



TURNING THE BARRELS

The Official Newsletter of the World Professional Chuckwagon Association

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AGGIE DAYS

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WPCA drivers helped students celebrate Alberta's agricultural heritage at the Calgary Stampede's 2017 Aggie Days.

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ONE FOR THE ARCHIVES

Steele Glass with her new horse and best friend Ugly.



Official Truck of the WPCA



Aggie Days



Left: Logan Gorst joins CPCA driver Kris Molle to sign cards and posters for Calgary students. *Above:* Jason Glass signing autographs, with his kids Bodie and Steele nearby to help out. *Right:* Troy and Blaid Flad.



THE CALGARY STAMPEDE'S Agriculture Education Committee invited elementary school teachers and their students from the Calgary area to attend Aggie Days from April 5 to 9. Aggie Days is an excellent opportunity for students in grades 3, 4 and 5 to learn more about Alberta's agricultural industry. There is no charge for schools to participate in this program.

The Calgary Stampede wants students to understand that agriculture is Canada's leading industry, employing a third of our workforce. It is important for students to find out what is happening "out on the farm" and how agriculture affects our daily lives.

The displays and interactive activities, which are hosted by the Agriculture Education Committee, industry organizations and volunteers, are designed to help students learn more about Alberta's agricultural and historical legacy. It is a day of displays and hands-on interactive activities.

The students could visit a number of curriculum-related learning centres, including ones about cow milking, flour milling, egg production, grain farming, sheep shearing, bee keeping, blacksmithing, First Nations culture, beef cattle, rope making and more. There were also equine presentations, including ones by the WPCA and CPCA.

The WPCA was pleased to take part and to introduce the sport of chuckwagon racing to thousands of excited school students. The kids had the chance to watch a video, meet drivers, and get cards and posters autographed by them. WPCA drivers volunteered three hours of their time to talk to students, teachers and parents about their passion. Drivers taking part included **John Walters, Logan Gorst, Dustin Gorst, Codey McCurrach, Obrey Motowylo, Chad Fike, Troy Flad, Blaid Flad, Jordie Fike and Jason Glass.**

Chuckwagon Judges Clinic



Above: Jim Hosfelt, Director of Public Safety and Track Operations at Dover International Speedway, spoke to judges at a recent workshop.
Right, top: WPCA judge Orville Hammer.
Right, bottom: Stampede judges clinic coordinator Catherine Laycraft.

ONCE AGAIN, JUST as they did last year, the judges from the Calgary Stampede, WPCA and CPCA got together this spring to review their processes and rules in an attempt to standardize and clarify the way the rules will be called specifically at the Calgary Stampede.

Over 20 judges from the three groups came together on a Friday night and Saturday to talk about the current rules and how they are interpreted. **Mark Sutherland** facilitated the workshop. He presented a series of video examples for the judges to view and to comment on how they would have interpreted the race infractions that were called in the original videos.

Mark has been on the WPCA Judging Committee for several years, and is widely recognized for his extensive knowledge about what is in the rule book and why.

Thanks to WPCA judges **Dale Haroldson, Tim Haroldson, Mike Lalonde, Dave Rookes, Kevin Baird, Randy Hoff,**

Wayne Russell, and Danny and Orville Hammer, as well as WPCA Vice President **John Lee** for giving up their weekend to work toward improving judging for everyone.

Thanks also to the Calgary Stampede, specifically **Catherine Laycraft, Paul Kavanagh, Robert Wise, Kynan Vine, Cathy Henderson and Lawrence Dundas,** for organizing and hosting the group. They also brought in **Jim Hosfelt** as a keynote speaker for Friday night.

Jim is the Director of Public Safety and Track Operations at the Dover International Speedway in Kent County, Delaware. Dover International Speedway is perhaps the most unique venue in the sport of auto racing. At speeds exceeding 160 miles per hour (almost 260 kilometres per hour), drivers face 24 degrees of banking in all four turns, as well as 9 degrees of incline on the straightaways. Dover International Speedway has a reputation as the world's fastest one-mile concrete oval. And just like in wagon racing, the people in this sport and at this facility put a premium on safety.

Chuckwagon Judges Clinic



Above: Calgary Stampede judge Jerry Bremner and WPCA judge Tim Haroldson (left photo) and WPCA judge Dale Haroldson and CPCA driver Todd Baptiste (right photo) listen at the judges workshop.



Left: WPCA judge Mike Lalonde.

Below: WPCA driver Mark Sutherland sits on the WPCA Judging Committee and was the workshop facilitator.



Above: WPCA judge Wayne Russell.

Below: WPCA judges Kevin Baird and Dave Rookes.



Tour Tarp Auction Results



Above: Mark and Dina Sutherland busy bidding for various sponsors during the 2017 Tour tarp auction. *Right:* The VJV Team handling the phones.



THE CANVAS AUCTION for the 2017 WPCA Tour took place at the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino on April 6. Prime advertising space on the chuckwagons of the best drivers in the world was available for stops in Grande Prairie, Saskatoon, Medicine Hat, High River, Bonnyville, Strathmore, Dawson Creek and Rocky Mountain House.

The impact of the two-year slide in the economy and particularly in the oil patch, which has long been the source of many sponsors, continued to be felt. Although loyal tarp sponsors continued to support their favourite drivers and new companies got involved, economic challenges are evident in both the number of sponsors and the amounts bid.

The overall total of the sale was down \$81,700 over the same eight locations in 2016. That is somewhat tempered by the fact that only 35 drivers were in the auction.

