



Official Truck of the WPCA

The Official Newsletter of the World Professional Chuckwagon Association

TURNING THE BARRELS

February 2016

Volume 5 Issue 40

halfmileofhell.com

IN THIS ISSUE

FACES AT THE RACES

The story behind broadcaster Arnie Jackson.

See Page 2

RISING STAR

A profile of driver Dustin Gorst.

See Page 5

RISING STAR

A profile of driver Curtis Morin.

See Page 8

NEW SPONSOR

The WPCA welcomes Olson Silver as the Official Buckle Supplier to the WPCA. Located in High River, Alberta, the Olson Silver Company has grown from a hobby of Jim Olson's in the early 1960s into the largest belt buckle manufacturing shop in Canada. For all your hand-crafted western buckles and jewelry needs, visit www.olsonsilver.com.



One from the Archives



Broadcasting history: Arnie Jackson with Joe Carbury at the Calgary Stampede.

Photo courtesy of Arnie Jackson



Faces at the Races: Arnie Jackson

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, **Arnie Jackson** has been on the radio since 1962. He started his 54-year career as a DJ on CFAC Radio at age 18, doing the all-night show while still in high school.

After graduating, Arnie went to CFSL in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, in 1964 to do the evening 7 to 12 show. Arnie then moved on to CKLN in Nelson, BC, in 1965 to work as a DJ. He wound up doing some Nelson Maple Leafs hockey broadcasts for the 1965-66 and 1966-67 seasons too. He moved back to Calgary to work with the legendary **Eric Bishop**, doing on-air sports reports while Eric announced the Stampeders football games during the 1967-68 season. Arnie's next stop was a return to CFAC to work with another legend, **Joe Carbury**, to help announce road games for the Calgary Centennials of the WCHL.

A key career move came next as Arnie moved to Red Deer to work as the sports director at CKGY, covering rodeo, thoroughbred races in Red Deer, and live chuckwagon races at tracks in Benalto, Rocky Mountain House, Rimbey, Stettler and Red Deer.

In 1977, Arnie moved back to Calgary to work in television with **Ed Whalen**, with subsequent contracts and stints at CBC-TV with **Gary Arthur** and, in 1984, as the first TSN sports stringer. He also did Team Canada hockey play-by-play on the old CKO-FM All News Network from 1985 to 1988, getting ready for the Olympic Games in Calgary. Throughout this entire period, he was also covering rodeo and chuckwagon races each summer.

In 1989, Arnie and **Kevin Baird** started doing a few radio broadcasts of chuckwagon races in High River (on CHR), Strathmore (on CKDQ), Calgary and Ponoka.

In 1992, Arnie and **Jim Cummings** started live nightly TV coverage of the chuckwagon races at the Calgary



Above: Arnie Jackson in the broadcast booth with Connie Patterson (from the Dawson Creek committee) and Billy Melville.

Photo by Ed Wittchen

Right: A young Arnie at CFAC Radio in 1965.

Photos courtesy of Arnie Jackson unless otherwise specified



Stampede. They later added coverage of High River, Strathmore, Ponoka and Edmonton races, all on Shaw TV. Arnie worked on these broadcasts until 2012.

Jamie Tiessen took over managing the chuckwagon races radio broadcasts with **Billy Melville** in 2003, and **Dan Butler** replaced Arnie full time around 2004 when he started a broadcast journalism program at the Calgary Christian School. It was just too tough for Arnie to make the June races because of school. Around the same time, Arnie continued to supply radio stations with three-minute rodeo and chuckwagon reports. CJXX Radio in Grande Prairie holds the title of the longest consecutive run of Arnie's rodeo and chuckwagon reports, as the station started airing them back in December 1973.



Faces at the Races: Arnie Jackson, continued

Arnie stopped teaching broadcast journalism at the end of the 2005 school year, but it wasn't the end of his teaching efforts. He'd been a driving instructor on and off throughout the years since 1968, and he continued to do so. The teaching originally came about because back in the early days of his career, radio just wasn't financially feasible enough to support a family of five.

Over the years, he also covered for Peace River (CKYL), the OM Radio Network in Fort McMurray and Westlock, CJWW in Saskatoon, CKRM in Regina and the Melfort, Saskatchewan, radio station as well. When CHRB in High River went on the air in the 1980s, Arnie started doing rodeo and chuckwagon reports for them. He continued doing them until 2012.

