maintenance team at Square Butte Ranch where he was popular when he greeted everyone with a smile and open heart. Ross worked all the time often including weekends and he did a huge amount including signage, fencing, harrowing, serving in the saloon, helping owners, befriending kids and more.

When he wasn't working Ross was riding his motorbike into the mountains, practising Tai-Chi or Yoga or reading. He was an avid, multi-discipline reader and a great conversationalist. His untimely death in a motorcycle accident was a huge loss to our ranch community.

This photo was taken at the Millarville races.

