



January 2014

The Buffalo Rancher

Official Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association

Important Dates:

PLAN TO ATTEND!

*January 22 - 25, 2014
NBA GTSS (see pg. 6)*

*April 11-12, 2014
RMBA Spring Meeting
(see pg. 4)*

*June 4-6, 2014
NBA Summer Conference*

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Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association
303 S. Broadway, Ste B522
Denver, CO 80209

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Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association Fall Workshop Sept. 6-7, 2013

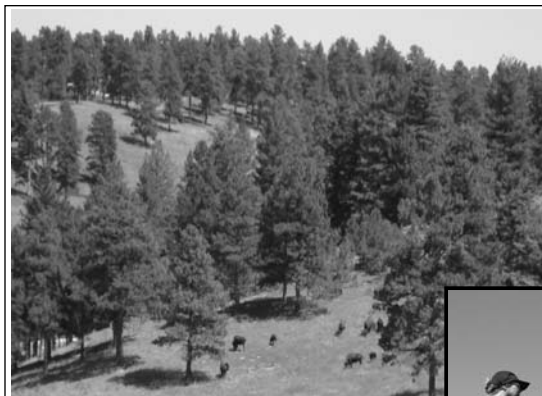
By: Tudi Arneill and Patty Smith

A wooden shield, a rustic, homemade wooden shield was the original protection equipment for the guys herding the Genesee herd of bison. It looked well used and Matt Brown keeps it around for old time's sake. Nowadays, they use modern vehicles, corrals and squeeze chutes and modern medicine to keep Denver's beloved herd of bison healthy.

Denver Mountain Parks welcomed the Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association (RMBA) members and guests on Friday, Sept. 6, 2013 at the Genesee Park facility. They showed their handling facilities, Dick Gannon provided free hats against the bright afternoon sun (Larry had



to have a pink one), and they gave us a leisurely tour of the pastures and animals themselves. This herd and the one at Daniel's Park are the property of the City of Denver, which means that many people expect them to be seen and photographed.



After our afternoon in the mountains, we battled serious city traffic to make it to the Westin Hotel in Westminster for our chef-designed bison dinner at Kachina Southwestern Grill. With a theme of "From Nose to Tail", executive chef Jeff Boulton surprised us with bison tongue tacos, bison heart tartar, and Rocky Mountain bison oysters. The entrée was a rib-eye steak with smoked chili oil and dessert was a pistachio bread pudding with a bacon gelato. We dined outdoors with a large fireplace and the fine mist didn't dampen anyone's spirits.



continued on page 4



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*RMBA Official Web Site:
buffaloranchers.com
303/243-0900*

**All RMBA meeting minutes
and financials are available from
Secretary-Treasurer Tudi Arneill**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from eastern Colorado!! The "sale" season is in full swing and the buffalo market is looking steady, not only in price, but numbers. I also have had a more than usual number of phone calls and e-mail inquiries about getting into the buffalo business - to me this also indicates a strong position. Even with commodities faltering a bit, I see nothing out of the ordinary affecting the buffalo market. This is a great position to be in as we move forward into a new year.

As most of you know, we will not be having our Show and Sale this coming year, however we are planning a Peak to Peak Conference & Meeting, April 11 & 12, 2014, at the Embassy Suites in Denver. The focus for the conference will be pasture and range conditions. (More details on page 4. As we have been experiencing more extreme weather conditions, pasture and range management becomes an even more important part of our decisions and strategies. With this being the main focus, we will also have some of the veterinarians on hand who have been on the forefront of developing a vaccine for mycoplasma. Also, from the Denver Museum of Natural History, Dr. Krell will enlighten us to the importance of dung beetles and the role they play in our pasture here in the plains desert. We gave you a start about dung beetles in our last newsletter, come here 'the rest of the story!' We feel this will be a very informative and interesting conference, and as always we plan on having

fun, food and fellowship. Plan on attending and hope to see you all there.