Besides rodeo and chuckwagons, Arnie has also covered the Calgary Flames since they arrived in 1980 for AP Network Sports, Philadelphia Sports Network, Sports Phone in New York, ESPN in Detroit and Chicago, Metro Sports in Phoenix and iHeart Radio in Dallas.

These days, Arnie works with broadcast journalism students at SAIT, helping them with field broadcast assignments. He still covers Calgary Flames home games for the Canadian Press, Metro Sports and iHeart Radio. He also co-hosts the WPCA Pro Tour live broadcasts with Billy Melville on Rural Radio Sirius XM. Each Calgary Stampede, Arnie continues to provide driver profiles and rodeo results to the nightly Calgary Stampede Chuckwagon Radio Network broadcasts. The Light 700 FM and the Alberta SHINE FM



Above: Arnie, Billy Melville and John Down, a Hall of Fame Calgary Herald sportswriter.

Left: Arnie interviewing the legendary chuckwagon driver George Normand after his 1994 win in High River.

stations also picked up his 2015 Canadian Finals Rodeo and National Finals Rodeo reports.

As a result of his outstanding broadcasting career, Arnie was selected as the WPCA Media Person of the Year in 1991 and 2001, and the PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, based in Colorado Springs) Broadcaster of the Year in 2005.

Arnie was born on July 12, 1944, at the Calgary General Hospital. It was Stampede Week in Calgary so it seems natural that he would grow up to become involved in the Stampede lifestyle. He married his high school sweetheart and they have three children. **Laura**, the oldest, lives in Calgary and provided them with their three grandchildren, **Ashley, Sara** and **Cassandra** (Cassie). **Tracy** is married and lives in Golden, BC, during the winters. She spends her summers on the Okanagan Lake in Vernon, BC, at the same cabin she spent time in during her childhood. **David** is single and works as an engineer and computer technologist for Husky Oil at their production plant in Rainbow Lake, Alberta.



Faces at the Races: Arnie Jackson, continued

Arnie's wife **Beverly** is involved in a volunteer food supply program called Bread Basket at Abundant Life Church in Calgary. Every Tuesday, with the cooperation of Pastor **Nikayla Reize**, they pick up food supplies, set up tables and distribute basic foods to the approximately 90 families who stop by each week at the church in the city's southwest.



Above: Arnie hosting The Chucks on Shaw.

Right: Out on his waterskis in the Okanagan.



Arnie gets involved too, when he's not on the road doing chuckwagon broadcasts or attending rodeos, or working the odd casual teaching assignment that he still takes on from time to time. He drives the big white food van, picks up supplies at the warehouse, helps lay out the food displays and distributes to the attendees each Tuesday afternoon. He also helps with teardown and recycling the cardboard.

Arnie and Beverley's daughter Tracy is sometimes in Calgary on a Tuesday, and she always allows time to help her mom with the Bread Basket program. This great volunteer effort was featured a couple of years ago as **Darrel Janz's** "Inspired" segment on CTV. Beverly was also named the 2009 ASPEN Group's HOPE Award winner in Calgary for her continuing efforts at her church to offer a hand up each week to those in need.

When he is not working on the chuckwagon and rodeo circuit, Arnie still covers Stampede's football and Flames hockey. He's also a huge National Finals Rodeo fan, going back to his first in December 1963 in Oklahoma City. He has been to every NFR since, including the year they moved from Oklahoma City to Las Vegas in 1985. This past December he attended his 43rd consecutive NFR.

During his time off, Arnie also enjoys snorkeling in Maui and waterskiing on

Okanagan Lake near his children's cabins (his son David also has a cabin there, about a kilometre from Tracy's summer home). This works out great, as there is always a boat driver available whenever Arnie wants to go waterskiing. Sure enough, he was out on the water last July when there was a weekend break between the races in Calgary and Bonnyville.

When home in Calgary, Arnie and Bev regularly attend Abundant Life Church. Their faith is very much a part of their everyday life. Arnie says they have been blessed with good health, a good family and God's blessings as they enjoy the friendship of hundreds of amazing colleagues in chuckwagon racing, rodeo, hockey, football, curling and his first and lifelong love, the broadcasting business, both radio and television.

We're proud to call Arnie a member of the WPCA team.



