



Brawley Cattle

Call 2016



Brawley, CA

California FMCA HMC Chapter News and Schedule of Events

27th Year



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by David Althoff,

Our rally on November 9-12 was held at the . Cattle Call grounds in Brawley, CA. The Brawley Cattle Call is the season's opener every year for the PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) and earning points in Brawley gives contestants an early lead in the world standings. The top competitors of the rodeos are eligible for the National Finals Rodeo held in December in Las Vegas.

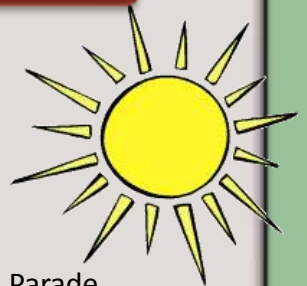


Cattle Call Arena



This is a special event for both Vicky and myself as we are from Imperial Valley. Actually, Vicky was born in Brawley, and, "oops" – I'm telling her age, she marched with her High School (Calipatria) in the very first Brawley Cattle Call Parade.

I won't tell what year!! The weather was great – sunny all day and not too cold at night – no blankets, no warm shoes were needed. In fact, the weather was warmer than normal for this time of the year. Continued on next Page...



2017 FMCA HMC Rallies

March 16-18, 2017
Blue Angles
China Lake, CA

October, 2017
Joshua Tree, CA
(More details to come)



Trailbosses:
Bruce & Ellen & David & Vicky

President's Message Cont.

And, oh, what a happy, contented look on Richard Grieser's face (all weekend). Could Karen have anything to do with that?! Danny & Lisa, a young couple we met there, purchased our 2 unused rodeo tickets. We invited them to join us for margaritas. We must all have really impressed them because they decided to join FMCA and us.



The food was great, plenty of it, and the tram picking us up and delivering us back to our sites was something that no one else could take advantage of. My thanks to Bruce & Ellen who helped Vicky & I trailboss this rally. And I can't ever give enough thanks to everyone in our Chapter who does so much to help make our rallies successful. Without all of you, it couldn't be done. Continued on next Page...



Yep, all smiles

Linda & Ray making sure Bart doesn't burn those hash browns.



Trudy & Robin deciding which food booth to patronize



President's Message Cont.
I wanted to tell you all a little bit about the WMHA "Beach Party" rally in Indio, California, this last week - January 12 – January 15. We had 18 coaches from our Chapter come in to enjoy the rally and to do some volunteer work. We were well represented at the rally – our group volunteered to do Tables & Chairs, we have 4 Frustrated Maestros, 3 of our members did the Parking in our Green Lot, and 5 of our members carried the Military Flags on the Military Appreciation Day honoring the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.



Beach Party



We did have unpredictable weather – very cool days and rain. In fact, it rained pretty much all day on Friday, with flooding on the Fairgrounds. There was enough rain that fairgrounds management had to have trucks come in to pump water away from many of the coaches. Still, the rally as always was a good one.

But, most important!!!! At Saturday evening's performance, our newsletter editor, Susan Cardella, won the "Best Newsletter Overall 2016". This is the top award for all the FMCA Western Area Chapters.

Congratulations Susan

Cattle Call Rodeo

BRAWLEY, CALIFORNIA

by Vicky Althoff



Trail Bosses: David & Vicky Althoff & Bruce & Ellen Chapman

Our rally began on Wednesday, November 9, with 20 Cowboys & Cowgirls! In attendance were: David & Vicky Althoff, Bruce & Ellen Chapman, Mike & Elayne Doran, Bart & Debbie Van Holland, Phil & Michael Griffin, Alan & Judy Mersereau, Ray & Linda Macken, Robert & Geri Scherkenbach, Richard Grieser & Karen Smithey, and Robin & Trudy Ririe. After all coaches had arrived and settled in on Wednesday, we gathered between the trailbosses' motorhomes, using pop-ups supplied by Richard Grieser and Bruce & Ellen Chapman, and mats (supplied by David & Vicky Althoff, Bart & Debbie Van Holland, Richard Grieser, and Bruce & Ellen Chapman.) A Happy Hour began at 4:00 pm along with our Margarita machine!



