

WPCA Pro Tour presented by



ROCKY MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT



Sierra Cup Series presented by



Official Truck of the WPCA

The Official Newsletter of the World Professional Chuckwagon Association

TURNING THE BARRELS

November 2014

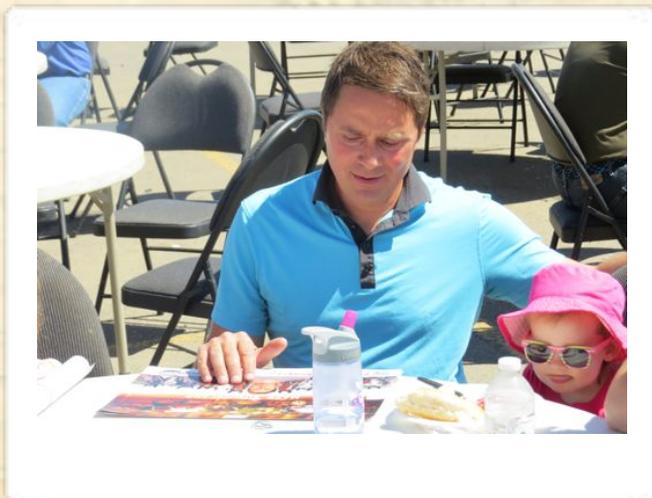
Volume 3 Issue 25

halfmileofhell.com

THE 2014 WPCA AWARDS NIGHT

WPCA Sponsor Recognition Awards	<i>See Page 2</i>
Special High River Presentation	<i>See Page 2</i>
WPCA Judging Award	<i>See Page 2</i>
Special Recognition Award	<i>See Page 3</i>
WPCA Media Award	<i>See Page 3</i>
WPCA Race Committee Award	<i>See Page 4</i>
Ty Tournier Memorial Award	<i>See Page 5</i>
Remembering: A Video Tribute	<i>See Page 5</i>
WPCA Active Supporters	<i>See Page 5</i>
WPCA Clean Drive Award	<i>See Page 6</i>
WPCA Top Rookie Driver	<i>See Page 6</i>
Rod Glass Memorial Award	<i>See Page 7</i>
Herman Flad Memorial Award	<i>See Page 8</i>
Past Member Tribute	<i>See Page 8</i>
Chuckwagon Person of the Year Award	<i>See Page 10</i>
2014 World Champion Outrider	<i>See Page 12</i>
2014 World Champion Chuckwagon Driver	<i>See Page 12</i>

One for the Archives



Mark Sutherland makes a new friend during the pancake breakfast in Ponoka earlier this year.

Photo by Ed Wittchen



The 2014 WPCA Awards Night

THE 2014 WPCA Awards Night was held October 4 at the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino in Calgary.

WPCA Sponsor Recognition Awards

In addition to the WPCA Tour awards, we annually recognize our Tour partners who enhance our operations by what they do. Special recognition was given to the following Tour partners:

- Rocky Mountain Equipment – **Laird Munro**, marketing and communications director
- GMC – **Michelle Bovon**, marketing manager, western region
- UFA – **Ken Scott**, community investment coordinator

- Kubota – **Chris Brown**, product specialist manager
- Ferus – **Mike Cullen**, sales manager
- Meyers Norris & Penny – **Lori Schmaltz**
- Wrangler
- Visa Truck Rentals

Special High River Presentation

The WPCA and **Ken Malvin** with the WPCA merchandise trailer wanted to continue their support of the rebuild of High River. They designed and sold High River Strong hats and t-shirts that were sold during the 2014 Tour. Ken presented a cheque to **Bill Long** for \$4,000 to the City of High River.

WPCA Judging Award

The WPCA Judging Award is given to a member of the WPCA judging staff in recognition of their outstanding abilities and contributions to the judging team to ensure overall fair and efficient judging and racing. The WPCA Judging Award, sponsored by Kubota, was presented by



Ken Malvin presents Bill Long with a \$4,000 cheque for High River. Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



Chris Brown of Kubota presents the 2014 Judging Award to Wayne Russell. Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



The 2014 WPCA Awards Night, continued

Chris Brown, product specialist manager with Kubota, to **Wayne Russell**, this year's recipient.