Rising Star: Dustin Gorst

A THIRD-GENERATION chuckwagon competitor, **Dustin Gorst** is the grandson of former driver **Art Gorst**, son of current driver **Gary Gorst**, brother of driver **Logan Gorst** and cousin of fellow driver **Layne Bremner**.

Dustin was born on April 23, 1986, in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. As a kid, he played every sport possible but focused mainly on hockey. He played two seasons with the Lloydminster Bobcats of the AJHL and also played hockey for the Meadow Lake Stampeders, who were the 2008 Saskatchewan Senior A provincial champions.

Dustin grew up like many typical chuckwagon kids, idolizing his dad and his older brother Logan. He started outriding at 16. It was very important to Dustin, the youngest member of the Gorst family, that when he started driving he did it standing on his own two feet and not have to depend on his dad or brother to go down the road.

He started out, as did many in his family, with the CPCA . He spent over a decade as an outrider with that association. Dustin outrode for **Luke Tournier's** 2005 Calgary Stampede Rangeland Derby championship outfit and two Calgary Stampede aggregate winners.

Dustin was also co-owner of the outriding horse **Smiles** that was named to the Calgary Stampede's inaugural Equine Outfit of Excellence in 2012. During his time with the CPCA, Dustin was named their Champion Outrider three times. He also received the CPCA's Youth Achievement Award in 1999 and the CPCA Media Award in 2009.

In 2011, the Gorst family decided that if they wanted to advance their careers in the sport, it would have to be done in the WPCA. Each of them made their way over to the WPCA, including Dustin, who made his move in 2014.

That move to the WPCA also gave Dustin his second successful outriding rookie year. He outrode for **Kirk Sutherland's** winning outfit at the Saskatoon Chuckwagon



Triple threat: Dustin Gorst the driver, Dustin Gorst the outrider and Dustin Gorst the farrier.

Top and middle photos by Shellie Scott Photography.

All other photos by Ed Wittchen.





Rising Star: Dustin Gorst, continued

Races and **Jason Glass's** win at the Strathmore Heritage Days Stampede. For the second time in his career, he received the Calgary Stampede's Outstanding Outrider Award. Dustin filled in for **Tim Haroldson's** triumph at the Grande Prairie Stompede and **Kirk Sutherland's** win at the Battle of the Rockies, riding the winner-take-all championship final in both instances.

As an outrider, Dustin had another successful year in 2015. He outrode for **John Walter's** winning outfit at the Medicine Hat Stampede and pinch rode for Luke Tournier's winning outfit at the Battle of the North.

Two summers ago, Dustin made the decision to jump into the box himself when, late in the season, **Reg Johnstone** retired and a driver's slot on the WPCA Pro Tour opened.

Dustin had his first full season as a driver on the WPCA Pro Tour in 2015. It proved to be yet another successful rookie campaign. He posted nine top-10 runs, including four that cracked the top 5.

He capped that first season as a driver by qualifying for his first championship final heat appearance at the Battle of the Rockies, thanks to a second-place finish in the aggregate standings.

He finished the season at a very respectable 27th in the world standings, securing his place on the Tour for 2016. He was also named the 2015 WPCA Top Rookie Driver.

Dustin says a highlight of his career so far was racing against his dad in the same heat in Grande Prairie, which was special for both of them.

Dustin's relationship with the horses goes beyond outriding and driving. He started helping his dad to shoe horses when he was quite young. Even Gary admits it wasn't long before Dustin was shoeing three while Gary would do one. Gary said that the day Dustin told him he was ready to take over he silently yelled "finally" and went in the house to sit back and enjoy a drink while Dustin took command.



Top: Dustin and Jaycee Gorst.

Bottom: Uncle Dustin shows his little niece Myla the view from the driver's seat. What about the view from the chuckwagon driver's seat?

Brother Logan says he never liked doing the shoeing work and so he was quite happy to let his little brother do it. Logan says in an emergency he, like his dad, could do it but they'd rather hire Dustin.

Dustin estimates that he probably shoes 600 to 700 horses per year. On the Tour, he shoes his, Logan's, Gary's horses (all the while acting as his own barnhand with his wife **Jaycee**). At home during the off-season, he shoes for local ranchers and barrel racers.

