



August 26, 2024

NVRA SUMMER NEWSLETTER

NICOLA VALLEY PRO RODEO August 31 and September 1. COUNTDOWN is on!

The weekend festivities begin on Friday with a parade and music at the grounds!

Our biggest event each year, the Pro Rodeo, is only a week away and a surprising number of people continue to ask “when is this again?”. Surprising to us, because the Pro Rodeo has happened in Merritt on Labour Day weekend for 64 years. Posters are up all over town and there is lots of information on our website nicolavalleyrodeo.com as well as almost daily social media posts.

If you haven't attended recently, come take it in! As rodeo manager, Mary Macgregor has implemented improvements to the show each year for the past several, with the best in rodeo stock, top competitors in all events, a video scoreboard, and informative, professional announcing.

We try to make the Rodeo a family event and this year you will find a Kidszone, more than a dozen retail vendors and displays, and a family-oriented session before the dance including Kids' Karaoke.

But don't miss Friday night! The Rodeo Parade kicks off in town at 6:30 pm, followed by music at the Rodeo Grounds featuring Jeff Wyatt and the Windjammers. There's no charge for this event - no ticket required. And both food and alcohol service will be open.

An added feature this year is the dance right at the grounds, with a share of the proceeds going to the Ty Pozzobon Foundation. Join us Saturday evening and bring your family for the Rodeo Dance under the Nicola Valley sky. Children's Karaoke starts at 5 o'clock and the dancing, with music by the Coquihalla Coyotes, starts at 7

RODEO & DANCE
Action-Packed Family Fun

Experience the Heritage of the Nicola Valley

August 31 & September 1, 2024

RODEO SATURDAY & SUNDAY • 1PM
DANCE SATURDAY • 7PM-MIDNIGHT
PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY 8AM
COWBOY CHURCH SUNDAY • 9:30AM

Location: Nicola Valley Rodeo Grounds, Merritt BC
Tickets online at nicolavalleyrodeo.com
OR available at Rurty Feed.

64th ANNUAL RODEO | nicolavalleyrodeo.com

Avoid the line-ups by getting your tickets in advance, online or at Purity Feed in Merritt.

RANCH RODEO AUGUST 24

If you've never been to the Ranch Rodeo, you're missing a wonderful experience!

Despite torrential rain, an arena that at times looked like Englishman Lake, and cool temperatures (where did this come from?), the event drew teams from most of the major ranches in this area, as well as from further away, to compete in a range of events that focus on skills that the cowboys draw on daily in their work. It was a great reminder that ranch work does not wait for good weather!



2024 Winners:

- 1st- Chapperon Division of Douglas Lake Ranch won custom bits by Richard Brooks
- 2nd- Stump Lake Ranch won snaffle bits made by Dean Bohnenblust
- 3rd- Nicola Ranch won rein chains made by Richard Brooks Winner of the Ranch Horse competition
- Top Hand of the weekend was Colby Stewart, winning a headstall by Leighton Brooks and stirrups by Flying V Stirrups
- Top Bronc Rider winning a buckle by Richard Tenisch and \$ 640 was Ryan Roberts

NEW SIGHTS AT THE GROUNDS

When entering the grounds, you might notice our updated entry sign at the main gate on Lindley Creek Rd. We acknowledge and thank our director Jan Coghill and her company, Etched JustJan, who did both the design and work, as well as Robert Hack who helped us with the repainting of the old sign and installation of the newly designed work.



Our effort to make the concourse more accessible continues. While the former gravel has been stripped away and replaced by more easily navigable crusher chips, the compaction process has been postponed until later in September due to the continuing heavy vehicle traffic and work going on in that area.

We are pleased to report that construction of the livestock shed in the "bull pen" on the northwest corner of the rodeo grounds is well underway, with framing largely complete and the roof expected to go on next week.

MORE GROUNDS UPGRADES ARE NEARING COMPLETION

We've tried to keep you informed about our continuing upgrades to the Rodeo Grounds and while there are still a few major improvements that we expect to carry out in the fall, one of the biggest changes has been to the former tractor and equipment shed. The building has undergone a major refit as part of a grant from the TNRD Community Development Fund and has been converted into a western styled admissions and entry hall, complete with a reception area and administration office, all of which opens onto the inner concourse and a covered western board walk. The conversion was carried out by Nicola Valley Carpentry, and we think you will agree, the new building looks wonderful and is going to be a real asset to our facilities. We need a desk, preferably traditional rather than modern, for the office. if anyone has one lying around and would like to contribute it, please let us know.



PRO RODEO VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION / ORIENTATION DINNER

There will be a Pro Rodeo volunteers' reception with dinner and refreshments at the grounds Monday, August 26 at 6:00 pm. We will introduce team leaders and provide a briefing as to your job at the event. Please join us.

We are so grateful for all the volunteers that help to make Merritt's pro rodeo a success!

Besides for the pro rodeo, we always need volunteers to help prepare for our many other events throughout the season. Though we try to utilize our volunteers effectively, and to express our appreciation, we may not always do a good job at that. But let us say again, anyone able and available to lend a hand, either now or at other times throughout the year, is welcome. Simply fill out the form on our website or contact us otherwise to say so.'

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

Please follow us on Social Media @[@nicolavalleyrodeo](https://www.instagram.com/nicolavalleyrodeo)

Check out our website at nicolavalleyrodeo.com