Ray and Linda-cooking duty again

A spaghetti dinner followed with the expert cooking from Ray Macken and dessert from our members. After dinner we enjoyed doing a **"Mystery Game"**, using Fortune Cookies and a special **"sentence"**. And, I am not going to tell you what that was.

Maybe at our next outing!

Our evening ended

sitting around a propane bonfire

supplied by Bart Van Holland.

It was great to get together and update all of us on our experiences since our last time together.

Continued on next page...



From your Trailbosses: Cont.

Thursday morning began at 9:00 am with sausage gravy and biscuits, prepared by David & Vicky. During the day we all played the Bean Bag Toss game. First place winners were Linda Macken and Bruce Chapman, 2nd place winners were Vicky Althoff and Alan Mersereau. That evening we feasted on Sweet & Sour Ribs and Au Gratin Potatoes, prepared by David & Vicky and dessert furnished by our members. Our evening ended again with our Margarita machine and most everyone sitting in their chairs, relaxing around the campfire stove.



Bean bag toss fan club



Happy Birthday Debbie!



WINNERS
Linda Macken
& Bruce Chapman

Our Friday's breakfast was breakfast burritos, expertly cooked by Bart Van Holland, Bruce Chapman, and Rob Scherkenback. This was a laid-back kind of day, just visiting and resting. Our evening meal started again at 5:00 pm with hot dogs, Cowboy Beans prepared by David & Vicky, and individual chip packages. - And can't forget those Margaritas. We had a special dessert - an ice cream cake celebrating the birthday of our **Wagon Master, Debbie Van Holland.** And again, the ending of another day by the campfire stove.

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From your Trailbosses Conti.

Saturday was an open day. No meals were served at the Campsite. The day began with the Lion's Club Breakfast at the Kiwanis Club in the middle of the Plaza in Brawley. The parade began at 9:45 am with a barbecued lunch available at the Elks Lodge, again located in the Plaza.

Parade



RODEO



Running free at rodeo's end

Our evening ended with the Rodeo beginning at 7:00 pm. We all felt privileged as a tram picked us up and brought us back to our campsites. No one else there at the Rodeo was given this compliment. There were some of us here who had never been to a rodeo. And seeing the cowboys roping the steers, riding the bucking horses, and trying to stay on the bulls was something to watch. And I think, for me, one of the most thrilling parts of the rodeo was the very end. **All** of the horses that entertained us were brought into the arena. Oh, what a sight. They were all so beautiful, so well groomed, and so well trained! A great ending to a really good Show. The Rodeo had three shows and all were sold out.

Sunday was a Continental Breakfast and then our goodbyes until our next rally.

David & I and Bruce & Ellen want to **thank everyone** who helped make this rally such a big success. We are so grateful to Linda & Ray Macken for all they did in setting up and keeping track of our Bean Bag Toss game. And we can't give enough thanks to Richard Grieser who used his portable generator for the Margarita machine and the lights. Special thanks to so many who helped clean up for us. We have so many great and special people in our Chapter who are always there to help whenever and wherever we need them. Again, David & I, and Bruce & Ellen thank all of you.

See you all at our next rally!