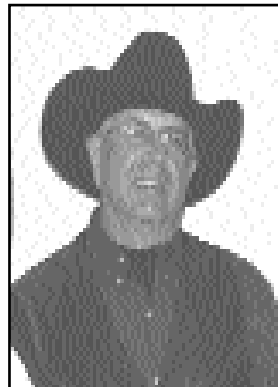
I would like to encourage all of our members to become more involved in RMBA. Most of the projects and tasks are not time consuming or difficult. If you see a need or have any suggestions or ideas please contact me or any of the members of the board, as we are open to hear what the membership is wanting. Also, there are two Board positions up for election at the April General Meeting, if you are interested in one of these positions please contact Patty Smith.

Finally, as I sit down to write this article, the deep freeze has begun. Once again the weather is on the forefront of our industry. My thoughts and prayers for those recently affected by such events, the Colorado floods, South Dakota blizzard, tornados in Oklahoma, & the mid-east, etc. It is amazing to see and hear of people helping others when in need.

Hoping everyone had a very Merry Christmas & God Bless.

Luke 4:11 "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born; he is Christ the Lord."

Larry Higgins



2013 - 2014 RMBA Board of Directors

Pictured left to right:
Larry Higgins, Brent
Ginther, Debbie Thieman,
Boyd Meyer, Tudi Arneill,
Tom Sowle, and Dave
Hayes.



Mycoplasma Vaccine Now Available

Turner Enterprises, Inc., in cooperation with Newport labs, is making available to bison producers a new vaccine for Mycoplasma bovis. The National Bison Association is working with Turner and Newport to communicate the availability of the new vaccine throughout the bison business.

Dave Hunter, DVM, the veterinarian for Ted Turner's bison herd, has been working with Newport Labs for more than a year to develop a vaccine specifically for bison.

In a letter distributed to NBA members via email this week, Hunter explained, "We had saved samples from all the mycoplasma losses since 2000 on Turner ranches and found only two strains caused disease in the bison. The bacterin (killed organism) was developed from these strains. It has now been given to the entire herd for two years and appears safe for use in pregnant bison and calves. The Turner ranches have not lost bison to mycoplasma since the initiation of the vaccination program. No vaccine is 100% effective against disease, but mycoplasma has not been a primary pathogen on the bison since the vaccination program was initiated.

"In working with Newport Laboratories and the Food and Drug Administration we are now able to offer this vaccine for use in all bison herds. These herds will be classified as "non-adjacent" bison herds. We are working with the National Bison Association to inform producers of the availability of this vaccine," Hunter wrote.

NBA members wanting to utilize the vaccine should follow these steps:

Email the National Bison Association at jim@bisoncentral.com with the number of animals to be vaccinated. One dose for production herd and a booster for those going to a feedlot. The vaccine has a shelf life of 18 months.

Dr. Hunter will notify Newport Labs of the number of doses needed. Instruct your Vet to contact Newport Labs to order the vaccine.

The veterinarian will then pay Newport Laboratories directly at the rate of \$0.71/dose, and will bill the rancher accordingly.

The vaccine will take several months to produce and be available in mid-summer. Also, federal regulations prohibit the shipment of the vaccine outside of the United States. Dr. Hunter is working with scientists in Canada to make a vaccine available to producers there and we will notify our Canadian friends when it becomes available.

Hunter also encouraged producers contacting the NBA on the mycoplasma vaccine to please include any "pinkeye" issues you might have had over the past two years.



In Memory of Richard Alan Zahringer 1953 - 2013

Richard Alan Zahringer, 60, died after a brave battle against esophageal cancer on December 10, 2013, in Parker, CO. His strong will to live and unwavering faith in God and the love and prayer of friends and family carried him through his final days. He was born on January 9, 1953 in Sedalia, MO to Virginia (Smith) and Frank Zahringer who preceded him in death. He is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Karen (Bottcher) Zahringer. He had one son, Jason (Julie) Zahringer and adored his three grandchildren; Bella, Paloma, and Julian. He graduated from Smith-Cotton High School in 1970 and was a graduate of the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Richard's involvement with the bison industry began more than 20 years ago. He was active in implementing bylaws for the RMBA as well as working with RBMA doing their year end accounting and taxes. Richard was also involved for most of the history of the current National Bison Association, and served as the associations accountant. "Rich will be deeply missed, not only as our accountant, but as a friend and a person who played an important role in the growth of the National Bison Association and the buffalo business," said Dave Carter, NBA executive director. "He was passionate about buffalo, and was generous with his time and talents."