It makes for some long days during the race season when he has to start feeding horses at 6am, hook a couple of teams for practice, take out a couple of outriding horses, do barn chores, maybe make a public appearance for the WPCA, shoe a couple of horses, try to find time to eat and grab an afternoon nap before racing (he also outrides in several heats in addition to the one he drives in), and finally clean the horses that ran, and entertain



Rising Star: Dustin Gorst, continued



Dustin took part in a WPCA visit to a school in Grande Prairie, one of the many ways he gets involved in the communities on the Tour.

sponsors before getting a few hours of sleep and starting all over again at 6am.

Dustin and his wife Jaycee, the 2015 recipient of the Ty Tournier Memorial Award, make their home in Meadow Lake. They married in the spring of 2012 and are very proud to announce that they are expecting their first child in June. Jaycee works at United Tax and Bliss Salon in the off-season. Dustin proudly states, “Jaycee is my greatest supporter and I couldn’t do it without her.”

His off-season activities include work, rec hockey, fishing and getting everything ready for the next race season. That includes all the gear for driving, outriding and shoeing.

Dustin’s favourite racetracks are Calgary, Ponoka and Grande Prairie, all because of the great atmosphere they create on race days.

As for favourite horses, he says he loves them all but **Turek** and **Hop Along Harry** are two that have a special place in his memory.

In terms of sponsors, he cherishes the support and friendship of all but he acknowledges he wouldn’t be going down the road without **Reg Willick** (HJR), **Brian Grant** (Grande Prairie Airport) and **Jody Oliver** (Bigtime Towing). Their support has been instrumental in his early successes in the WPCA. He also thanks **Ken Bilben** of Kootenay Wood Transport.

Good luck to Dustin in the upcoming 2016 season!



Dustin shows the ropes to a young girl at the Special Needs Rodeo in Dawson Creek.



Dustin’s sponsor Jody Oliver of Bigtime Towing helps to wash down the wagon after a muddy race.



Chasing the Dream: Curtis Morin

A TALENTED YOUNG driver with a bright future ahead of him, **Curtis Morin** will get his start on the WPCA Pro Tour in the upcoming 2016 season. Curtis is a second-generation driver. His dad is former driver **Bruce Morin** and his brother is **Kelly Morin**, a driver in the CPCA.

Curtis was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, on March 6, 1975. Growing up, he played a lot of sports, including soccer, track and field, long-distance running, cross-country skiing, softball, broomball and a lot of hockey, from novice all the way to senior. The hockey never really interfered with wagon racing because their seasons run at different times of the year.

Up until he was about 13, Curtis was also into motorcycles. At that time, the engine to his racing bike was blown. His dad gave him the option of getting a new dirt bike or a horse. Curtis really wanted a bike but knew his dad wanted him to take the horse. So he took the horse and that was the start of a career. The horse's name was **Tesremos**. He went on to win all four of his one-mile races that year.

After they got Tesremos, they started getting more and more horses. Pretty soon they were into chuckwagon racing and Curtis never got onto a ball field or golf course in the summers after that. There was just too much work to do



Curtis Morin.

Photo by Fred Vidiuk

keeping and training that many horses. His friends would often stop in with their motorbikes to see if he would join them to go swimming or play some softball. His answer was always the same. He couldn't go.

At first, Curtis says, he didn't enjoy the horses and all the hard work that came with them. But with time, he began to love it and even eventually moved into the liner to spend his summers with these noble creatures. Curtis says that horses have taught him a lot about commitment and hard work. You get what you put into things and you must take pride in your work.



Curtis with folks from the Dr. James W. Hemstock Assisted Living Residence in front of a stretch limo provided by his sponsor Prairie Breeze Limousine Services.

All photos courtesy of Curtis Morin unless otherwise specified.



Chasing the Dream: Curtis Morin, continued

Morin Racing has been a family affair since Curtis's dad Bruce started racing back when Curtis was still attending Debden High School. They had some very good years and racing didn't interfere with Curtis's school requirements. He has a lot of good memories of travelling down the road with his dad, going from show to show, and even making it as far down as Las Vegas to race in the Professional Wagon Racing event held there.

After high school, Curtis went to university to study public administration. He earned his degree and began working in management, starting as an executive assistant, then a health director, a funding services office for the Government of Canada and an executive director for Child and Family Services.

