

Facts About Sandhill Saddlery

Last updated: March 2010

Business Name: Sandhill Saddlery

Owner: Shawn Kramer

Occupation: Custom Western Saddlemaker

How did Sandhill Saddlery get started:

Shawn Kramer is a former rodeo bronc rider. He was laid up following knee surgery from a rodeo injury. When a friend gave him a brochure about a saddle making school near Menoken, North Dakota, Shawn figured why not give it a try.

By the time Shawn finished the saddle making course, he was hooked on the craft. He plunged into a business that he had never anticipated, prior to the saddle making course, that would be his life's work.

In 2001, Shawn out grew his garage workshop and purchased an abandoned church. He relocated his business to a country site, where his family also lives. His saddle shop is just a short walk from his home.

Why does Shawn Kramer Continue to do this:

"I'm better at this than I was at rodeoing. The good Lord has blessed us. I walk 75 yards from my house to work. I enjoy my work so much that I get lost in it and the day flies by...My wife or I are always with our four boys. We consider ourselves blessed to lead the life we lead."

Shawn's wife Melissa also lends a helping hand in the leather shop. Plus, the same building houses her beauty salon, and she has regular clientele despite the remote location.

What products does Sandhill Saddlery offer:

Shawn handcrafts saddles, chaps and related cowboy tack items. He also does saddle and leather repair. He custom builds each saddle to the requests/desires of the buyer. As a leather artist, he is capable of turning out intricate leather tooling designs that individualizes each saddle into a work of art, yet still maintain working cowboy functionality.

What is the quality of the work:

Shawn's bench made saddlery work is award winning. His leather carving and tooling is very intricate and attractive. He hand sews most of the pieces he turns out, stitch by stitch, just as it was done by custom saddlemakers in the 1800's. He insists on using only the best quality leathers and hardware materials, in order to turn out a long lasting, quality product.

What type of saddle does Sandhill Saddlery usually build:

The majority of the saddles I build are "Stockmen's Will James," which is a swell forked working Cowboy's saddle. I also build a "Homestead Wade" which is a slick fork working Cowboy's saddle. All my trees are custom made, so people can choose any option they desire, mix and match, etc.

Who wants these type of saddles:

The appreciation of a fine ranch saddle reaches far beyond weekend brandings on the great plains and fall roundups; while a lot of my handmade saddles are being ridden by working cowboys, many are being ridden by weekend warriors and retired professionals; some adorn the offices of boardroom executives and will, in all probability, never be ridden.

As a saddle maker, I have saddles being ridden all across the North American continent, and as far-flung as South America and South Africa. It would be my great privilege to build you a custom made saddle that you can be proud to pass on to your children, and their children, a treasured family heirloom for generations to come.

What are future goals for Sandhill Saddlery:

Shawn is pretty much satisfied with his life as is, but he would definitely like to build saddles only...sometime in the near future. "I enjoy building fancy full floral tooled handmade saddles, but find just as much enjoyment in building a 'Plain Jane' roughout saddle. I simply like to build cowboy saddles for people who will 'put them to the test.'"

How to contact or to order**Address:**

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6013 Center Avenue North
Towner, North Dakota 58788

Phone Contact:

To order: 1-800-618-5592
Phone: 701-537-5439

Website URL:

<http://sandhill-saddlery.com>