Since 2005, Zahringer worked as Chief Financial Officer for Rocky Mountain Natural Meats, Inc., Henderson, CO. The staff of Rocky Mountain Natural Meats issued a statement reading, in part, "Rich truly believed in the bison industry and took pride in his role with Rocky Mountain Natural Meats and the NBA. Rich enjoyed working with producers and the bison. "The entire bison community has lost a dedicated champion and he will be sorely missed," said Bob Dineen.

Zahringer was also an avid outdoors' man and was a member of many sporting and gun clubs. He contributed his time and talent as a board member of the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry and the Parker Hospital Foundation.

He will be remembered for his ease in conversation, unwavering generosity and humble demeanor that won the trust and hearts of many.

Peak to Peak Spring Conference and Meeting April 11 - 12, 2014

Come join us April 11 & 12, 2014 at the Embassy Suites in Denver. RMBA is going to have a "pasture and range conference." We have three sessions planned; pasture and range management, the role and importance the "The Mighty Dung Beetle", and the latest on Mycoplasma, with some of the vets who are on the cutting edge of this disease. Now, you may be thinking, "Ho! Hum!", but these are three important topics, and three interesting speakers, with all three in a panel setting at the end ready to answer any and all questions.

We also will have the General Membership Business Meeting and Elections, Banquet and Fun Auction, with an emphasis on the Fun! So mark your calendar and plan to attend! More information and registration forms will be coming soon.

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 11, 2014

4:00pm-4:45pm - Board Meeting

5:00pm - 6:00pm - General Business Meeting & Elections

6:00pm - 7:00pm - Social Hour (cash bar, buffalo sausage & cheese tray)

7:00pm - 8:00pm - Banquet (buffalo prime rib) with Fun Auction to follow

Saturday 12, 2014

9:00am - 10:00am - Rachel Murphy, USDA

speaking on pasture & range management.

10:00am - 10:15am Break

10:15am - 11:30am - Veterinarians and Mycoplasma

11:30am - 12:30pm Lunch (taco bar)

12:30pm - 1:30pm - Dr. Krell presentation on

Dung Beetles and their role and importance.

1:30pm - 2:30pm Panel, Q & A

2:30pm - Conference end

RMBA Fall Workshop, cont. from pg 1



Saturday was another bright sunny day - and the Daniels Park bison cooperated by placing themselves close to the fence for all to see. Daniels Park has a unique setting - beautiful views of the mountains and the city and the pasture where the buffalo awaited us is bordered by a housing development - quite a contrast of urban and rural.

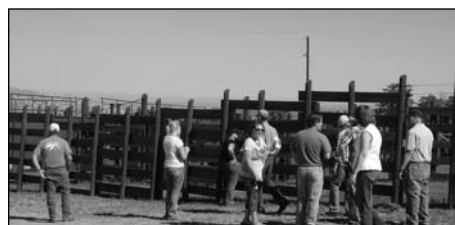
Matt Brown had more stories of Denver Mountain Parks and their buffalo - he was a great



tour guide. We got to see places the average visitor to Daniels Park doesn't see - the original barn and home, and a gazebo with a great view where we had our lunch.

Once we toured the facilities, we gathered at the gazebo. Everyone enjoyed the buffalo burgers provided by Heart Rock Bison grilled by Mike Morgan from DMP and Mike Jeffries from RMBA. Standard potato salad, coleslaw and cookies rounded out the meal.

Matt's wife generously added chips and dip and brownies for all to enjoy. We all felt very welcomed by the Denver Mountain Parks crew!



Thank you to all for making this workshop possible and to all those that joined in on this fabulous fall workshop!