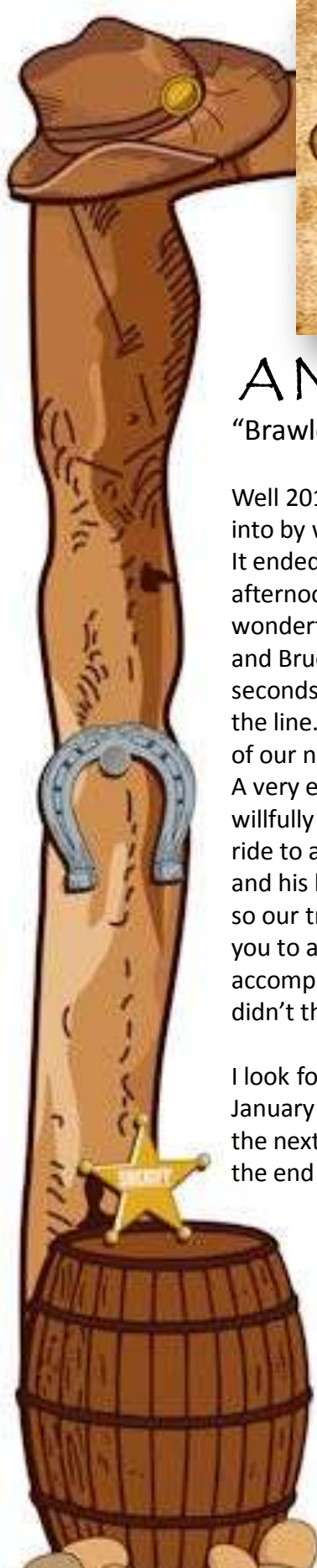
A Note from your Wagon Master "Brawley Cattle Call"

Well 2016 began with me wondering what I had gotten myself into by working full time and taking on the task of Wagon master. It ended with beautiful November weather (actually hot on a few afternoons). Great food masterminded and pulled off wonderfully by our trail bosses Vicky and David Althoff and Ellen and Bruce Chapman. We all had plenty to eat most enjoying seconds if we did not load our plates too full the first time thru the line. Good company even with a smaller attendance than one of our normal outings by our members who were able to attend. A very entertaining rodeo with a crazy cowboy who jumped willfully over a bull in the arena. That specially arranged shuttle ride to and from the gate makes it all so much easier, the driver and his helper were brave when they stopped all the local traffic so our tram could deliver us safely back to our coaches. Thank you to all who surprised me with a birthday cake and the accompanying song. I was hoping to fly under the radar but didn't think I would with mom and dad also at the outing.

I look forward to seeing those who can attend the rally in Indio in January and I hope to get a calendar of upcoming events out by the next newsletter. We do have the Blue Angels in March and the end of the year outing in Joshua Tree in October.

Hope all have a wonderful holiday and Happy New Year, welcome 2017.

Thank you,
Debbie VanHolland
Wagon master



Brawley was a Blast!



**Hangin'
out &
Having
fun**



COWBOY UP

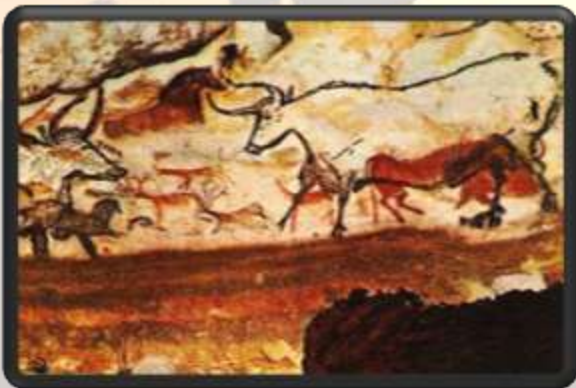
By Susan Cardella

As children we all grew up, or most of us did, with a romanticized ideal of the American cowboy. These symbolic, bigger than life cowboy characters, portrayed by actors such as John Wayne, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, and Clint Eastwood, to name a few, gave us a window into the lives of cowboys in the old west. Typically depicted as strong, hardy, and resilient, these cowboys' were amazing. The western movies and series, let's not forget Bonanza, depicted winners: men who toughed it out through all kinds of conflicts and hardships and courageously came out on top regardless of their personal flaws.



Despite the fascination with all our modern electronics, gadgets and gizmos, the charm of the cowboy still lives on. Today, real life cowboys are not commonplace...unless you go to a rodeo. This sporting event puts the skills of the cowboy, or girl, to the test. Cattle roping, bronco riding, barrel racing and bull riding are a few of the categories that demonstrate the cowboy's skills. Spectators watch with amazement at the contestants' abilities to defy the odds. Rodeo cowboys and cowgirls are in a league of their own as they match their skills against unpredictable 2000 lb animals. In fact, according to a Canadian researcher, bull riding is the most dangerous organized sport in the world.