Special Recognition Award

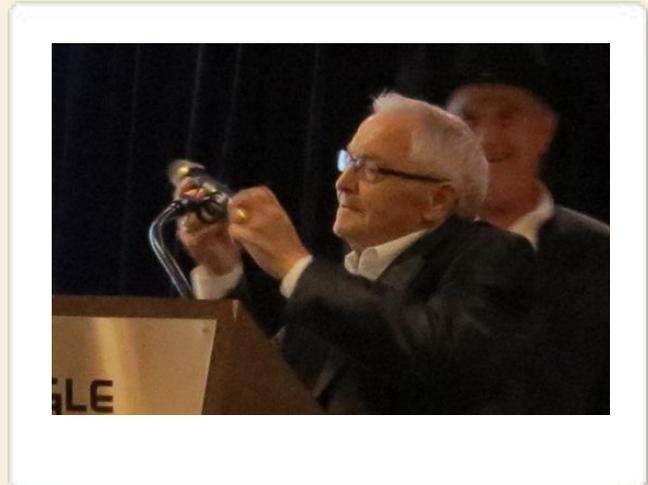
The WPCA gave Special Recognition buckles to two individuals for special contributions they each made to the WPCA, its members or chuckwagon racing in general. The first one was presented by legendary former driver **Ron David** to **Ron May**, a longtime supporter of the WPCA and a friend to many drivers over the years. To say that Ron May was surprised would be an understatement. His acceptance speech had people rolling in the aisles and was a definite highlight of the evening.

WPCA president **Ed Wittchen** presented the second buckle to Laird Munro, director of marketing and communications for Rocky Mountain Equipment, for all the things he did promoting wagon racing and our drivers and outriders at various venues all season long.

WPCA Media Award

The WPCA Media Award is given to an individual, group or a company for excellence in reporting and promoting the events of the WPCA and chuckwagon racing to the public at large through the various types of media. Presenting this award was a five-time recipient of the WPCA's Media Award. You hear him on the radio on the WPCA Pro Tour Live on Rural Radio on SiriusXM Channel 80, read his stories in *Canadian Cowboy Country* magazine among other places, and see him on television on Shaw TV and CBC and Sportsnet's coverage of the Calgary Stampede, our own **Billy Melville**.

The recipient of the 2014 WPCA Media Award is Rural Media Group Inc. Located in Omaha, Nebraska, Rural Media Group brought the WPCA Pro Tour to the masses throughout North America this year through satellite radio via Rural Radio on Sirius XM Channel 80. Prior to the start of the 2014 season, WPCA representatives Billy and



Ron May receives a Special Recognition Award.

Photo by Gary Nichols



WPCA president Ed Wittchen presents Laird Munro with a buckle as one of two recipients for the 2014 Special Recognition Award.

Photo by Easton Wagon Photography

Eddie Melville, Ed Wittchen and 2013 world champion **Rick Fraser** were guests of Rural Media Groups RFD-TV in Nashville, Tennessee, for an entire one-hour call-in



The 2014 WPCA Awards Night, continued

episode of “Rural America Live” to promote our new chuckwagon radio show “WPCA Pro Tour Live” on Rural Radio on Sirius XM Channel 80. All season long, Rural Media Group promoted “WPCA Pro Tour Live” with promotional ads on RFD-TV as well.

WPCA race results were included in RFD-TV’s “Rural Evening News.” A feature article on chuckwagon racing was prominent in *RFD TV the Magazine*. Every week throughout the 2014 race season, WPCA drivers, outriders and personnel were featured guests on **Steve Kenyon** and **Amy Wilson**’s “Western Sports Roundup.” Rural Media Group aired the final weekend of the Calgary Stampede GMC Rangeland Derby. Through their various forms of media—radio, television and magazines—Rural Media Group helped bring new fans into the sport by exposing WPCA chuckwagon racing to millions of new homes across North America. Receiving the award was CEO **Randy Bernard**, **Paul Aaron** – vice president and general manager of Rural

Radio and **Johnny Rogers** – vice president of new business development for the Rural Media Group. Sports fans might also remember Johnny as the 1972 Heisman Trophy winner from the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers or as a CFL All-Star with the Montreal Alouettes.