Bison Tasting at Colorado State Fair

August 31, 2013 saw another great crowd at the Colorado State Fair enjoying the bison meat tasting. Chef Don Louie wowed everyone once again with his creative, easy and delicious recipes. The fair had titled the presentation "Healthy Cooking" and it surely was. Chef Louie showed the versatility of the bison meat donated by Larry Higgins and Tudi Arneill. All the recipes were finished in 30 minutes or less and all used ingredients available at any supermarket.



Chef Louie was assisted by a hardworking kitchen crew that included Ray, Debbie and Cannan Thieman, Larry, Tudi and her daughter Betsy Orton. The Bison Spring Rolls



(or "Late Summer Rolls" as Larry dubbed them) were so easy to prepare no one knew none of us had ever made them before. Cannan, age

12, proved to be a champion spring roll roller! We also saw Chef Louie make a fabulous glaze from Dr. Pepper, wrap bison in dough for a bison Wellington appetizer and of course, he included curried bison on a stick. It is the State Fair after all.

The live demonstration impressed more than 200 people while the booth in the education building helped thousands learn a bit more about this impressive animal and its story. A life-sized standing bison cut-out allowed folks to measure their height against it. Photos and artifacts helped folks learn about the raising of buffalo and hand-outs presented ways to get more information.

The big hit was the buffalo-shaped and painted children's table with benches for kids to work on the coloring pages available. Debbie had made it and could have sold several to passing visitors. All



in all, bison made a good showing at the State Fair in 2013!

Recipes Offered included:

Bison Spring Rolls, Dr. Pepper Glaze Bison, Bison Wellington appetizer and Curried Bison on a Stick.

Buffalo Wellington Pockets

Sponsor Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association

By Chef Don Louie

aikanfoods@yahoo.com

Colorado State Fair

August 31, 2013

Severs 3 ea. per-person

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Total cooking Time: 20-30 minutes

Ingredients: 1lb of ½ oz. strip of Buffalo Sirloin/Rib Eye

½lb of chicken/goose liver pate` (optional)

1 cup of finely chopped onion

1 cup of finely chopped mushroom

1 large egg slightly beaten

¼ cup of dry sherry

2TBSP of butter

2 tubes of crescent rolls/puff pastry cut in 3x3 inch square

Salt & Pepper to taste

Equipment: 1 sauté medium pan

1 sheet pan/cookie sheet pan

1 cutting board

1 chef's knife

3-4 small bowls

Cooking Directions: Season the Buffalo surface with salt & pepper. Heat your sauté pan with butter to a medium high heat and sear the Buffalo on all sides for about a minute, set aside and let the meat cool. Place the onions, mushroom add dry sherry, season to taste in the sauté pan and cook until all liquid is gone, set aside and let it cool. Layout the crescent/the puff pastry on the sheet pan spread a small amount of the onion, mushroom and pate' on the pastry, then place the meat in the center and fold the pastry, brush with egg and bake for 10 minutes or until golden brown. Arrange on plate to serve and watch them fly off the plate. Enjoy!!!

Recipes for all the prepared items at State Fair will be available to members on the

RMBA website:

buffaloranchers.com

National Bison Association Updates

19th annual NBA Winter Conference and 34th Gold Trophy Show and Sale (GTSS) January 22 - 25, 2014 Denver Renaissance Hotel

The Winter Conference planning committee, led by Chairwoman Beverly Brown for a second year, is busy meeting monthly to plan what promises to be a fantastic learning and networking opportunity, not to mention a good time for all.

The NBA will return to the Denver Renaissance Hotel, located about 10 minutes from the National Western Stock Show complex, this year and will again offer the included buffet breakfast for just \$5, for guests. This is a great deal, as the buffet breakfast goes for \$17 otherwise. Be sure to select the \$124/night option to receive this breakfast deal each day of the conference. As such, we do not include breakfast at the conference. The Renaissance offers clean, affordable rooms, and a free shuttle to and from Denver International Airport and the National Western Stock Show complex.

