



*April 4, 2024*

*SPRING HAS SPRUNG!*

## NVRA SPRING NEWSLETTER

### **NVRA MEMBERSIPS**

In our winter Newsletter, we reminded everyone that memberships in the Rodeo Association were due. If you do not yet have your 2024 membership, we hope you have just procrastinated and that you will renew, or perhaps join us as a member for the first time.

Simply put, we need you. And it's not just the \$10.00 membership fee. You are all likely aware that 3 years ago we embarked on an ambitious program of upgrades and improvements to the rodeo grounds. That program was part of a long-term plan aimed at expanding the use of the

facility and renewing community involvement with better, bigger and more events. The changes and improvements we have introduced to our own Pro Rodeo are a good example of what we hope to do.

***Get your membership  
now at our website  
[nicolavalleyrodeo.com](http://nicolavalleyrodeo.com)!***

Capital improvements take a lot of, well, *capital* and we depend heavily on grants. Often, the size of membership of the organization is a factor in applying for the grant. We believe that our Association has widespread community support. We see that in our sponsorships, in our volunteers, and in our increasing attendance figures, but we need to

also be able to show it in our membership figures.

Please take a minute to get a membership now, if you have not already done so, while you are reading this. Our goal this year is at least 100 members. And here's a bonus - if you are asking what you get for that membership, we are this year giving you a 1-day pass to the Pro Rodeo, worth \$25.00! To claim it, you will simply have to give your name at the admission gate. That's not a bad return on a \$10 investment!

Please note as well that, if you are a renewing member and your contact information, including address, **has not** changed from last year, you do not need to complete the online form. Instead, simply send an etransfer for \$10.00 to [nicolavalleyrodeoassociation@gmail.com](mailto:nicolavalleyrodeoassociation@gmail.com), clearly indicating your name and purpose of the transfer ("John Doe, 2024 membership") in the comment section. Or mail a cheque to NVRA, 499 Lindley Creek Rd., Merritt, V1K 1L4

Please show us your support and overwhelm us with your response!

## AGM AND SOCIAL EVENING

This year, we tried something a bit different, by hosting a social evening including music by local singer/songwriter, Ross Fairweather, with our Annual General Meeting held at the Country Music Hall of Honour. It was a successful first go with this format and about 40 people attended to share some food and refreshments and hear a recap of last season along with plans for this year.

*2024 Board of Directors was elected during a fun evening at Merritt's Country Music Hall of Honour*

The board of directors for 2024 was elected at the meeting. They include returning directors Melissa Dinsdale, Lis Ladyman, Gert Leslie, Mary MacGregor, Randy Rogers, Jacqueline Whitecross and Peter Spencer, as well as new directors, Greg Alexander and Jan Coghill. At a subsequent meeting, the board elected to carry forward with the same executive: president Peter Spencer, vice-president Melissa Dinsdale, secretary Mary MacGregor, and treasurer Gert Leslie.

## SEASON OPENING COMING UP SOON

Our first event of 2024 is now less than a month away. Mike Gill kicks things off with a clinic for (mostly) rodeo competitors in High School and Little Britches kids. Then the Merritt High School Rodeo is scheduled for May 4 and 5. For those of you who don't know, the high school rodeo is a fun event and worth attending. It's free so come out and support the kids and see some future rodeo stars perform.

*You can see a list and description of upcoming event on our website!*

May 25 brings another youth event: Electric Rodeo – Edison High School Challenge! Local company Edison Motors donated some essentials to build electric Go-Karts to high schools all over the country and are holding a race day in Merritt to determine the most successful engineers in several categories. This promises to be great fun and it is also free to attend!

## IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

With the moisture from winter having now largely dried up, construction has resumed on our continuing upgrade projects. Last week saw the removal of the gravel in the concourse and beer garden and its replacement with crush which, will provide a much-improved walkway and passage, particularly for those with mobility issues.



In addition, work has now begun on the conversion of the tractor shed into the planned entry plaza and office. That work will see the current metal siding replaced with rough lumber and a western façade, a display area with storage and office on the inside, and a western-themed boardwalk on the inner concourse side of the building.

**LIVESTOCK SHED PLANS ADOPTED BY BOARD**

We previously reported that last fall, the directors resolved to build a loafing shed inside the large livestock corral, known as the “bull pen”. We recognize that livestock contained in that area occasionally require shelters from either wind, sun or other severe weather conditions. Directors

Randy Rogers and Greg Alexander have agreed to manage the construction and a rough design has been approved that envisions a structure approximately 32 feet wide by 16 feet deep, positioned against the interior of the corral fence on the north side. We are looking for used or donated materials in an effort to reduce the cost of purchasing new lumber. The building will need at least six large posts, either 6”x 6” dimensional or round posts, as well as 2x10 roof joists/ rafters and rough

boards for siding. If anyone has access to materials such as these and would like to help the Association in this manner, or any other way, please contact us at our email, nicolavalleyrodeoassociation@gmail.com or call Randy Rogers 604.818.4173. Any help anyone can give us would be appreciated.

*Can you help with building materials?*

**VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED!**

With a new season and new construction happening, comes a renewed need for volunteers. .

Pease watch your email for notices of work days and help needed for scheduled events. A Spring Cleaning workbee will be the first on the agenda and a helper request for that has already gone out. Many of the tasks associated with events are quite menial, but very necessary. Sweeping the grandstands, setting out and emptying garbage cans, sorting refundable containers, and the list goes on, all are needed to make an event successful.

*Watch your email for a “volunteers needed” notice & schedule*

Maintenance at the grounds, like everywhere, is an ongoing requirement, so help with general “handyman” tasks and repairs is very gratefully received.

Beyond that, we have a need for people able to register campers and collect fees at some events. Also at certain events, we need a person dedicated to stall rentals - unlocking stalls, collecting fees and then checking stalls for cleanliness and returning cleaning deposits. These duties need a high level of commitment and if you are interested, please contact us specially or let us know on the volunteer form that was sent out.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Coming to the Country Music Hall of Honour on September 21, 2024 is Ryan Fritz, cowboy poet and singer/songwriter. It is sure to be a fun and entertaining evening. We really need to support this and other shows at the Hall of Honour if we don’t want to lose this fantastic little venue in Merritt.

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**QUESTIONS?** . . . . . *email us* at nicolavalleyrodeoassociation@gmail.com.

*Please follow us* on Social Media @nicolavalleyrodeo

*Check out* our website at nicolavalleyrodeo.com