WPCA Race Committee Award

The WPCA Race Committee Award is given to a race committee for their outstanding efforts in accommodating the WPCA, its members and the chuckwagon fans through improvements to their overall show experience, such as facilities, prize money, organizations and more. The Bonnyville Pro Rodeo and Chuckwagon Association organized an afternoon for drivers, their families and crews to enjoy an afternoon out on pontoons on the the lake. They treated the Ladies of the Wagons to a spa day. They added extra prize money on the final day and were the highest tarp auction in 2014. In addition, they did a great job of making



Billy Melville presents the Media Award to (from left) Johnny Rogers, Randy Bernard and Paul Aaron of the Rural Media Group.

Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



BJ Normand presents Mitch Michaud, representing the Bonnyville Pro Rodeo and Chuckwagon Association as chuckwagon committee chair, with the Race Committee Award.

Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



The 2014 WPCA Awards Night, continued

changes to the track as requested by our drivers, making it potentially one of our best tracks to run on in future years.

BJ Normand, longtime Bonnyville resident and son of six-time world champion **George Normand**, presented the award to **Mitch Michaud**, chuckwagon committee chair for the Bonnyville Pro Rodeo and Chuckwagon Association.

Ty Tournier Memorial Award

Steve and **Lynn Fountain**, who sponsor the award each year, spoke and presented the award on behalf of **Kim** and **Leo Tournier**, who were unable to attend this year. The award went to a very surprised and emotional **Jimmi Lou Irvine**. Comments made about Jimmi Lou in her nomination included the following:

“In addition to her very busy career as an excellent educator and her previous work in the barns and with the horses as a trick rider, Jimmi Lou is an amazing advocate for children and people of ALL abilities. She is a caring parent and supportive spouse. She has applied the concepts of how to

treat your horses well to building and strengthening school staff relations. She is also an inspiration to me personally as a mother of a child with special needs, on how you can absolutely have a fulfilling career and family life while providing the very best care for all of your children. In short, I think Jimmi Lou is an amazing woman of the wagons.”

Remembering: A Video Tribute

A special video tribute had people reflect on those members of the chuckwagon family and community that we have lost this past year. In a moving tribute prepared by Eddie and Billy Melville, the list included

- **Ken Buxton**, outrider, 1927–2013
- **Bill Collins**, driver/outrider/judge, 1924–2013
- **Leonard Johnson**, outrider/active supporter, 1925–2014
- **Kate Jensen**, judge/active supporter, 1921–2014
- **Rupert Fisher**, driver, 1936–2014
- **Greg Gillard**, outrider, 1955–2014

There was also a special tribute to one of the truly great equine superstars, **Port**, the first two-time winner of the Equine Award of Excellence and a great left leader for **Luke Tournier**'s 2005 and 2007 Calgary Stampede championship outfits.

WPCA Active Supporters

To be nominated as an Active Supporter of the World Professional Chuckwagon Association is a great honour. It means that these nominees have shown a great interest in the sport of chuckwagon racing. In their own way, each has contributed in such a way that their involvement and dedication to the WPCA, its members and the sport did not go unnoticed. This year, the WPCA recognized the following:

- Country 99 FM in Bonnyville, for continuing to broadcast the races on traditional radio in northeastern Alberta again this year



Steve and Lynn Fountain, on behalf of Kim and Leo Tournier, present Jimmi Lou Irvine with the Ty Tournier Memorial Award. Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



