

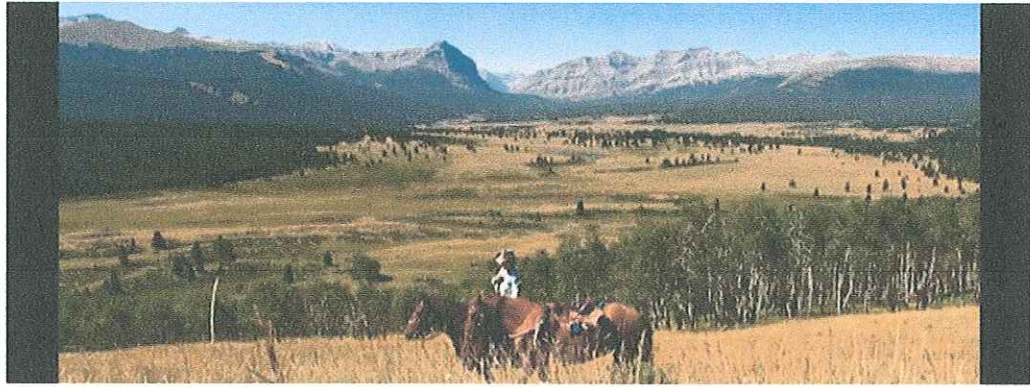
"A volunteer group supporting recreation on the Eastern Slopes"

Winter 2015 Newsletter

In this Newsletter:

- AGM/Banquet information
- Past events and updates
- Dates for 2015 events
- Project updates
- A message from the president

Our non-profit volunteer organization raises thousands of dollars to put back into our backcountry, one membership and donation at a time. Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and the Bighorn Backcountry Committee entrusts us with the stewardship of the Hummingbird, Eagle Creek, Cut-off Creek and Panther River campgrounds. We also have an on-going agreement with Parks Canada for the Bighorn Campground.



21st Annual General Meeting and Banquet

Please join us for the AGM as member support and input is greatly valued. Followed by raffles, silent and live auctions, banquet and dance.

When: February 21, 2015

Where: Royal Canadian Legion Auditorium, Innisfail Alberta

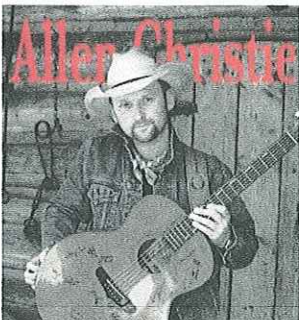
Time: AGM- 3:00 P.M

Cocktails- 5:00 P.M.

Supper 6:00 P.M.



Entertainment



We are proud to welcome Allen Christie to the stage. Christie is one of Alberta's finest roots artists, performing a variety of songs reflecting life in rural Alberta.

TICKETS

Adult members: \$25.00
Adult non-members: \$ 35.00
12 & under: \$10.00

For ticket purchase please contact one of the following directors or you can purchase them at the door. However, keep in mind ticket numbers are limited!

Dale Marshall 403 304 0456
Murray Few 780 434 2000
Larry Frischke 403 829 4395
Linus Clark 403 638 9608

"...he's perfected his addictive blend of roots, country and folk to create a deeply personal sound that is unmistakably Albertan."