Trade Show

Wednesday 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm; Thursday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tentative Agenda:

Wednesday, January 22

7:30 - 4:00 pm - GTSS Animal Check in
8 - 9:00 am - Finance Committee
9 - 11:00 am - Winter Conference Committee Meeting
9:00 - 10:00 am - Throlson American Bison Foundation
10 - 11:30 am - National Buffalo Foundation
12 - 5:00 pm - Registration Open
12 - 4:00 pm - Junior Judging Competition @ Yards
12:30 - 3:00 pm - NBA Board Meeting
12 - 5:00 pm - Exhibitor Setup
5:30 - 7:30 pm - Foundation Evening Welcome Reception & Fashion Show
7:00 pm - Free Time - NWSS Rodeo, etc.

Thursday, January 23

7:00 am - 5:00 pm - Registration and Trade Show Open
8 - 8:15 am - Conference Welcome Speech
8:15 - 9:30 am - Todd Wilkinson, author of "Ted Turner: Quest to Save a Troubled Planet"
9:00 am - Canadian Bison Association Update
9:15 am - Nationwide Agribusiness Bison Insurance Report
9:30 - 10 am - Break - Visit the vendors
10 - Noon - Commercial Marketers Committee
10 - 11:30 am - State/Regional Association Committee
10 - 11:45 am - Bison Mentor Session
11 - 11:30 am - Past President's Council
Noon - 1:15 pm - Bison Culinary Showcase Lunch
1:30 - 2:30 pm - Commercial Marketers Panel Update

2:45 - 3:45 pm - What is a "wild" bison? Panel Discussion
4 - 5:00 pm - Bison Genetics Panel Discussion - Dr. Derr, Dr. Parsons, UC Davis, Texas A&M
5:30 pm - Fun Auction Social and "Last Stand" Book Signing with Todd Wilkinson
6:30 pm - Fun Auction Dinner
Friday, January 24
7 - 1:00 pm - Registration Open
7 - 1:00 pm - Tradeshow Open
7:30 - 8:00 am - Voter Registration Open
8:00 am - General Membership Meeting & Officer Elections
9:30 am - Break - "Visit Vendors"
9:45 am - Keynote presentation - Dr. David Kohl, Virginia Tech Ag-economist/futurist
Noon - 4:00 pm - GTSS Bison Viewing in the stockyards
1:00 - 2:00 pm - GTSS Consignor's Meeting
2:00 - 5:00 pm - NBA Board Meeting
2:00 - 4:00 pm - Buffalero Handling Q&A in the stock yards

5:30 pm - Social Hour with live music by Willie Bean and the Bluegrass Rangers

6:30 pm - GTSS Banquet and Awards Dinner

Saturday, January 25

8 - 2 pm - GTSS Hotel Shuttle
9 - 10:30 am - GTSS Judges Comments
11:00 am - Market Class Auction
Noon - Live Animal Auction

2014 NBA Summer Conference - Branson, Missouri

Wednesday, June 4th - Friday, June 6th

The NBA is pleased to announce the 2014 Summer Conference will take place in and around Branson, MO. Be sure to mark what is sure to be an epic event and join us for bison ranch tours, educational presentations, and all out great times with your fellow buffalo enthusiasts. Details forthcoming.

Host Hotel - The Chateau on the Lake. Please be sure to mention the NBA Summer Conference to receive the discounted group rate of \$125/night, double occupancy. Make your reservation by calling. If you'd like to extend your stay into a vacation, Branson is a great place to do it and the hotel will honor the group rate up to 3 days before and after the NBA Summer Conference, pending availability.

Book online:

<http://booking.ihotelier.com/istay/istay.jsp?hotelID=11529&userType=GRP>. Login is: 062014NTLBI

Or call the Chateau on the Lake 888-333-5253 room reservations 7 days a week 8am to 8pm; no code is needed only the dates and name of the event.



Special Calf Auction at GTSS to Benefit Blizzard Victims

The National Bison Association Board of Directors authorized a special calf auction to be held in conjunction with the 2014 Gold Trophy Show and Sale to raise funds for the Ranchers' Relief Fund, which is providing financial support to livestock producers impacted by the severe blizzard that hit South Dakota and Nebraska in October.