The 2014 WPCA Awards Night, continued

- **Don McClughan** of Kubota, for many years of supporting the WPCA and providing clothing and Kubota ATVs to the judges and track coordinator at each tour stop (the award was accepted by Chris Brown on behalf of Don)
- Rod Tomyn of the TOMCO Group of Companies, for his sponsorship support, involvement supporting several race committees and the charitable work that TOMCO does in conjunction with Rae Croteau, Jr.'s chuckwagon racing

WPCA Clean Drive Award

We recognize the top-placed driver at the end of the world point standings with the least amount of penalties. The recipient of this year's WPCA Clean Drive Award was **Troy Dorchester**. Troy ran penalty free on 37 of 41 WPCA race days and penalty free at 6 of the 9 shows that made up the 2014 WPCA Pro Tour presented by Rocky Mountain

Equipment and Case IH. An injury kept Troy out of action for the last part of the season, and Rick Fraser handled the driving for these races. Between both drivers, Troy's outfit did not incur a single driver penalty throughout the 2014 season, finishing the year with just seven seconds in outrider penalties. It's the second time in the past four years that Troy has won this award. Troy was presented with the buckle and jacket, as well as a cash award sponsored by Ken Malvin of KMC Sales.

WPCA Top Rookie Driver

The WPCA Top Rookie Driver Award is given to the chuckwagon driver who places the highest in the world standings in his first full year on the WPCA tour. The 2014 WPCA Top Rookie Driver is **Kelly Morin**. A second-generation chuckwagon driver, Kelly started his career in the CPCA before moving to the WPCA Pro Tour in 2014. He finished the year in 33rd place in the world standings and had four top-10 runs, including a second-place run at the Colonial Days Fair in Lloydminster, a third-place run at the



WPCA president Ed Wittchen presents three Active Supporter Awards, one to Country 99 FM (accepted by Mitch Michaud), one to Rod Tomyn of TOMCO, and one to Don McClughan of Kubota (accepted by Chris Brown).

Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



Ken Malvin presents a jacket (along with a buckle and cash award) to Troy Dorchester for the 2014 Clean Drive Award.

Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



The 2014 WPCA Awards Night, continued

Battle of the North in Dawson Creek and a fifth-place run at the Ponoka Stampede. His best meet of the year was a sixth-place overall finish at Colonial Days. The 2013 winner **Chad Fike** presented Kelly with the buckle.

Rod Glass Memorial Award for Most Improved Outrider

The Rod Glass Memorial Award for Most Improved Outrider is given to the outrider who had the greatest increase in points over the previous season. The award is named for outrider **Rod Glass**, who was taken from us in a racing accident at the Calgary Stampede in 1971.

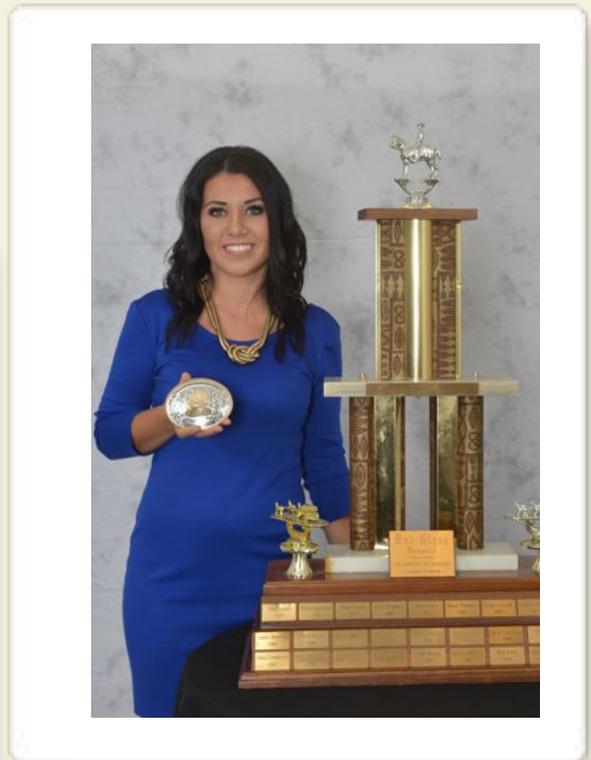
The winner of the 2014 Rod Glass Memorial Award for Most Improved Outrider is **Casey Knight**. In his fifth year of outriding and second season on the WPCA Pro Tour, Casey had his career-best finish in the world standings, placing fourth overall and improving by over 3,000 points.

