



# CARA Club Talk

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## Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 19: Family day ride, Waiparous
- March 25: Night Ride, Mclean Creek
- May 20-22: May Long Weekend Ghost Air Strip
- June 10 & 11: Stewardship

## *Message from the President*

**Written by: Dan Kruse**

Dear Members & Friends,

Another year has come and gone with a new year on the horizon. I want to thank all of you for a great year of support. This year wouldn't have been successful without you. Its been quite the year for me with taking over the club as President. There has been so much to learn and grow from and I hope to keep things growing for years to come as well as getting to know our members and sponsors better.

### **Year in review:**

This year we had hosted 9 great events that and each one was successful in their own way. I enjoyed participating and working on them! Also a big thanks to the Directors for all their support and help along the way!

**Stewardship Days 2022:** This year we did a lot more maintenance on the trails than in years past but I believe this is a great thing; it means that we are doing proactive trail maintenance; keeping things from getting out of control. In June we had volunteers out working very hard on the trails in the Ghost PLUZ.

We had two very successful crews working for the two days in June. The two crews on the

first day were out draining water holes and trimming any over growth on Cow Lake and Lueseur trails to keep things safe for everyone to ride on.

The third crew was hard at work picking up garbage on Transalta Road. They picked up a good amount of garbage at the gun range, this was where the biggest mess was found.

The second day we finished doing all of the trail maintenance, ahead of schedule. We changed our crews around and we all went out to pick up garbage. Its amazing the amount of things that people leave behind! We found everything from gun shells to a full trailer awning to a five dollar bill! The two bins that were donated were both full by the end of the weekend.

As Stewardship is always ongoing, we also worked with Environment & parks to get about 30,000lbs of access matts flown in by helicopter to fill sections on the Lesueur trail. It was delayed with the helicopter being tied up fighting the forest fires. Despite this delay we got the matts in. I want to thank everyone that helped to get the matts ready to be flown in. There will be more work ahead in the spring to put the

Dan Kruse, Current president



matts together on the trail. Stay tuned for email, Facebook, and Snap Chat messages on how to volunteer.

Finally we had another great year of working with the Starlight Foundation. This year was bigger than last year we had a total of 64 parents and 60 kids that got to have an experience of a life time. This year we had a great bunch of volunteers again that stepped up and knocked this out of the park again. We also got to make many new connections with some new groups that helps make this event even more special for the kids. The smiles on their faces makes it worthwhile!

Next year we are hoping to host it out in the Ghost area but more details will come soon in regards to this. I want to thank everyone for helping plan this event as well as taking part in making this one of the best Ride for Smiles yet. Next year I hope that we can make it even more special and amazing than ever!

## Starlight Ride For Smiles





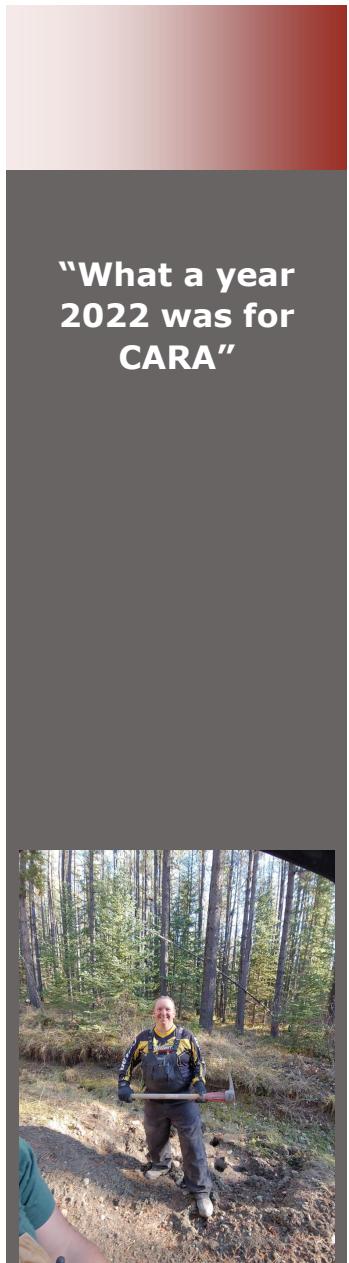
## Cow Lake Trail & Lesueur Trail work

What a great year 2022 was!!

CARA would like to thank everyone for the hard work they have done to keep the Cow Lake trail clean and sustainable. The work on the last section of Lesueur trail has almost been completed. We had around 30,000 lbs of access matts flown in by helicopter. This was done to help prevent the trail from getting damaged any more than what it is. We had a mini excavator walk in to fix the holes that the mats are placed on so now we have a strong base for the mats to sit on and keep riders on the trail and out of the surrounding area. Thank you to everyone that helped to get the matts dragged in from the helicopter drop site and placed on the trail. We will be finishing putting the last of the access mats in place before spring thaw.

I also want thank the Ghost Watershed Alliance for hosting another successful Recreational Stewardship Fair. This fair which was held just outside of the staging area was to help educate people about the importance of working together for sustainable efforts for the land and trails. I want to thank Environment & Parks, Trout Unlimited and the Ghost Community for the continued support in doing these projects. This event with the Ghost watershed Alliance helps to show the public the strength of all organizations working together for a singular goal. That goal being making everything sustainable for all groups who visit the Ghost area.

For more information on how you can help at our stewardship days please email:  
[info@calgaryatvriders.com](mailto:info@calgaryatvriders.com)



## *Our Crews Hard At Work!*





This page

Top Left: rig mats placed on the Lesueur trail between WP 13-85

Top right: Clearing the trail to place the rig mats with a mini excavator

**Opposite page:**

Top Left: Lesueur Trail draining water holes before they get too deep

Top right: cutting down fallen trees blocking the trail

Middle Left: Draining of water holes on Lesueur

Bottom Right: found a full awning left in a camp site during garbage clean up

Bottom Left: full truck load of garbage collected during stewardship

## Discovering a new place to ride

Written by: A CARA Member



### Valemount & Albreda, BC.

In Valemount, ATVing is a great way to enjoy the Robson Valley at the foot of the Canadian Rockies. It's here you'll find some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. Waterfalls, glacial lakes, and mountain meadows await you. Explore hundreds of kilometers of forest service roads that allow access into landscapes seldom seen except in magazines.

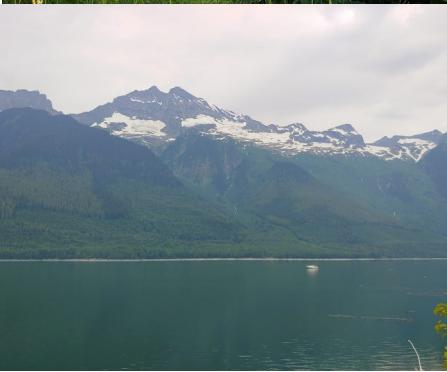


#### So Many Routes to Choose From:

Start your Valemount ATV adventure in the [Westridge Family Loop](#). It has several different intersecting trails, so you can go ahead and choose your own adventure! Camp out at one of three [campgrounds at Kinbasket Lake](#), an ideal launch point for dozens of scenic journeys.

The Hugh Allen Forest Service Road is another great family-friendly ride. Once you start you'll want to keep going, so bring lunch and extra fuel. More than 100 km (60 mi) of trail here. Start with a route along Kinbasket Lake and then head up the Hugh Allen Drainage. This route keeps opening up to bigger and better views, so make sure to allow lots of time to explore the Lake and then head up the Hugh Allen Drainage. This route keeps opening up to bigger and better views, so make sure to allow lots of time to explore Kinbasket Lake and then head up the Hugh Allen Drainage.

**Source:** [ATVing – Tourism Valemount \(visitvalemount.ca\)](#)



While this was a club event we stayed at a club member's private property in Albreda, BC, 23km south of Valemount, however there are lots of hotels, campgrounds, and bed and breakfasts around to stay at in the area. One disadvantage is that you will have to drive and stage to access the majority of trails there are not many places you can ride out of, Canoe Campground being the exception.

Day 1: For the first day we did half of Kinbasket Lake. It was a beautiful ride. We did 123 km and it was very dusty with all the sand. We rode to the end of the trail which was a creek where some of us cooled down with a bucket of water. The ride was easy and it was a good start to the long weekend.



Day 2: Now that we did a warm up ride yesterday it was time to tackle Canoe Mountain. We staged along a Forestry Trunk road and followed the powerline to the base of the mountain. Along the way we spotted black bears, a mama and her cubs who were munching on all the berries. Luckily we had the "safety officer" was with us and there were no incidents. The trail up Canoe is rough and steep. The key is to take your time and not overheat. No breakdowns or overheating this year! Total elevation was 2654 km, with a 59 km round trip. Views from the top were breath taking and you could even see Mount Robson. On the way down we even saw the elusive marmot!



Day 3: We rode what the locals calls Ella's trapline; a trapper whose family has a history in the area, including a Pioneer Cemetery on private land nearby. For more information check out the book, "The Bootlegger's Lady" and the museum in town. For non locals the North Thompson Forestry Service road is what the trail is called. There are lots of trails to take here and it was an explorer's dream. We came to a stop with a cedar on the trail but Dan and his electric chainsaw saved the day! We did 45km of trail. Later some fun and games, a potluck and mud bog races, what a great weekend!



## ***The Don Mckay Memorial Award***



Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Don Mckay Memorial Weekend took place September 3-5. With the passing of Don, we wanted to honor his memory and showcase his contributions to the club over the years. He was our second President and the Pig Roast was his favorite event. Don was all about giving back, volunteering, extending a helping hand and showcasing the club to the general public and our membership for the benefit of all OHV enthusiasts. Therefore we created an award in his name in 2021. This was given to a member that replicated Don's efforts. Last year's recipient was a well deserving first recipient, Brian Roswick (left picture)! In 2022 your Directors chose not one individual but a couple that have gone over and above. Your Directors felt they couldn't honor one without acknowledging the other. They have been to numerous stewardship events and are always first to put up their helping hands and at, times taking on a lead hand responsibility during an event to help out your Directors. They have also jumped to the front when it comes to helping out a fellow member or stranger broken down on the trail, whether it is getting their hands dirty fixing a machine or just giving a helping hand. Please join me in congratulating our 2<sup>nd</sup> recipient of the Don Mckay Memorial Award, George Bantli and Amie Sugden (bottom left picture)! We thank Brian for accepting the award in 2022 on George and Amie's behalf. Each aware recipient gets a snazzy CARA jacket with the award and their name embroidered on it.



# **Keep your Radiator Clean!**

## **We just can't tell you enough how important it really is!**

### **(A repeat article, but necessary)**

Written by: Ken Spring

When was the last time you were on the trails out for a long enjoyable ride with friends and theirs that one person in the group whose ATV overheats? This is something we find happens far too often while on club rides. The group will stop somewhere and clean their radiators to ensure a smooth, uneventful ride back yet there is always that one guy or gal who does not think it is necessary. Not 10 minutes down the trail with absolutely not a water source in site they overheat. After waiting for 20 minutes for them to cool down you go another 10 minutes and they overheat again and every 10 minutes for the next hour or two until you get back to the vehicles. It would have been easier for them to take those few minutes while everyone else was cleaning their radiator and give it a couple of squirts. It seems lately while on a club ride we are stopping regularly to wait for an ATV or UTV that has overheated. While we wonder what the problem could be, one look and it is confirmed, the radiator is packed with mud. The first question that comes to mind is "When was the last time you cleaned your rad?" Some of the most memorable answers have been, "Never", "I didn't know I had to clean the rad", "What, it's not that bad" or my favorite, "Why should I clean my rad, it's never over-heated before?" Sometimes you just have to shake your head and wonder if they know the damage that could happen to their

bike. Never mind holding up the group while they stop every few kilo-meters to cool their ATV down until they can reach a water source somewhere along the trail to clean their rad: which by the way is only a temporary solution. Now most of us would avoid the mud puddles for the rest of the day to prevent another overheating occurrence but not this person, they continue to play as much as they can in the mud and they overheat on a continual basis. Does this sound like someone you know or maybe you are that person?

Cleaning your rad after and during every ride is an essential part of regular maintenance. Not only do you want to clean the front of your rad but you want to make sure the backside is clean as well. You should be able to shine a light from the back of your radiator and see the light through to the front from corner to corner, not just in the center. There may be times when the radiator must be removed and soaked to completely remove the fine dust that accumulates and creates a concrete barrier. This is usually only necessary if you are a regular mudder.

There are many problems that can arise from continual or excessive overheating your ATV are, but not limited to: loss of antifreeze, base gasket leaking oil, piston and or rings melting, damaged water pump, blown head gaskets and in extreme cases irreparable dam-

age to your engine and your friends never asking you to come riding with them again. The best advice I can give is clean your radiator front and back using a low pressure hose after each ride ensuring the water runs clean. Carry a "Radblaster", pump or something you can use to clean your radiator with when you are close to water a water source. Radblaster's are a great item to have on your ATV or UTV. They can be used in the shallowest puddle of water and the pressure they produce is equal to the force you use. Check you radiator often and if others are cleaning their radiator it might be a good idea to clean yours as well. If you like to play in the mud clean it often or have it relocated. Most important is to never drive your ATV if it is overheating. Stop until it cools down and if possible clean you radiator. Reminder: be respectful when cleaning your radiator. Never drive your ATV or UTV up and down creeks or riverbeds..



**What your radiator should look like when it is clean.**

**"Don't be that person."**



**What your radiator looks like when it is filled with mud.**

## *How well do you know your hand signals?*



How well do you know your hand signals? If not well, here's some tips on what to know. If you ever come across another rider on the trail and they put up a finger it means that there are that many riders behind them. If they put a fist up that means they are the last one of there group and you are free to continue on your way.

If you see a rider or riders on the side of the trail give them a thumbs up. If they respond with a thumbs down then stop and see if they need help. If they give a thumbs up then continue on. This is the easiest way to find out if another group is ok or they need help.

## CARA Corporate Sponsors

### Ralph's Motorsports

262117 Balzac Blvd  
Balzac, AB T0L 1G0  
[www.ralphsmotorsports.com](http://www.ralphsmotorsports.com)

### Bow Ridge Sports

229 Charlesworth Avenue  
Cochrane AB T4C 1P2

### Specialty Tire & Tube

421 53 Avenue S.E.  
Calgary, AB T2C 1P2

### Spray Lake Sawmills

305 Griffin Road W  
Cochrane, AB T4C 2C4

### Canlin Energy Corporation

Wildcat Hills Plant  
Cochrane, AB

### Cycle Works Calgary

4127 6st NE  
Calgary, AB

### Stompin Ground

111 Mist Mountain Rise, Okotoks  
403-382-9986

### Basecamp Motorsports

6304 6a St SE Calgary AB  
(403)-441-1299

### BRP Inc

6304 6a St SE  
Calgary, AB  
(403) 441-1299

### Train's Lawn Care Services Ltd

4243 17a St SE  
Calgary, AB  
(403)-590-2002

## Thank you to our Volunteers!



Without Volunteers the club would not be able to continue. Please help out the club and volunteer!

The Calgary ATV Riders Association have held several well attended, well organized, fun and safe events from 2006 through to 2022. This year these have included: a family day ride and night ride at McLean Creek in March, a three day campout at the Ghost Airstrip in May and September, Fallen Timber day ride in June, a three day campout in McGillivray in July, a three day campout in August at Valemount, the annual Rebels Ride to Margaret Lake in November.

There is a lot of behind the scenes work done by the Directors and volunteers that make these events so successful. Every ride and group has a leader and one tail-gunner that enhance safety. Volunteers do advance scouting and clearing of the proposed trails, arrange for and transport food, coffee and hot chocolate to events, collect fees, manage the website, attend shows, arrange for safety courses, attend and defend the Club's interests at various meetings, make trail improvements, and so on.

Thank you to everyone who have made the past years successful and filled with adventure. The Calgary ATV Riders could not have done it without our members and their support.

## Calgary ATV Riders Association



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Web Site: [www.calgaryatvriders.com](http://www.calgaryatvriders.com)

Internet forums: [www.calgaryatvriders.com/car](http://www.calgaryatvriders.com/car)

On-line memberships and clothing purchase:  
[www.calgaryatvriders.com/Online\\_Store\\_and\\_Memberships](http://www.calgaryatvriders.com/Online_Store_and_Memberships)

We're on the web & Facebook  
[www.calgaryatvriders.com](http://www.calgaryatvriders.com)

CARA Clothing is now available. Proceed to the web page and click on “Online Store” then “CARA Clothing Link”, this will lead you to the site.



### 2023 Event & Ride Schedule To Be Confirmed

**February 19:** Family Day at the Ghost Pluz

**March 25:** Night Ride Mclean Creek

**May 20-22:** Long Weekend Camping Riding Ghost Airstrip

**June 10 & 11:** 9th Annual Stewardship Days

**July 1-3:** Long weekend Camping & Riding (Caroline Area)

Saturday CARA sanctioned ride only

**Aug 5-7:** Long weekend Camping & Riding (B.C.)

**September 2-4:** Long weekend CARA 18th annual Don McKay Memorial Pig Roast at the Ghost Airstrip

**Oct. 14:** Poker Rally McLean Creek

**Nov 4:** The 20th Annual Rebels Ride in Fallen Timber

**\*September 16:** Starlight Children's Foundation day rides

### 2022/2023 Calgary ATV Riders Board of Directors

*Dan Kruse* – President (403) 650-8229

*Jen Devolder* – Vice President

*Vacant* – Treasurer

*Kevin Dyck* – Secretary

*Ken Spring* – Director

*Tom Jepsen* – Director

*Myron Wintonyk* - Director

*Eric Leblanc* – Director

*Dave Cress* — Director

### 2023 CARA Membership Renewal and Drive

Our Club is an established and vigorous provincial leader that is a balanced and environmentally conscious de-fender of multi-use trails. Your voice must be heard to preserve our sport and places to ride.

If you access the back country and you are interested in being involved in an organization that makes a difference then come Join Us!

Please continue to support the Calgary ATV Riders by renewing your membership. Our annual memberships are only \$40 per family and cover the period from January 1 to December 31. Corporate memberships are \$100. We are also looking at adding future benefits to members, stay tuned.

Current Members who joined on or after Labor Day weekend, are consid-

ered members for that quarter as well as for 2023. Membership forms can be downloaded online at [www.calgaryatvriders.com](http://www.calgaryatvriders.com).

**Memberships are only \$40 per Family and include all riding events listed above!**