At the recommendation of NBA President Peter Cook, the directors voted to hold a special auction in which calves donated by NBA members would be auctioned to benefit the Ranchers' Relief Fund. NBA members donating a calf for the fundraising auction will not be required to pay an entry fee, and the animals will not be a part of the GTSS judging competition.

"We are fortunate that bison herds largely withstood the severe blizzard, but our friends and neighbors suffered devastating losses that threaten their ability to stay in business. We may be raising different types of animals, but we are all members of the same rural communities," said NBA Regional Director Karen Conley of Rapid City. "This is a great way for bison producers to step up to help."

Cook and board members Boyd Meyer of Colorado and Dick Gehring of Kansas have already announced that they will be donating calves for the auction. Other members wanting to donate calves should contact NBA Assistant Director Jim Matheson at jim@bisoncentral.com.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Refuge Bison Round-up

Reduction of the herd size currently at 85 head is a must said Federal biologists at the RMANR. Current pasture size allows for only 60 head and on Dec. 17, the bison herd was rounded up and 25 animals were sorted off.

The bison themselves have become a driving economic-development force. Federal officials said the refuge has attracted 300,000 visitors this year, mostly to see bison. That's eight times the visitation in 2011, prompting plans to accommodate 1 million visitors at the 27-square-mile refuge. International tourists in rental cars from DIA, Germans in particular, often stop first at the refuge.

Refuge plans call for eventually putting in more internal fencing - and irrigating short-grass prairie - to expand the bison range to 12,000 acres from 2,600 today. That would allow 210 bison roaming right to the edge of Peña, Lucas said. But reaching that level may take a few years. Each bison eats about 50 pounds of grass a day, and overgrazing would weaken the refuge capacity to sustain raptors, prairie dogs, deer and coyotes.

Federal land managers are making master plans, too, for "strategic growth of the national refuge system" - which they say would require collaboration with cities and the state. The bison proved resilient and thrived, with females producing about 18 new calves each spring.

After blood tests, checking identity chips and plucking tail hairs for genetic testing, federal biologists must decide which 27 bison will be cut from the arsenal herd of 87 to avoid degrading the prairie.

Three will be trucked to the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Iowa, and two will move to Sullys Hill National Game Preserve in North Dakota, Segin said. Colorado State University will take another two. Arsenal-refuge managers have discussed holding the rest of the bison culled from their herd through January if necessary.

RMBA Classified Advertising

BUFFALO GAL YARNS

Jill Klawonn at High Point Bison has four different buffalo yarns available. We offer fine hand-knit garments or you can create a one of a kind piece. hpbison@ncolcomm.com or call 970-895-3303.

TRANSPORTATION

Dan Martin will haul your buffalo. No distance too far. Call: 970/824-9207.

**Your ad could be here!
Call to place your FREE ad
before the next issue!
303/857-9306**

RATES:

Classifieds —
Each RMBA member receives one **FREE** ad/issue.

Business Cards — Advertising in the RMBA newsletter costs just \$45 for the entire year (5-6 issues) or just \$10/issue.

All ads must be pre-paid. Contact Laurie Dineen to place your ad today!
laurie@greatrangebison.com

Classified Advertising Pays - especially when it's FREE!

Don't forget your RMBA Fun Auction items for the Spring Peak to Peak meeting!



Tourists getting a closer look at the animals after round-up.





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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Website _____

Mail To:
Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association
303 South Broadway, Suite B522
Denver, Colorado 80209

303/243-0900
www.buffaloranchers.com

DEALING WITH MOTHER NATURE . . . YET AGAIN

By: Dave Hayes

Sixish in the morning...the phone is ringing...I pick up...a voice asks if I'm flooded??? I hesitate thinking this is a prank call. Kinda like 'is your refrigerator running? Yes?!...better go catch it'...I do, however, recognize the caller as one of my horse boarding customers. I put on my glasses and look out the window - its barely getting light... Looks misty and foggy... Not the normal green pasture....It finally sinks in...That's water...and a lot of it. I answer... Yes!