Some of his 2014 highlights include riding in the finals of the Grande Prairie Stompede behind **Codey McCurrach** and in the Battle of the Rockies behind **Rae Croteau, Jr.** He saw additional action throughout the year behind drivers like **Ross Knight, Kelly Sutherland** and **Mark Sutherland**. Casey showed that he is fast becoming one of the top young outriders in chuckwagon racing today. **Les McIntyre** presented the buckle on behalf of the Glass/Cosgrave families. Mike Cullen presented a cash award on behalf of award sponsor Ferus. **Paul** and **Carol Easton** also presented him with a “Wagon Moment” photo.



Chad Fike (left) presents Kelly Morin with the Top Rookie Driver buckle.

Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



Carlee Knight accepts the Rod Glass Memorial Award for Most Improved Outrider on behalf of her brother Casey Knight.

Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



The 2014 WPCA Awards Night, continued

Herman Flad Memorial Award for Most Improved Driver

The Herman Flad Memorial Award for Most Improved Driver is given to the driver who had the greatest increase in points over the previous season. The award is named for **Herman Flad**, who was taken from us while commuting between chuckwagon stops in 1998.

The 2014 Herman Flad Memorial Award for Most Improved Driver is **Codey McCurrach**. After a disappointing 2013 that saw him finish 31st in the world standings and miss qualifying for the Calgary Stampede, Codey rebounded in 2014 by moving up 23 spots to finish a career-best 8th place. This year saw Codey jump out

of the gates quickly and early as he won the Ralph Vigen Memorial Award for the top aggregate time en route to a championship final appearance at the Grande Prairie Stompede. He finished in the top 10 at the Grande Prairie Stompede, the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede, and the Bonnyville Chuckwagon Championship. He posted an impressive 16 top-10 runs throughout the 2014 season and easily qualified for his third Calgary Stampede in 2015.

Tim Flad presented the buckle sponsored by the **Troy Flad** family. **Paul** and **Carol Easton** also presented him with a “Wagon Moment” photo.

Past Member Tribute

The WPCA Past Member Tribute Award is given to any past member of the WPCA or its predecessors in recognition of their outstanding achievements, dedication or contributions as they relate to the WPCA and chuckwagon racing in general. To make the surprise of the award even more special, this year’s winner **Ron David** had his award presented by his grandsons **Chad** and **Jordie Fike**. For one of the few times anyone can remember, Ron David was speechless.

Ron David was born on April 1, 1945. His father **Wilbur David** started driving chuckwagons in 1956 and it was here that a young Ronnie David



Tim Flad (right) presents Codey McCurrach with the Herman Flad Memorial Award for Most Improved Driver buckle.

Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



Ron David receives his Past Member Tribute bronze from his grandsons Jordie and Chad Fike.

Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



The 2014 WPCA Awards Night, continued

caught the bug for chuckwagon racing. His father retired from driving in 1961 and Ron's older brother **Les David** assumed the driving duties of the W. David & Sons outfit. In 1963, when Ron was 18 years old, he began his career as a chuckwagon racing outrider. Throughout the first half of the 1960s, the David family had five brothers competing in the chuckwagon races, with Les driving, and Ron, **Roy, Butch** and **Larry** all outriding.

In April of 1964, Ron married **Barb Appleyard**. It wasn't too long before Ron and Barb welcomed their first child, a daughter they named **Dona**.