Last year's WPCA Top Rookie Driver **Cody Fraser** will not be competing in 2017 and a replacement driver hasn't been named yet. As well, **Layne Bremner** has decided to retire after the 2017 Ponoka Stampede. Third-generation driver **Blaide Flad** will take his place for the remainder of the year. Finally, **Colt Cosgrave** will be retiring after the Calgary Stampede. A replacement driver will be named for the last four shows of the 2017 Tour.

The Grande Prairie Stompede saw a top bid of \$7,750 from Driving Force for **Chanse Vigen's** tarp. That was followed closely by a bid of \$7,000 from longtime sponsor H & E Oilfield Services for **Obrey Motowylo** and another \$7,000 bid by Cascade Energy Services for **Layne MacGillivray**. The Stompede continues to be a strong show on the WPCA Tour. This year's auction saw a very respectable average tarp bid of \$4,500.

The top bid in Saskatoon came from HJR Asphalt, a longtime sponsor for **Gary Gorst**. This time around they bid on Gary for \$8,000. Rusway Construction was next with their bid of \$7,500 for **Roger Moore**. Several strong bids of \$5,000 showed positive signs of growth for the Saskatoon show, including those for **Logan Gorst** (BCDR Mechanical Repair Services), **Dustin Gorst** (Ashley Richards Memorial), Obrey Motowylo (H & E Oilfield Services) and **Mitch Sutherland** (GMC Dealers of Alberta).

Four drivers shared the honour of the top bid of \$5,000 in Medicine Hat. **Troy Dorchester** partnered with LaFarge Canada Ltd., a longtime sponsor. Obrey Motowylo once again has his tarp sponsored by H & E Oilfield Services. Mitch Sutherland is sponsored by GMC Dealers of Alberta and Layne MacGillivray will be showing the tarp of Jacar Energy Services.

Tour Tarp Auction Results

High River saw three drivers sharing the top spot with bids of \$6,000. Obrey Motowylo once again will have the H & E Oilfield Services tarp on his wagon. **Jordie Fike** will have Shawne Excavating and Trucking Ltd. when he races in his hometown. Mitch Sutherland once again has GMC Dealers of Alberta.

Roger Moore led the way in Bonnyville with the top bid of \$10,500 from Rusway Construction. Logan Gorst followed him with a bid of \$8,000 from Flashpoint Electric Ltd. Layne MacGillivray was next at \$7,000 from Cougar Fuels.



Layne MacGillivray led the way in Strathmore with a top bid of \$6,750 from Breakaway Industries. He was followed closely by Obrey Motowylo with \$6,000 from his usual sponsor H & E Oilfield Services. **Mark Sutherland** was next with Jesco Electric winning his tarp rights for \$5,750.

Dawson Creek saw three drivers with matching \$6,000 bids for the top spot: **John Walters** with BJ Enterprises, Obrey Motowylo with H & E Oilfield Services and **Jason Glass** with Glass Racing. (Jason will be selling race nights to other sponsors.)

The season-ending show in Rocky Mountain House saw H & E Oilfield Services once again at the top with their bid of \$7,000 for Obrey



Left, top: Jamie Tiessen from the Chuckwagon Radio Network and WPCA Vice President John Lee.

Left, middle: Sue Fraser and Tammy Kristiansen hard at work.

Left, bottom: Bryan Hebson running WPCA Live on Facebook.

Below: Brienne Glass and Tour tarp auction MC Les McIntyre.



Tour Tarp Auction Results



Above: Layne MacGillivray with potential tarp sponsors.

Right, top: Support from the Calgary Stampede's Catherine Laycraft and Paul Kavanagh.

Right, middle: Dustin Gorst and sponsor Rick Pauloski of Black Jack Livestock.

Right, bottom: Jason Glass, Brent Bolster and Colt Cosgrave.



Motowylo. Four drivers tied for second spot with \$5,000 bids. **Kurt Bensmiller** went to NexSource Power Inc., **Troy Dorchester** went to Eldorado Pressure, Mitch Sutherland once again went to GMC Dealers of Alberta and Layne MacGillivray went to Rai-Lynn Trucking.

Seven drivers were bought by the same sponsor for all eight shows, although a couple of them will be selling individual night sponsorships.

Obrey Motowylo once again has H & E Oilfield Services backing him at every stop, just as they have done for several years. Obrey also led the way with bids, adding up to \$48,000.

Doug Irvine has longtime sponsor B & R Eckel's Transport at all shows. Mitch Sutherland will carry the tarp of GMC Dealers of Alberta every night. **Troy Flad** has longtime sponsor Ironwood Building Corporation lined up every night. **Kirk Sutherland** will once again carry the EMCO Corporation tarp. John Walters has BJ Enterprises and **Vern Nolin** has Nolin Racing. Both will be selling individual sponsor nights.



The final sale of the year will be on May 5 for the Ponoka Stampede. Watch for updates on the WPCA website and through WPCA social media. We'll also include Ponoka auction results in the next issue of this newsletter.

Tour Tarp Auction Results



Left: Blaid Flad at his first WPCA tarp auction.

Right: Shannon Flad with Blaid.

Below, left: Mike Liggett with Troy Flad.

Below, right: Gage Flad with his grandmother Gaylene Groeneveld.



Photos in this issue supplied by Brienne Glass, Shalyn Gorst, Troy Flad Racing and Ed Wittchen.

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SPONSOR SUPPORT

In 2017, 2W Livestock Equipment will present the Behind the Barns feature during radio broadcasts. 2W Livestock Equipment manufactures and distributes livestock equipment unparalleled in quality and design. Their large distributor network throughout North America helps serve their customers in the horse, cattle, bison and sheep industries. They design a wide range of equipment systems for rodeo, roping and acreage communities.