He eventually found that these kinds of jobs were in direct conflict with his desire to continue outriding. He was away from racing for long periods of time. Curtis began to realize what was most important to him: He longed to return to the chuckwagon racing world. He decided to start his own business so he could work around the wagon season. Now in the off-season, Curtis runs his company CWM Enterprises, which specializes in raw water service delivery, dust control and building ice roads for Somerville Aecon during winter.

Curtis started on the CPCA circuit as an outrider in 1991. He became a driver in 2012. On the CPCA circuit in 2015, Curtis posted 14 top-10 runs, with three of those runs cracking the top 5. He qualified for his first career championship final heat at the Wainwright Stampede and placed inside the top 10 overall at five CPCA show championships.

He spent four seasons as a driver on the CPCA circuit, winning his first show championship at the OIL & AG Turtleford Derby in 2014 and receiving the CPCA's Most Improved Driver Award in 2013.



Curtis has three kids: Joshua (not shown), Cassidy and Bronco.

By 2014, his brother Kelly was racing in the WPCA. Kelly had nothing but good things to say about the organization and show venues. He told Curtis that everybody was fast, competitive and very professional but at the same time approachable, outgoing and friendly. As well, Curtis's friend **Tim Haroldson** also raced on the WPCA. Tim's father **Dale Haroldson** was always asking him when he was going to come over to the WPCA.

Curtis decided that after the 2015 Meadow Lake Stampede, it was time to make the switch to the WPCA. It was an easy choice for him: bigger shows, more exposure, bigger prize money and bigger sponsor opportunities. It's also the best way for him to make it to the Calgary Stampede by 2017.

Curtis's career highlights are winning his first CPCA show and qualifying for the Wainwright Stampede Dash for Cash.

His favourite tracks are Saskatoon and Lloydminster, as the Morin horses always do well on the long tracks. He's looking forward to racing in Saskatoon this year. It will be like a homecoming show for him.

His favourite horse is **Voodoo Boy**, his dad's retired horse. Voodoo Boy still roams freely back home and gets into everything he possibly can.



Chasing the Dream: Curtis Morin, continued

Curtis would like to thank his sponsor **Rocky Couture** with Rocky Road Trucking. Rocky has been with him for several years. "I've said it before and I'll say it again. I'm just thankful Rocky gave up hockey and went into business instead. Because if he was still trying to play hockey I'm not sure how I would be doing as a driver without him sponsoring me. My opinion is that he is a better businessman than he was a hockey player," he says with a laugh. "So yes, thankfully someone had a talk with him and that was the end of hockey for him."

Curtis also wants to give a big thank you to **Chad Wenzel** with Prairie Breeze Limousine Services for joining the team. Chad brings a lot to the table on the marketability side. In this sport you have to be competitive but image counts too. In a unique twist, where you usually see the wagons hauled in a semi or by a truck, Curtis's wagon rolls into town hooked behind Chad's enormous stretch limo. Right from the start of their relationship, Chad became a good friend and good sponsor. He is very active in the sport and is there at the shows with Curtis.

Last but not least, Curtis thanks his family for their support. He wants to thank his dad for being very supportive of racing in general and giving Curtis such good advice about the sport. He also thanks his mom **Leona Morin** for all her prayers and support. He thanks his sisters **Carol** and **Kristen**, and his brother and fellow driver Kelly. Curtis and Kelly always do their spring training together.

Curtis has three children: **Joshua**, **Cassidy** and **Bronco**. He makes his off-season home in Debden, Saskatchewan. Curtis says that his children have been very patient and understanding, even at such young ages.

"There have been so many hot days when we missed out on swimming and I couldn't take them because I always had to make sure that the barn was clean with fresh bedding and clean water for the horses or some other barn chore."



Curtis Morin driving in the race season (above) and in the off-season. Top photo by K. Pithick Photography



His daughter Cassidy once asked him, "Daddy, why do you exercise your horses so much and spend so much time with them?" Curtis responded that he didn't want her cheering for him when he was in last place and have her jump up and down yelling, "That's my Daddy!" They had a laugh and his daughter kissed him and said, "I love you, Daddy!"

When he decided to make the move to the WPCA, he promised his kids that he would take them to the greatest outdoor show in the world as a thank you for being so patient and understanding about their daddy's goals. Not a bad bit of inspiration to help him get to Calgary in 2017.