In 1965, Ron assembled his own chuckwagon outfit and began to compete as a chuckwagon driver. After some warm-up races at smaller venues such as Lake McGregor, Ron came to the big show at Calgary and made his debut at the Calgary Stampede with a penalty-free run in the opening heat on July 5. He finished second in the heat, behind **Dennis Dorchester** and in front of **Bob Dimmer** and "**Sundown**" **Hank Markus**. When the 1965 show wrapped up, 20-year-old Ron David finished his first Calgary Stampede Rangeland Derby in a very respectable 21st place overall.

In 1967, the Davids welcomed their second child, a son they named **Todd**. That was also the year that Ron cashed his first cheque at the Calgary Stampede; he earned \$125 for placing 12th in the consolation chuckwagon races. The year 1969 would be Ron's breakout year at the Calgary Stampede. He secured his first corporate sponsor in **Lyle Peterson**, cashed cheques in eight out of nine rounds, and finished the 1969 Rangeland Derby in 8th place overall. Ron David was coming into his own as a chuckwagon driver and showing the world he was a contender.

In 1970, Ron began what would be a 12-year partnership with **Einar Brasso**. Off the racetrack, Ron's likeness inspired the Brasso Datsun logo and the overall image of the Brasso dealership. On the racetrack, the Ron David-driven Brasso Datsun outfit became a consistent money winner. It wasn't until June 7, 1974, however, that Ron David finally won his first victory at the Bassano Rodeo by two full seconds over the defending Bassano and reigning Cheyenne Frontier Days champion **Ralph Buzzard**. With the confidence that he could be a champion, things were looking pretty good for Ron David heading into the 1974 Calgary Stampede. Then tragedy struck on opening night.

Competing in the fifth heat, the pole on Ron's wagon snapped shortly after he completed his barrel turn. The wagon started swerving almost uncontrollably until he hit the midway point of the backstretch. Then the broken pole dug into the track, halting the wagon abruptly and catapulting Ron 25 feet into the air. Ron sustained numerous injuries, including six fractured ribs, a fractured shoulder, pelvis and back, and a punctured lung, kidney and spleen. It was uncertain if Ron would even survive the accident, let alone ever drive a chuckwagon again.

But Ron made a remarkable recovery. Not only was he driving again the very next season, he continued his winning ways. A track record run on the final day of the Millarville race meet gave Ron the second show championship of his career, sharing the title with **Richard Cosgrave**. At the very next show at Trochu, he again set a track record and posted his third career victory over veteran drivers **Orville Strandquist** and **Slim Helmle**. He successfully defended his title at Trochu in 1976, beating **Rupert Fisher** and Richard Cosgrave. In 1977, he had one of his finest years when he won the Wainwright Stampede, was runner-up at the Calgary Stampede Rangeland Derby and placed fourth



The 2014 WPCA Awards Night, continued

overall in the world standings. Ron won the Hobbema race meet in 1978, and closed out the 1970s with outriders **Lyle Pambrun** and George Normand with a victory at the Northwest Round-Up in Swan River, Manitoba, by a mere six one-hundredths of a second over multi-time world and Calgary Stampede champion Kelly Sutherland.

With seven victories in six years, the 1970s were pretty good to Ron David, but he was still in search of his first victory in a major chuckwagon event. He didn't have to wait long. In 1980, Ron David won the first major show of his career when he swept the Big M Stampede in Morris, Manitoba, by nearly two and a half seconds over **Tom Sinclair** and **Joe King**. He made it a clean sweep of Manitoba by defending his title at the Northwest Round-Up in Swan River the very next week. In 1981, the chuckwagon drivers decided to part ways with the pro rodeo cowboys and the World Professional Chuckwagon Association was born, with Ron as one of the founding members and directors.

The year 1982 was bittersweet for Ron. Despite another marquee win at the Ponoka Stampede, he was unable to secure a spot to race in the 1983 Calgary Stampede. He returned to the big show in 1984 and

just missed qualifying for the championship final heat by 37 one-hundredths of a second. A week later, however, he beat out **Reg Johnstone** for another major show win when he grabbed his second career Big M Stampede. In 1985, Ron finally qualified for his first championship final heat at the Calgary Stampede and placed fourth.

