

# USTRC NEWS • APRIL 2017

## **Announcements**

Don't forget that as a Gold Plus member, you receive \$3,000 in member Flex earnings. Gold Plus members can enter any Regional Finals event up to one week before the event without paying late fees by calling in their entries to the USTRC National Office. Entry fees must be paid with a credit card (3% credit card fee included). Remind your Gold Spur partners that they can upgrade to a Gold Plus member for an additional \$190 and receive an additional \$2,000 in member Flex Earnings and the other benefits associated with the program including competing in the Gold Plus roping.

It will be here before we know it. The Cinch USTRC National Finals of Team Roping will be October 21-29, 2017. The POSTMARK deadline for ALL NFTR entries and stall reservations is September 22, 2017. Gold Plus members have until September 29 to CALL IN their entries and stall reservations.

If you are 24 years old or younger as of January 1, 2017 you are eligible for the USTRC Scholarship Program where \$100,000 will be awarded annually to the top 60 youth ropers. Those wishing to participate this season must "Opt In" to the Scholarship Program on or before June 1, 2017. This is done by logging into the Member Services portal from the USTRC website and selecting the "Opt In" option under the Scholarship Program. Ropers WILL NOT be allowed to "Opt In" for the 2016 season after the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The season began on November 2, 2016 and runs through October 31, 2017. For more information about the Scholarship Program please visit [ustrc.com](http://ustrc.com) and click on the "knowledge" link at the top of the page.

Plan your next roping event by clicking on the USTRC Calendar at [www.ustrc.com](http://www.ustrc.com). The calendar is filled with great team roping events and is the best way to keep track of where to go.

If you have been in Arizona for the winter and are moving back to your summer home, please be sure to contact SuperLooper Magazine to get your address changed. Please call 505-899-1870 Ext. 118

## **Upcoming Event North Carolina Classic • Taylorsville, North Carolina April 14-15 2017**

Taking a leisurely drive just out of the Town of Taylorsville in most any direction will reveal some of the prettiest views to be found. The lovely rolling hills of the Brushy Mountains are lined with apple trees, providing a mouth-watering harvest in the fall. The countryside is a patchwork of farms, fields and gardens with homes dotted throughout.

Taylorsville, North Carolina will roll out the red carpet to USTRC team ropers the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April for the North Carolina Classic and the roping will be a good one. Taylorsville has that small town flair that delves deep into your soul and successfully captures your heart even if you are only there for a little while. While it isn't huge or a thriving metropolis the area is the very nature of solace and support. If you need to wind down and rope this is the place to park your trailer, reconnect with some old friends and take in the atmosphere.

With a lot of history and the quiet friendly acceptance of the residence ropers are in for a weekend of good roping and just plain slowing down and reconnecting.

The granite quarry at Rocky Face Mountain, the easternmost mountain of the Appalachian Mountain chain can be seen off in the distance from many parts of the county. The Felburn Foundation, a nature conservancy organization, now owns Rocky Face Mountain. If you are in to hiking or doing some fun sightseeing, a wide view of the county can be seen from the top of the mountain.

Alexander Railroad Company, a locally owned, operated, and maintained short line railroad, offers weekday carload freight service along the Highway NC 90 corridor between Statesville and Taylorsville. The railroad's offices are located in the old depot in Taylorsville.

According to legend, the railroad's locomotives are painted green and gold in honor of local attorney and State Senator Romulus Z. Linney's impassioned speech to N. C. Legislature in 1887 supporting a railroad charter to extend the existing Charlotte-Statesville AT&O line into Taylorsville.

To demonstrate the mineral wealth of this route, Linney referred to the recently discovered Hiddenite stone, claiming, "A well-wintered June Bug can carry away \$1,000 worth of this valuable gem, which rivals the diamond in sparkling beauty, tied to its hind leg!" The legislation passed, and the railroad and its locomotives have been nicknamed "The June Bug" to this day.

Take a stroll around Matheson Park, park your trailer and bring your picnic lunch. You can relax under one of the many shade trees that line the banks of the small creek that meanders through Matheson Park. This seven-acre family park is complete with swings and play equipment for the children, cookout facilities & sheltered eating areas, restrooms, volleyball area and 2,000 foot walking trail. It's a good place for ropers to get together and rehash and rope the day's events.

The Old Jail was built in 1913. Today the Old Jail houses a small museum concerning the former jailers and their families who lived in the jail supervising the prisoners.

The Old Jail is a two-story brick structure with a pyramidal roof. Except for the addition of a wing at the East elevation in 1930, the building has retained a remarkable degree of original detailing of the period. Particularly notable are the quoins, which frame the main building and are unusually stylish details for a jail. This is one of the oldest public buildings of Alexander County and one of the oldest jails still standing in North Carolina. The Old Jail is also home to ACAAI's Genealogical Research Library. The collection includes local census, obituary files, family records as well as books, periodicals, microfilm, photographs and other research media. Here you can network with others who may be researching the same lines you are researching. Volunteers can point you in the right direction with local history queries and resources.

The Alexander County Ancestry Association was formed in 1983 (originally as the Alexander County Genealogical Society). During 1986-87 this group published the Heritage Of Alexander County.

During the 1990's the group evolved to become ACAAI and received a twenty-five year lease of the Old Jail in Taylorsville from Alexander County. The Old Jail Preservation Project began with the rebuilding of the

porches and the reroofing of the building. Currently the replacement of the old, damaged windows and the painting of the interior of the building are ongoing projects for the building. The contractor is working on this restoration and when completed, the upstairs of the Old Jail will be open to the public. There are 4 of 10 original jail cells still intact and are located upstairs.

The Alexander County Ancestry Association, Inc. invites you to stop by see their exhibits, research your family's history, and learn the history of our Old Jail. You can also choose from a selection of books available for purchase, calendars featuring historical stores in Alexander County, and the custom designed, jacquard woven coverlet/afghan of Alexander County, featuring historic landmarks.

While Taylorsville may not exactly be a thriving metropolis it is that “at home” place you can go and relax, rope and fellowship. It is about time to work out your roping calendar for April. Be sure the North Carolina Classic in on your list of places to be the beginning of April. It will be a fun weekend with some good team roping. Make a note and mark it on your event calendar. The North Carolina Classic will be a good place to reconnect and have a good time. It is a roping you will not want to miss.