

Rite of Spring?

At the beginning of February Punxsutawney Phil proclaimed we'd have an early spring. Tell me, what does a fat rodent know anyways?

The lingering miserable weather proved a challenge for local cutters trying to get their ponies legged up and attain a level of fitness conducive to outmanoeuvring a contingent of high spirited, adolescent bovines. That being said, when the word went out that the B.C. Ranch Cutting Horse Association was holding its first show on March 6th, in Agassiz, a surprising number of brave souls ventured forth.

Heading out along the freeway in the early morning we were greeted by a strange phenomenon, sunshine. It illuminated the fresh snow on the mountains, that had crept dangerously low, especially in the direction we were headed.

Our host for the day, Bill Klop, is a trusting soul. He allowed a bunch of cattle deprived cowboy wannabes to confiscate his arena, while he stole away to enjoy a little warmth in Arizona. Perched in a chair, high above the sandy loam, sat NCHA carded AAA judge, Les Timmons from Kamloops, B.C., whose keen eye didn't miss the slightest flicker of leather headed in an errant direction.

There's something about playing with cattle that builds up a hankering for a good burger. Club member Marti Ross was in charge of the BBQ while family members rounded out his catering crew. Funds raised benefited the Ross' daughter's 4H chapter.

Once we wiped the ketchup off our chins it was time to head back inside and complete the remaining classes of the afternoon. When the buzzer sounded on the last rider the sun was still shining. A hint of things to come? Maybe spring really isn't that far away.