The next few years, Ron ran well but show championships seemed to elude him. That would change in 1993 at the first major show of the year at the Grande Prairie Stompede, when Ron qualified for the championship final heat and, along with outriders **Randy Robinson** and Eddie Melville, won the title over **Mike Vigen, Edgar Baptiste** and **Ward Willard**.

Unknown at that time, it would be the last victory of Ron David's illustrious career. At the final show of the 1993 season in Strathmore, the format for declaring the world champion was changed to a winner-take-all championship final heat. Ron qualified for the world championship Dash along with George Normand and Ward Willard, and placed second to Normand by just 22 one-hundredths of a second. His third-place-overall finish in the world standings that year would be a career best.

Since his retirement from chuckwagon racing, Ron David has been a successful thoroughbred trainer on the Alberta circuit, and he has stayed heavily involved with the chuckwagon races, travelling the circuit and acting as a mentor to two future champion chuckwagon drivers, his grandsons Jordie and Chad Fike.

Throughout his 35-year career, Ron David has been one of the most consistent and decorated chuckwagon drivers of his time. His influence went far beyond his success on the racetrack. He served for many years as a driver director on the WPCA board, built wagons for other drivers and conducted chuckwagon inspections for the entire association. He was recognized in 2001 with the inaugural George Normand Lifetime Builder Award for his contributions and dedication to chuckwagon racing for five decades.

Jim Bottomley Chuckwagon Person of the Year Award

The WPCA chuckwagon person of the year is one of the WPCA's highest annual honours. Starting this year, the trophy that the recipient receives has a new name on it. The WPCA has decided that from this point forward the Chuckwagon Person of the Year would receive the Jim Bottomley Award. **Jim Bottomley** has already won this



The 2014 WPCA Awards Night, continued

award as well as the George Normand Lifetime Builder Award, so we had to find something appropriate and meaningful to recognize the lifelong and vital contributions this man has made to the sport.

The Jim Bottomley Chuckwagon Person of the Year Award is given to an individual who has made outstanding and significant contributions to advancing and improving the overall status and integrity of the WPCA and the sport of chuckwagon racing. The recipient for 2014 is **Ed Wittchen**.

Ed first became involved with the WPCA two years ago and has made

a significant impact in that time. He joined the WPCA board of directors in 2013. His vast experience as a relationship builder in the field of education proved invaluable and was a strong voice of reason on the WPCA board.

Ed was a driving force behind many facets of WPCA business ventures as he helped bring fresh ideas to the sport. He was instrumental in helping to secure Rocky Mountain Equipment and Case IH as our title sponsors for 2014, and helped kick off a potential horsemanship program with Olds College. He attended off-season charity hockey games in Big Valley in support of the WPCA Benevolent Fund, as well as

at the Siksika Nation to aid in flood relief. With editorial and design assistance from his daughter **Tara Wittchen**, Ed kept fans and sponsors connected with chuckwagon racing year round through his newsletter *Turning the Barrels*, serving as reporter, photographer and editor. Always visible with camera in tow, Ed made himself available for any function he felt could benefit the WPCA; no mile was too long or moment too scarce.

His presence, passion and undying work ethic for the sport made him an admired and highly respected member of the chuckwagon community. The bronze trophy, sponsored by UFA, was presented to



Jim Bottomley, for whom the Chuckwagon Person of the Year Award is now named, speaks during this year's presentation.

Photo by Gary Nichols



Ed Wittchen receives the Chuckwagon Person of the Year Award from Rae Croteau, Jr., Jim Bottomley and Ken Scott.

Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



The 2014 WPCA Awards Night, continued

Ed by Ken Scott of UFA, Jim Bottomley and Bonnyville's own Rae Croteau, Jr. (Ed lived and worked in Bonnyville for 28 years).