-Daniel Austin—The Cochrane Times

Past Events

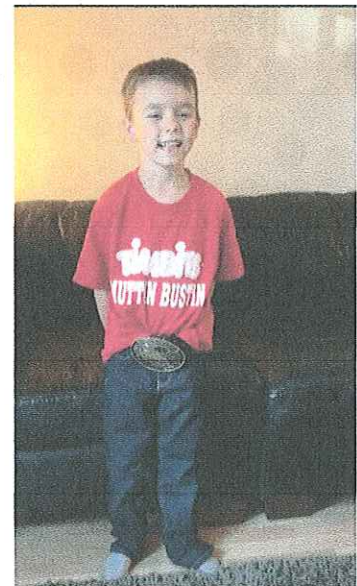
ATV Family Poker Rally

The ATV Family Poker Rally was a success! On July 19th 2014 we had 215 ATV enthusiasts show up for our first inaugural Family ATV Poker Rally at the Hummingbird recreation area. The smoke cleared just in time for a wonderful sunny day. We saw some pretty dusty smiles roll in to the final checkpoint. We had over 50 prizes donated so approximately 1/4 of the the riders went home with something extra to remember the day by. A steak dinner was enjoyed by all. The 2000 watt generator went to Terry Stigings for first prize, the \$250 gift card went to Cal Bacque for second prize and the chain saw went to Bill Emerich for third prize. We raised nearly \$6000 dollars once all expenses were paid! A donation of half the proceeds has been made to the Bighorn Heritage ATV Society for their ongoing hard work of maintaining the trail system at this location. Thanks to all who participated and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year on July 18th 2015!



Bighorn Trail Ride and Poker Rally

The Bighorn Trail Ride and Poker Rally took place on August 9th, 2014. Over 100 riders were greeted with sunshine and warm temperatures. Murray Hagel took home the first prize buckle for best poker hand, Suzanne Comfort won a buckle for the most pledges in the adult category and Liam Holinski earned himself a buckle for most pledges in the youth category. Don't worry Liam you will grow into it one day! A beef bun supper catered by Dale Marshall and company was enjoyed by all. The festivities carried on into the night with fine musical entertainment provided by the vice president Larry Frischke in true Ya Ha Tinda style. With the support of our sponsors and volunteers over \$6000 was raised for the association. We look forward to seeing everyone again for this event on August the 8th 2015.



Projects Updates

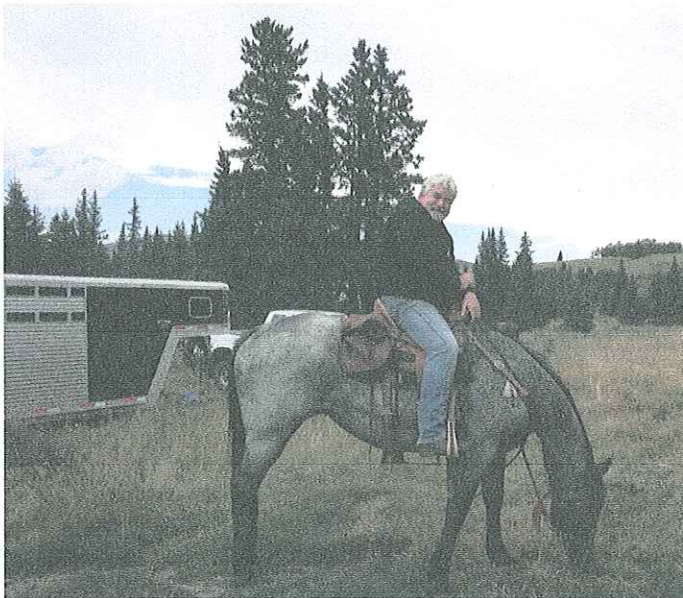
This summer saw progress and completion on many different projects including:

- Installation of 7 Ya Ha Tinda Ranch trail signs with 10 more to be installed
- Sheep Cliff trail maintenance has been completed
- The Bighorn campground flood mitigation project is currently in negotiations with Parks Canada and Alberta Environment to restore the flow of Bighorn Creek so that it does not put our campground infrastructure at risk during high water events. We currently have an agreement to clean up some debris and redistribute some of the gravel so that the creek can use a more natural route. We hope to get approval from various agencies in 2015 so this work can be carried out in accordance to proper regulations.
- New outhouse installation at Cut-Off Creek has been completed. Thanks to Rick Montgomery, Deryl Thompson and Keith and Terry Leischner.
- Both cleanup weekends went well at the Bighorn and Hummingbird Campgrounds



2015 Events

- Bighorn Campground Clean-up- May 23rd Weekend.
- Hummingbird Campground Clean-up- July 4th Weekend.
- 2nd Annual Family ATV Poker Rally- July 18th at the Hummingbird Recreation Area. Registration 9-11 am. Contact Tyler Holinski or Jeff Blish for sponsorship opportunities.
- Horse Trail Ride and Poker Rally- August 8th at the Bighorn Campground. Registration 9-11 am.