Man against bull has been sport for many hundreds, maybe thousands, of years, as evident in hunting scenes depicted in cave paintings. Evolving from bull fighting in Spain, when a matador would ride on a wounded bull to weaken it and display his dominance, to the present day sport, the danger and thrill of bull riding provides challenges to the athlete, AKA cowboy, and continues to attract captivate audiences.



Cowboy up cont.

What makes bull riding so challenging and exciting to watch is the unpredictable way a bull moves and bucks. Bulls can twist their bellies upwards mid-kick, a move called “sunfish” or they can whirl around like a dust devil and there are even some bulls that don’t actually buck. They are called “hat benders”. Bulls in fact are judged just as much as the riders and can be just as popular. They also have rankings just like their riders showing the ratio of attempted rides versus rides and buck off percent. Famous bulls are treated like celebrities with their own Facebook pages, T-shirts and action figures. Breeders, called stock contractors, of bucking bulls strive to create “bionic buckers”, that are bigger and nastier to increase their earnings. The bulls can earn \$1000 dollars for each attempted ride and if named the Bucking Bull of the Year they can win \$50,000 and other prizes.

The earnings for the cowboy are not too shabby either, with the latest bull riding world champion receiving a \$1,000,000 bonus, but that wasn’t always the case. Cowboys just want to be cowboys and prior to the 1990’s, prize money would barely pay for a rider’s entry fee so they took the risk because it was what they loved to do. Professional organizations such as the Professional Bull Riders, Inc, (PBR) and the Professional Rodeo Cowboy’s Association (PRCA) have been instrumental in promoting the sport and increasing the prize money for that minimum of eight seconds of bravery and skill at a time.

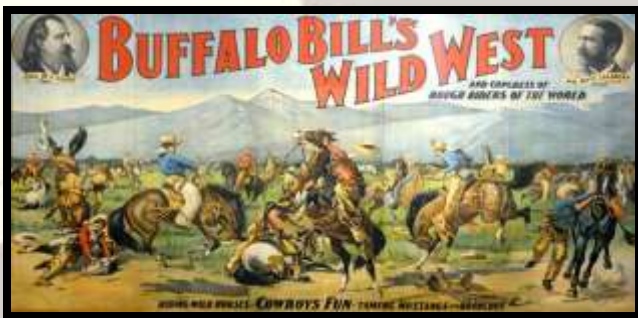


BULLS: WORLD TOP 10



1 SWEETPRO'S LONG JOHN

% Buckoff:	100%
Average Score:	45.75



From Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show to present day Rodeos, we enjoy being entertained, and being left in awe of the cowboy and his skills. The cowboy persona continues to represent wholesome values, a strong work ethic and just plain grit.



The term “Cowboy up” generally means to have the courage to do what needs to be done-regardless of the difficulty and sacrifice required. For many, the rodeo is in their blood but for most, the rodeo gives those with a cowboy alter ego a chance to be part of the cowboy community. You can always opt to look the part by putting on your cowboy hat and boots and fit right in. Looking the part is fun and so much safer! So the next time a difficult task comes your way, you can say to yourself “Cowboy up” (or “Cowgirl up”) and possibly channel that inner cowboy fortitude. Happy trails.



THE CATTLE CALL SONG:

The cattle are prowlin',
 The coyotes are howlin'
 Way out where the doggies roam
 Where spurs are a jinglin'
 And the cowboy is singing
 His lonesome cattle cal
 He rides in the sun
 'Til his days work is done
 And he rounds up the cattle each
 fall
 Singing his cattle call

For hours he would ride
 On the range far and wide
 When the night wind blows up and
 slow
 His heart is a feather
 In all kinds of weather
 He sings his cattle call

He's browned as a fairy
 From ridin' the prairie
 And he sings with an western
 drawl
 Singing his cattle call



KICK OFF YOUR
BOOTS
and **STAY** **AWHILE**

COWBOY CODE

If it's not yours,
DON'T TAKE IT.
 If it's not true,
DON'T SAY IT.
 If it's not right,
DON'T DO IT.



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