2014 World Champion Outrider

The World Champion Outrider is the outrider who accumulates the most number of points over the chuckwagon season. The 2014 World Champion Outrider is **Chance Flad**. Chance sat solidly in second place most of the season, trying to track down leader and three-time world champion **Chad Cosgrave**. As the tour headed to

the final stop in Rocky Mountain House, Chance found himself trailing Chad by 218 points, setting up a battle for the ages. After a strong first three nights, Chance still trailed by 83 points with one night to go. Chance saved his best for last on night four, though, the very last day to earn points. He recorded the biggest point night of any outrider this season to capture his first world title.

Chance was a mainstay with **Kirk Sutherland's** outfit, with show wins in Saskatoon, the Battle of the North

in Dawson Creek and the Battle of the Rockies in Rocky Mountain House. As well, he helped Rick Fraser win the Guy Weadick Days races in High River.

In an emotional response to winning the award, Chance took time to recognize and thank **Doug Irvine** and his wife Jimmi Lou, who introduced him to wagon racing when he was a 12-year-old barn hand and later introduced him to outriding. He rode his first race for Doug at age 16 and continues to demonstrate that loyalty.

Chance received the bronze trophy and cash award from **Mike Cullen**, who was representing the outrider sponsor Ferus. Earlier in the year, after he secured the title, Chance also received the keys to a brand-new championship truck. As well, he received the championship buckle from **Randy Cripps**, sponsored by Bush Ape.

2014 World Champion Chuckwagon Driver and WPCA GMC Sierra Cup Series Winner

The World Champion Chuckwagon Driver is the driver who accumulates the most number of points over the chuckwagon season. The 2014 World Champion Chuckwagon Driver and WPCA GMC Sierra Cup Series Winner is Kirk Sutherland. After back-to-back second-place



Mike Cullen, representing the outrider sponsor Ferus, presents Chance Flad with the World Champion Outrider bronze and cash award.

Photo by Easton Wagon Photography



The 2014 WPCA Awards Night, continued

finishes in 2012 and 2013, Kirk was not to be denied in 2014.

After a somewhat slow start at the Grande Prairie Stompede, Kirk rebounded to post two first-place day money runs on his way to winning the four-day aggregate at Saskatoon to climb from 20th to 7th place in the standings, and then finished 5th at the Medicine Hat Stampede to move up to 3rd place. He qualified for the sudden-death final at the Ponoka Stampede to finish out the first half of the season in first place in the standings.

After a solid top-10 finish in High River, Kirk surrendered top spot to four-time world champion **Jason Glass** and found himself in a four-way race for the rest of the season with Jason, 2014 Ponoka and Calgary Stampede champion **Kurt Bensmiller** and 2013 world champion Rick Fraser. After a runner-up finish in Strathmore, Kirk headed to the Battle of the North in Dawson Creek trailing Jason by 24 points.

These two champions had an epic battle, with Captain Kirk coming out on top by posting his second show



Michelle Bovon, representing GMC, presents Kirk Sutherland with the 2014 World Champion Chuckwagon Driver and WPCA GMC Sierra Cup Series bronze and buckle. Ken Malvin of KMC Sales also presented Kirk with the WPCA world champion jacket during the awards night. Kirk picked up the WPCA world champion truck earlier in the year at Rocky Mountain House.

Photo by Easton Wagon Photography

victory of the year. Heading to the Battle of the Rockies for the final stop on the 2014 Pro Tour, Kirk was clinging to a 15-point lead on Jason

Glass. Demonstrating his true championship form, Kirk won his ninth first-place day money of the year on day four to clinch his first ever WPCA world championship. Kirk's impressive season included three show wins and nine first-place day money runs, and he finished in the top 10 in eight of the nine tour stops. He was also the winner of the GMC Sierra Cup Series.

Kirk was presented with the WPCA world champion truck in Rocky Mountain House. At the awards night, Michelle Bovon presented Kirk with the magnificent world champion bronze and buckle. Ken Malvin of KMC Sales also presented Kirk with the WPCA world champion jacket.

Congratulations to all the award winners, and many thanks to all the sponsors who support these awards. Thank you as well to everyone who was able to attend the awards banquet in early October and for those who could not attend but supported in other ways.