I quickly get dressed and slide on the irrigating boots. Once outside I'm met with a low roar. Sounds like a locomotive in the distance. My pastures were under several feet of water and it was rising. Water as far as I could see. Another foot or two and the buildings would get damp.

The buffalo had moved up close to the corrals and were standing at the edge of the now - Big Thompson Lake. They were familiar with irrigation water, but not this. They would walk up to the water and paw at it, throw



their heads about, and jump back. After a bit, the calves got braver and would run out into the water, splash around and then return to mom...No fear.

Then reality set in. If this does come up another foot or two I need to move forty horses and a bunch of buffalo. I'm now noticing a few propane tanks floating by. There goes an oil field tank. Debris, logs, and full size trees are floating down the river. Some are getting caught under the bridge, some just stop on the highway.

The highway looks washed out by the bridge and not to many fences are left standing... Except mine. Buffalo proof and flood proof. With 2-3/8 inch drill stem in three foot of concrete and ten foot spacing, I was rewarded with the extra tough fence I had built ten years ago. The water was about four foot deep on the far south fence line, but just to be on the safe side I shut the buffalo in an upper corral for safe keeping.



The horses on the other hand were very nervous. I fed them and had them relatively calm until a few of the boarders bypassed the manned barricades on the highway and snuck in my back entrance. They were frantic about their horses drowning and quickly had things in an uproar. With everything else I was dealing with, I was not in any humor to deal with them as well, so I, not so politely, informed them that I had an evacuation plan and I had calm and sane help to move horses if necessary. They finally left and things settled down for a bit.

While all of this was going on we could hear cows bawling. About thirty of my neighbors' cows and calves were down on the river, most on islands waist deep in water. I can't attest to how smart beef cows are, but from what I observed on this day, I think they ain't very smart.

Once my issues were under control I headed down to the river pasture in the Gator to find several of the beef



cows standing behind a closed gate in two feet of water. I opened the gate and then headed back up the highway to the barricade to let them know that several cows were coming and needed to be put in another pasture further up the road.

To my surprise the barricade attendant informed me I had to come to 'his side' of the barricade and that no one was supposed to be on 'my side'. I tried to explain about my neighbors cows only to be told they would not let their owners past the barricade earlier either.

Well, to make a long story short, my normal good attitude turned south. Within ten minutes of returning to my ranch yard, I had at least five cop cars pull in and dismount with hands on their revolvers!!!

I had several people around me at the time so they approached slowly trying to figure out who was who. As luck would have it, I recognized the first officer coming our way and hollered to him - "Hi John, what's up". He was an old friend I had known for years . He recognized me and smiled and asked what I had said to that barricade attendant. I guess what I said must have scared the crap out of him. Things were clarified and they left. They also informed all the barricade people to let the locals get to their property and livestock. Over the next few hours most of the cows and calves were convinced to swim to safety, however, I am sorry to say that a few were lost in the process.



Over the course of several days the river stayed high. Our little road became a tourist attraction with hundreds of people parking at the barricade and walking down to see the high water. At night the Nascar wana-bees would knock down the barricades and try to negotiate the high water, fast current, logs and debris. None made the crossing and the tow trucks made a few bucks and several boat rescues were done by the fire department. Surprising there were no casualties.

Once the water resided, it took several weeks to fix the road. It had washed out on both sides of the bridge, but amazingly, the bridge itself was not damaged.

We are still cleaning up debris in the pastures that had been displaced during the raging waters.

I have to say that this flood was almost as exciting as the tornado that blew through the ranch several years ago.

Wonder what's next...an earthquake?



Plan to Attend! RMBA Spring Meeting April 11 - 12, 2014

Embassy Suites in Denver

**Join us for a great venue
featuring interesting topics
for Bison Producers
Great Socializing · Great Food**

**More information coming soon!
Be on the lookout for those
GREAT Fun Auction Items!**