Fundraising Opportunity

The newly renovated horse stalls at the Bighorn campground require painting. If your non-profit organization is interested in completing this project please contact one of the board members for further details.



Memberships

2015 memberships are now due. The membership fees were increased at last years AGM to \$30 for a family membership. Memberships can be bought by contacting any one of the board directors or buy filling in and returning the attached form either via email or by mail.

Directors

The Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association is seeking directors to bring forth new ideas and carry on the association as some of the old farts would like to be put out to pasture. We currently have five vacancies on the board.

President Dale Marshall	Red Deer	403 304 0456	dalemarshall50@gmail.com
Vice President Larry Frischke	Sundre	403 829 4395 cell 403 638 9346 hm	doclrf@xplornet.com
Treasurer Tom Reinhart	Innisfail	403 358 8135	tsr_tom@xplornet.com
Secretary Tim Reinhart	Calgary	403 276 1968 hm 403 386 3235 cell	treinhart@shaw.ca
Jim Bartholow	Sundre	403 556 0057	bartholowj@airenet.com
Jeff Blish	Rocky Mountain House	403 357 9996	jblish19@hotmail.com
Roger Bratrud	Innisfail	403 350 6949 cell 403 224 3554 hm	rogerbratrud@hotmail.com
Linus Clark	Sundre	403 638 9608	lclark@briscowood.com
Sean Connolly	Sundre	403 852 6965	seandavidconnolly@gmail.com
Leo Fagnan	James River Bridge	403 722 2383	leo.fagnan@westfraser.com
Murray Few	Edmonton	780 434 2000	mbfew@telusplanet.net
Tyler Holinski	Innisfail	403 848 2243	valdezpepper@hotmail.com
Hans VanVlaanderen	Sundre	403 638 2077	vanglen1@live.com

A Message from the President

We have had a successful year of fundraisers, fixing up highlines, putting in and maintaining toilets and repairing campgrounds. This would not have been possible without the help of our generous partners. I would like to thank all the directors for their hours of work going to meetings, volunteering labor, and using their own tools, trucks, gas and equipment most of which was paid for from their own pockets. I also need to thank the trucking contractors who volunteered their own trucks, backhoes and time: Rick Marten, Rick Montgomery and Mark Crouch. Clearwater County generously donated all the gravel we used to put in toilets and fix up the roads.

Alberta Trail Riders, Southern Alberta Trail Riders, Calgary Regional Trail Riders, the Donkey and Mule Club and Shell all made significant donations to our association. The generosity of those who donated food, water and prizes for the silent auction and poker rallies is greatly appreciated. We also appreciated the many large and small donations that were made by our individual members. All of this goodwill adds up and allows FOESA to continue looking after the Eastern Slopes.

The Eastern Slopes are becoming more and more popular each year. To ensure that we can continue to enjoy the West Country freely, one of our main projects this year has been negotiating with Alberta Parks to get the locks off the provincial campgrounds. This will encourage people to camp responsibly. To do this our MLA's need to let Alberta Parks know that our membership is behind us. We appreciate any letters or phone calls you make to your MLA supporting this initiative. By this summer, with your help we expect to have at least one more campground under our stewardship. However, we don't need to run all of these campgrounds, we just need to get the locks off them. To continue our work in the West Country membership costs are now \$30.00 per year.

If you're passionate about the Eastern Slopes and would like to preserve it for our children and grandchildren, we would love to have you as a director. We have one meeting a month where we socialize and plan our operations. Volunteers make FOESA what it is and watching people enjoy the outdoors is what makes you feel good about being a part of it. If you are interested in becoming a director please contact one of the existing directors from the contact list provided.



Dale Marshall

***Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association
Membership Information***

Cost of membership is \$30 / family. Donations above and beyond this are welcomed but not required. The following membership form can be filled out and returned with a cheque or money order. Please make cheques payable to Friends of the Eastern Slopes. A membership card will be returned to you by mail.

Association and mail to:

Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association
Box 6093
Innisfail, AB
T4G 1S7

Year:

Name:

Address:

Postal Code:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Membership Fee: \$30.00

Donation: