

Jan 2010

Inside:

Year in Review	2
McLean Creek Poker Rally	4
Year in review Christine	5
Request for some open positions	5
Spot Review by Ron Edwards	6-7
2010 Ride Schedule	8
CARA Membership Renewal and Drive	8



Club Talk

Newsletter of the Calgary ATV Riders Association

50 CQS Members Enjoy Early Spring Break at McLean Creek

by Ron Edwards RedRon Calgary ATV Riders Member

Fifty enthusiastic CQS members, riding on 40 quads gathered at the McLean Creek staging area at 10:00 a.m. on March 14 2009, ready to enjoy what promised to be a fine, warm, sunny day. The quadders were split into the three groups – family, and two intermediate groups.

The family group, led by Kevin Fex (Skiboot) with Colin Sawatsky as tailgunner, set out with 15 other quads down McLean Trail to Shortcut Trail, then headed east and south on Fish Creek East, on a leisurely ride with several stops to enjoy the forest and pond scenery along the way. The trail was well defined, and a person had to make a real effort to get stuck by going off trail. John managed to do just that and was pulled out of the drifted area by Kevin with his "Tiger Tail" rear mounted retractable tow rope.

I was riding my spanking new Yamaha 550 EPS wearing its Midnight Armour Red snakeskin paint. I had to endure some good natured teasing about the mud spots that soon covered the machine, but I am happy to say that, thanks to v bar chains and the high clearance on this machine, I

did not get stuck during the deep snow trials. My new machine passed its first real run with flying colors, you might say.

Near the end of Fish Creek East, adjacent to a steep hill, the family group started a bonfire and enjoyed a wiener roast. Supplies, donated by Don McKay (Rocky Developments), were brought in on a Rhino courtesy of Meagann Hunter, Special Events Coordinator for Blackfoot Motorsports. Meagann also had free hats for all. Another Rhino in the group was driven by the owner of Xtreme ATV Adventures (<http://www.xtremeatvadventures.com>) and several of us enjoyed listening to the ambitious plans of his new enterprise. The weather, which had been about zero and somewhat windy on our ride to the lunch site, turned sunny, calm, and plus 10 as we enjoyed lunch.

About an hour after the arrival of the family group, the first of the intermediate riders arrived. Led by Todd Lamond (Toadman) and Bob Micholuk (Mudbob) with Alex Boyce (Brit) and Todd Davidson (HuskyTodd) as tailgunners, they had gone west from the staging area on Elbow Trail, then



Ken Runions Breaking Trail

south on Sylvester, and then headed off to Quirk Ridge to re-live a previous independent group night ride into the area. They then headed east on Fisher Trail to the lunch site in the SE corner of the FLUZ, which is where Fish Creek Trail East turns and heads north. They had encountered high winds on Quirk Ridge, and had to break trail in several areas, using aggressive riding techniques. The deep snow in some of the valleys proved challenging for three Honda's in the group due to lower ground clearance typical of these machines. Ken Runions (Fst_Fwd) and his amazing quadding dog, Taffy, joined the intermediate group at the base of Quirk Mountain. Four riders successfully climbed to the top of Quirk Mountain.

The other intermediate group encountered some wild horses which were not keen to move off the trail to make way for the quads, thus resulting in an unscheduled trail detour through a tight tree run over to Quirk Ridge. John Power entertained the group



Having Lunch South East corner McLean Creek



Taffy The Quad Dog



Quads Ho

A big thanks to ATVFrontier.com for allowing the CARA to use their *Calgary ATV Riders* forum as a great communication tool for the club's activities.

ATVFrontier is a great source of ATV related information, stories and chats.

50 CARA Members Enjoy Early Spring Break at McLean Creek Continued by RedRon ... **Continued from page 1**

with a tailstand while attempting an icy hill climb and Grizzly Bill did the ceremonial skid plate inspection near Gun Hill.

After lunch, the Family group made its way back in warm spring sunshine along Fish Creek East, then west and north to Elbow River Trail. One Intermediate group returned via Valley Trail and the Gravel Pit where Tina Gauthier (MuddyGirl) entertained the group with high speed donuts on ice. The other intermediate group completed the east loop along Fisher Trail East to Priddis Creek Trail East and back to the staging area.

Todd Davidson's (HuskyTodd) excellent photographic record of the intermediate trip is available at <http://picasaweb.google.ca/husky-todd/20090314McLeanCreek#>

It was the kind of day that makes a person feel great to be alive in this fine province and to be able to enjoy such great camaraderie, scenery, and adventure, only an hour from Calgary.



Thumbs Up From MudBob



Stuck On Quirk Ridge

or out with the volunteers building bridges.

On the social side we did have some great events. Starting with the early Family Day event at the Ghost Airstrip. We had approximately 40 people show up for a ride and a potluck lunch. There were Smokies and lots of great food. The temperature was a bit on the chilly side and there were a few adventures.

The next event was a cookout in McLean Creek which Ron Edwards has a write up on and included in this newsletter.

We then had a very successful Poker Rally in the McLean Creek Area with around 50 quads participating.

Next up was the May Long week-

Year in ReviewBy Don McKay

2009 saw some major changes in the local Calgary club. In April we did an official name change from Calgary Quad Squad to Calgary ATV Riders Association. The main Reason for this was for grant funding for our trail system. We would apply for grants and then get (But the Quad Squad already received a grant) and get turned down.

Speaking of Grant funding we did receive a huge NTC [National Trails Coalition](#) grant for the Ghost Waiparous area. We received \$196,000.00 for trail maintenance and 40 km of multi use trails were repaired. For this we hired a Contractor with a cat and track hoe. They spent most of August and September working on the Trails. We now have a decent trail and a loop from the Ghost Airstrip. Plus you can now get to

Cow Lake without having the last 2 km of Mud and being stuck, I know some of you really liked the last 2 km but I think that there are more that didn't like it.

We also did a lot of trail improvements in the Fallen Timber area and west to Angel Camp. There were some major trail washouts in this area and these were repaired.

We had quite a few bridges installed in the Waiparous area. Again SRD had a helicopter fly in the bridge packages and volunteers came in and put them together. I would like to Thank Garry Salekin for his unending commitment to getting these projects completed. In his free time he was out with the crews, be it the contractor with the cats

Year in Review Continued

end campout at the Ghost Airstrip. We had a great turnout of campers and some great riding was had by all. I had a lot of comments on how much everyone enjoyed themselves.

June saw us do a day ride in the Burnt Timber area west of Cremona. We rode the Husky Trail that was built by Husky oil and connects the Burnt Timber area to the Fallen Timber area on the Forestry Trunk Road. This Trail is a bit of a challenge and will need some repairs in the next year or so as there is some erosion happening on it.

July was a busy month with Thunder in the Valley on the weekend of July 17th to 19th.

The Thunder in the Valley fireworks is the biggest fireworks display in western Canada.

We Camped in the McGillivray area and did a lot of trail riding over the course of the weekend as well as taking in the Fireworks display on the Saturday evening.

The Camping area was a bit crowded and for this year we will be finding a better camping area.

Aug long weekend saw us west of Caroline again for great trails and a very nice camping area just west of the Boundary store and close to the Swan Lake turnoff. We had approximately 18 camping units and some fun trails, great stories around the fire and some real good friends.

The weather got a bit extreme on the Sunday evening with some major winds and hail but I think everyone survived ok.

Labour Day weekend we were back at the Ghost airstrip for our 3rd

annual pig roast. We had around 30 camping units and close to 100 people for the supper.

I really need to give a huge thank you to Bob Bolton and Nick Portiek. Bob for donating the pig and Nick for supplying the Roaster and cooking the pig. Your continued support of our club is greatly appreciated.

September 12th, 13th, and 19th saw 8 members from the Calgary ATV Riders participate in an extensive outdoor First Aid course which was hosted and paid for by the Calgary Area Outdoor Council. This was a very intensive course and dealt with situations that could occur in the area that we recreate in. Which included practicing an evacuation using an ATV with a backboard on different terrain.

We are hoping to have another course offered in the next year.

September 27, another day ride from the South Ghost staging area saw a few riders show up. This consisted of 2 smaller groups and tuned into a memorable ride for those involved.

Nov 7th was the 6th annual Rebels Ride. This started at the south Ghost staging area and made its way to Margaret Lake where a lunch of hamburgers and Tim's coffee or hot chocolate was enjoyed by all that rode. Thanks again to all who donated food, Buns, Coffee Hot Chocolate and door prizes.

Again we had a large turnout for this ride. It seems like every year we have more and more people attend. This is a great way to meet your fellow quadders and talk about rides in the past and also rides in the future.

We also participated in a

NOHVC Trail Building course in the spring of 09 in which we had 10 people from the CARA participate.

The club was also busy with showing our support for a couple of the dealers and cooking a BBQ lunch for Bow Cycle in the spring and the fall at fisher east in McLean Creek, and also helping at the Can Am Demo days with Bow Ridge Sports from Cochrane.

Bow Cycle has been providing a free membership to anyone who purchases a new 400 cc and above atv. and is continuing this support program for 2010

With this offer our club membership has grown by leaps and bounds. We now have well over 300 family memberships.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and I do wish you all the Best in 2010

Our support has grown to the Provincial level where 2 board members of CARA are now on the executive board of the AOHVA. We look forward to working closely with the AOHVA to provide a unified voice on our trail issues.



Everybody in with the 2 fingers

Calgary

Corporate

Sponsors 2010

Abbott Oilfield

Services Ltd.

All Season

Motorsports Inc.

ATVFrontier.com

Alpine Computer Solutions

Blackfoot

Motorsports

Bow Ridge Sports Cochrane

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Chunk Motorsports

GW Cycle World

MD Equipment Sales

& Service

Mountain Toys Cochrane

Precision Drilling

Ralph's Arctic Cat/

Yamaha Motorsports

Rhino Framing

Rocky Developments Ltd

Seitzco Motorsports

Badlands Welding Bassano

Alberta E file Inc

Club Talk Newsletter of the Calgary ATV Riders

Safe Riding!

Page 4

2008

Corporate Sponsors

Continued

Xtreme ATV

Adventures

Pro-Am Motorsports

New Concept Mortage

Hidden Trail ATV Adventures

Graymont Western Canada Inc.

Nucleus Information Services

Seisland Surveys

Walt Healy Motor sports

Terrex Construction

Synergy Land

Services Ltd.



Mmmm Good hot dogs

Second Annual McLean Creek Poker Rally and Geocache Event

Proves to be Another Great Success

By RedRon

On April 25th, more than 45 riders on 40 machines gathered at the McLean Creek OHV staging area for the second annual poker rally and geocache event. The popular event attracted riders from as far away as Canmore and Medicine Hat. The conditions were perfect - around zero degrees and enough heavy, wet snow on the trail to make it challenging for some of the quads. There was a mini blizzard that blew in after the ride. A tasty, more than you could eat BBQ was organized back at the staging area. A seemingly unending list of prizes were awarded back at the staging area. .

The family group took a route down Shortcut Trail to Fish Creek West, then Sylvester to junction of Elbow Falls Trail. Snacks were broken out at the Muskeg Trail junction, and a warming fire was started at Elbow Falls junction. Darryl Marx, who owns Mountain Toys, one of our generous donors, brought family members. Daniel (age 12) on a RZR 170, Caleb (age 8) co-pilot of the RZR 170, Matt (age 14) on a Raptor 350, and better half, Vanessa, on a Kingquad 500. The snow proved quite a challenge for the 2 wheel

drive machines, but the determined young quadders succeeded in making the whole trip. This was the first outing with the Club for the Marx family, and they commented on how welcoming the club members are to newcomers.

The Intermediate group had 22 people on 20 quads.. Many faces in the group were new which we are always glad to see. The Intermediate group had no major incidents or breakdowns on the ride, but Toadman did make a couple of navigational errors, one of which was to try to follow the Fast group for a short distance. One hill with a wash down one side presented a challenge due to wet, heavy snow in the line that was picked to go safely by the wash high centered the 2wd drive and solid axle machines. Toadman gave free push rope rides for those who had not been as blessed in the ground clearance department.

The Fast group had 11 quadders, but who knows where those guys go?!

Many volunteers worked to create this successful and fun event. At the risk of missing some, here are some of the jobs that had to be done and the people who did them: Ride leaders and tail gunners: Toadman, Grandpa, MudBob, Brit, Des, Skiboat and ArcFlash; Checkpoints: Evan, Trailman, Geotech1; Support and cooking: Tony, Gina; Special spotter at hazardous location: Jim Brown. Of course, the entire club executive led by Don McKay also pitched in to organize the event, collected a huge number of prizes, checked out the trail a week early.



Check in for the ride.

Special thanks is due to the many sponsors, including Mountain Toys, Bow Cycle, Blackfoot Motorsports, Rocky Developments, and Coca Cola.

If you haven't been on a club ride yet, please join in. You will be glad you did.



Getting Ready to go



Hmmm a Bit of snow while loading up



Just a bit of snow

Building bridges instead of fences!

My Year in Review By Christine Ross

Just over a year ago I joined the Calgary Quad Squad now known as the Calgary ATV Riders Association (CARA) hoping to meet people to go quadding with. I never knew at that time that I would not only gain life long friends but a family as well. For someone who had only gone quadding a few times in the previous year I knew I enjoyed the sport enough to buy one so off I went to the store and bought myself an Arctic Cat 500. It has been a great bike to learn on and I have ridden almost 2500km in the first year. I decked it out with hand warmers, a GPS, radios, a couple of storage boxes, new tires and now I'm think I'll upgrade the bike. I see something with power steering in my future.

My first ride with members from the club was with Don McKay (President) and Garry Salekin (Vice President). After signing up for the club on the internet I was contacted by Don after I had inquired about riding in the area. Next thing I knew I was riding to Margaret Lake with people I didn't even know and I haven't stopped since. I attended the 2008 Pig Roast day ride and dinner and the September family day ride and realized the club was

more than just about riding. They cared about what was happening to our riding areas and were actively participating in Stewardship activities in the Ghost Waiparous, Burnt Timber and McLean Creek areas. I attended a bridge build and my first of many general meetings. I was hooked, or hoodwinked, not sure which, but it has been fun and kept me busy over the past year. Multiple exceptionally fun rides and camping trips later I have now become an active member of CARA and part of the executive committee. Whether it is helping to coordinate funding for our stewardship initiatives, creating logos, being a ride leader or a cook at one of our events I am committed to making everyone's experience fun and enjoyable.

Working with other executives and members I have learned about the importance of our multi-use trail system and the need for development and sustainability. When I heard about a course being offered to our club members knew I needed to be apart of it. The Sustainable Trail Design course enables each of us a voice in designing a trail system that will attempt to maximize user enjoyment and ensure the trail will be as self-sustaining as possible with minimum maintenance and the least environmental impact possible for future generations to enjoy. Our expectation is to implement the training into our stewardship activities to help us keep the trails we have and

possibly reopen some of the trail we lost a few years ago. I found the information on how to create a sustainable and fun recreational trail system invaluable and I am very thankful for the opportunity.

Then in September of 2009 eight of our active members were given the opportunity to take a Calgary Outdoor Council sponsored Remote Responder First Aid course and I jumped at the chance. I had taken the same course three and a half years prior and looked forward to renewing my certificate. The training was specifically geared towards backcountry first aid in an emergency and will be an invaluable asset on the trail.

My year with the Calgary ATV Riders Association has not just been filled with fun and memorable times; it has made me realize the need for the clubs existence. We are more than just about riding, we have a purpose and a vision for all riders who love the Southern Rockies and we need the support of others to fulfill them.

**Hunter Valley Bridge build**

You Can Help!

The CARA is still looking for members to fill the following *Coordinator/Committee positions:*

- ♦ *Stewardship coordinator*
McLean/IG/Assistant(s)
- ♦ *Media/Communications Coordinator*
- ♦ *Sponsorship/Dealer Coor-*

dinator(s)

♦ *Multi-club Interface*

♦ *Club On-Line Sales Coordinator*

♦ *Membership Coordinator Assistants*

Please email your interest in one or more of these positions

to

quadsquad@nucleus.com

or contact one of the CQS directors if you're interested in one of these opportunities. Position details are available in the February 07 newsletter. Your assistance to improve the club and help to reduce volunteer stress and burnout is appreciated!

The bridge crews on the Hunter Valley Bridge build

**Waiparous Falls****Margaret Lake****Group picture May Long Weekend ride to Cow Lake****Fireworks display at Thunder in the Valley**

What Price Your LifeSPOT Personal Satellite Tracker versus Iridium Satellite Phone By RedRon CARA Member

It's late Sunday evening in early March. The day started out sunny and you decided to head for Quirk Ridge. You've been breaking trail for most of the day because the snow drifts discouraged the less adventuresome quadders who were out for a Sunday ride. It's a lot later in the day than you expected because your daughter keeps bogging down in the valleys due to a less aggressive driving style. You yourself even had an unscheduled skid plate inspection and tailender on one icy hill. Now you are both stuck in a deep drift near the point where Sylvester and Fish Creek West meet. It looks like you might be doing some unscheduled winter camping. Since you are carrying all the emergency and survival equipment recommended by the CQS, you are not too worried. But you would like someone back home to know what is happening so they don't push the panic button too hard.

Since there is no cell phone coverage in McLean Creek FLUZ, you spend the long cold and sleepless night thinking about what communications device you will bring along

next time.

The cheapest option would be a SPOT satellite messenger. The Spot, about size of a walkie talkie, communicates through a GlobalStar network (that part of their network actually works). It can be purchased in Calgary at GPSCentral.ca for \$145.00, plus a subscription of US\$100 per year for basic services plus US\$50 per year for tracking capability.

SPOT has several one button options for communicating your status. You can send a message to your family or a friend to ask for help, and your location and progress can be seen on a Google map. In a life threatening emergency, the SPOT server will send an email or text message to 911 which indicates you have pushed the 911 button, and will send out your location. (Just which call centre will get the call and what they will do with it can be an issue).

However, it cannot communicate the exact nature of your problem. Are you lying under your quad with a broken leg, or just pd cold. Your family or friends may have better things to do than constantly monitoring your progress, so they might not be paying attention. Will the 911 call centre take the message seriously, or have they had too many false alarms and accidental button pushes from SPOT. Doug Ritter, a consumer advocate, has written a review of SPOT, which is available at <http://www.equipped.org/blog/?p=82> and in his audio and powerpoint presentation at http://www.equipped.org/Ritter_RTCM_WhatPriceYourLife.pdf Ritter raises the issue of the interface between 911 and SARS, and whether or not the system might be down because of satellite and server problems.

A satellite phone provides the ability to communicate much more about your situation, assuming you are not too busted up to unpack the phone and dial

Thunder in the Valley

By: Don McKay, CARA



The 2009 Run Runner Days held in the Crowsnest Pass July 18th to 20st was a huge success this year! This annual event celebrates the history, culture and heritage of the Crowsnest Pass and it's people and attracts thousands of people to the Crowsnest Pass and in particular, Blairmore.

Events throughout the weekend included a Blairmore Lions Club breakfast, an incredible parade through downtown Blairmore in which the Crowsnest Pass Quad Squad participated, midway attractions, Crowsnest museum tours, Bellevue underground mine tours, golf tournaments, Sole Survivor run/walk, co-ed softball tournament, automobile show and shine, skateboard competition and family fun at

Blairmore Park including live music, a petting zoo, dunk tank and concessions. The weekend long extravaganza was concluded by the highly anticipated Thunder in the Valley pyrotechnics show and fireworks display. The 30-45 minute show is one of the largest fireworks displays you will ever see! No one left without a smile on their face!

What Price Your LifeSPOT Personal Satellite Tracker versus Iridium Satellite Phone Continued

some numbers. (SPOT could be in your pocket and you just push a single button).

There are two suppliers relevant to Canada: GlobalStar and Iridium. The GlobalStar system has deteriorated from its former usefulness due to loss. You can download a schedule of when it will work over McLean Creek the exact time of which varies substantially, but predictably, every day. The GlobalStar system is, in my opinion less reliable than Iridium, but the Globalstar phones are cheaper.

Their newest Iridium phone is the 9555, a much better phone than their previous offering, the 9505. It comes with a bundle of chargers and vehicle antenna for about \$1,800. The extra money for the 9555 buys you a smaller phone (about the size of an average land line handset), an internally stored antenna, simpler interface, and better connectivity.

During the last year, I found the Iridium system to be consistently reliable in various parts of Canada and at all times of the day.

The subscriptions to Iridium service can be prepaid or postpaid (similar to cell phones). For occasional emergency use, the prepaid option is far cheaper. Within the prepaid choices, the best value is a Canada/Alaska Northern Lights card that provides 200 minutes of phone time and is good for six months. I bought the Canada Alaska card, but after 6 months switched to the world postpaid system which is a minimum of \$50 per month plus minutes used. I like the Roadpost customer account interface page, which gives you, for example, time remaining on the prepaid card, updated daily.

Tax-in cost for the newest Iridium phone and the first 12 months of service will be at least \$2,350. If your quadding budget has been totally blown on wheels, tires and skidplates, then the SPOT may have to do.



Spot Device



Iridium 9555 Satellite Phone



Don And Deborah CNP Plane Crash site



Some of The wreckage strewn around the area



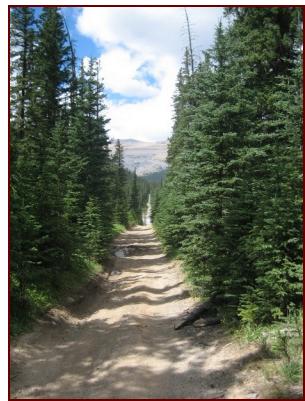
Towards the end of July and still lots of snow



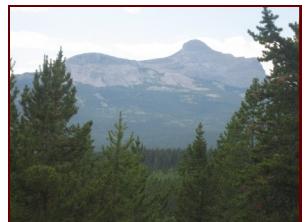
More scenery from the CNP area



On the trail near Waiparous



The trail ahead near Waiparous



Picturesque mountain view along a trail near Waiparous



CALGARY ATV RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION

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Calgary, Alberta T3K 3V0

E-mail: quadsquad@nucleus.com

Web Site: www.calgaryatvriders.com

Internet forums: <http://quadsquad.ca/forum/> or www.atvfrontier.com/Forums.html

On-line membership form or trail map purchase: <http://www.cnpquadsquad.com/catalog/> or contact a CQS director

We're on the Web!

www.calgaryatvriders.com

2010 Ride Schedule

- Jan 8th -10th Calgary Motorcycle Show. We need Volunteers for this
- Feb 13th Family day ride and BBQ Ghost Airstrip
- March 27th Ride and cookout McLean Creek
- April 24th Poker Rally McLean Creek
- May Long weekend May 21st-24th
- June 26th CARA Ride Location TBD—Hoping to do a loop in the Hunter Valley area
- July 17th Thunder in the Valley - Camping location TBD
- July 31st-Aug 2nd Caroline Camping and Riding
- Sept 4th- 6th Labour Day weekend Camping Riding and Pig-Roast
- Sept 25th CARA Club Ride location TBD
- Nov 6th CARA Rebels Ride

2009/2010 Calgary ATV Riders Directors

Don McKay - CQS President and CNPQS Director (403) 680-3244

Gary Salekin - CQS Vice President (Stewardship Coordinator (403) 609-1208

Evan Peters - CQS Director/Treasurer/Secretary (403) 852-1609

Christine Ross - CQS Director/(403) 968-4749

Kevin Fex- CQS Director / Membership Mailings (403) 293-3223

Todd Davidson - CQS Director

Tony Shaw - CQS Director (403) 819-7659

Bob Micholuk - CQS Director (403) 469-1050

2010 CARA Membership Renewal and Drive

**AOHVA
membership
included
with \$30 annual
family CQS
membership.**

Now more than ever Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) access and random camping is under attack in our region. Our Club is an established and vigorous provincial leader that is a balanced and environmentally conscious defender of multi-use trails. Your voice must be heard to preserve our sport and places to ride. If you access the back country and 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 \$30 per family and cover the period from January 1 to December 31. Corporate memberships are \$100. Current

members are encouraged to renew well prior to June 30 to save on administrative work. Members who joined at or after Labour Day weekend, are considered as members for that quarter as well as for 2010. Membership forms to the **CARA** Calgary and Crowsnest Pass chapters can be downloaded on-line at www.quadsquad.ca.

Calgary ATV Riders Association Mission Statement

To promote responsible use of Alberta's Southern Rockies
& to ensure the conservation & preservation of our wilderness areas
for the continued use by those who come after us.