

ALBERTA DONKEY AND MULE CLUB NEWS, APRIL, 2011

We had our Annual General Meeting March 6 with 20 members present, several from a good distance away. Thankfully the awful cold and snow we have had this winter had eased up a bit, so driving was not so treacherous. Positions up for election were President, Treasurer and two Directors. Here is your Executive for the next year. Our new President is Bob Leggette, with Vice President, Ken Quick Our new Treasurer/Secretary is Alice Todd and. Directors are Colleen Campbell, Paul Barrow, Don Fossum and Marlene Quiring. Twyla Daly volunteered to be our representative to the AEF and Yours Truly still seems to be your newsletter writer, although by now, after how many years of doing this [I've forgotten] I will definitely be repeating myself on subjects unless I get some respite from Club members, so please contact me with story ideas and photos!!

Like this one. Know anyone who would like to go to their high school grad in STYLE?



Cam Fleury from High River with his dad riding shotgun, chauffeuring Cam's daughter Lynn and her friends to their High School Grad. The team of mules is Sanford and Elizabeth. If you want to learn more about driving, be sure to attend our driving clinic, May 2 - 4, open to horses, mules and donkeys.

Here are additional events that were brought up at the meeting and could be added to our "Coming Events" list. July 2 – 4, we have a request to provide demonstrations with our longears at the Draft horse Show in Olds, July 2 – 4. Please contact Bob Leggette at 403 357-4174 if you are interested. Also on the same weekend [unfortunately] we have a request for our participation at Ferintosh, AB for their Centennial parade and celebrations. Please call Colleen Buskas at 780 877-2513 if you would like more information on that. There is never a shortage of parades and events that we can attend and we encourage members to consider doing so once they feel their animals are safe to handle in public. Speaking of that, we now have our Parade, Demo/ Show Guidelines booklet finished and available in print form or online at www.albertadonkeyandmule.com

The end of this month will find us in "full speed ahead" with participation in the Mane Event in Red Deer and our three clinics with Jerry Tindell of California. April 25 –27 is our first clinic with Jerry at the Lakedell Arena at Westrose AB. [west of Wetaskiwin]. Please take note that **all** of our clinics are open to **all equines!** This clinic will be geared to young stock or those than need retraining. It has always been fascinating to witness Jerry work with green or troubled animals and to watch their progression as he communicates with them in their language. For the benefit of us humans, Jerry clearly explains all along what is happening, why, and what needs to be done in order for the horse, mule or donkey to "make the change." Lots of "ah- ha" moments occur for the handlers and those auditing! If you want to be a part of the process, you can give me a call at 403 783-5210 to see if there are any spots left in any of the three clinics. Auditors are always welcome [\$30/day] and you will get your money's worth as Jerry always includes his auditors in all that is going on. All clinics start at 9:00 am each day and end around 4:00pm. You can also go to our website for clinic information, directions, registration and more at www.albertadonkeyandmule.com

Then, April 29 –May 1, we will be participating in the Mane Event in Red Deer, AB. with a booth and demo mules and donkeys for the public to appreciate. Sadly, Jerry Tindell will not be at the Mane Event this year. Many folks have falsely assumed that he would be back because of his awesome presentations last year and two years ago. If you want to see him back again, you must let the organizers of the Mane Event know your thoughts.

May 2 – 4, we immediately move back to the Lakedell Arena for the 2nd Jerry Tindell clinic, this time on Driving. This clinic will concentrate on drivers that have broke equines or ones that are ready to hook up. Again, this clinic will be full of information and a must to audit if you are thinking that you might like to learn more about driving.

May 6 –8 is the Riding Clinic, for those looking for progression in their riding and training abilities. Participants are expected to be able to safely control their mounts at all gaits. Again, Auditors are welcome.

The month of May is shaping up for some fun times too. We hope to interest members in participating in the Horse Showcase scheduled for May 27 – May 29 at the Strathcona Olympiette Centre [Fultonvale]. The crew organizing this event are hoping to add new components to the weekend including a Trainers Challenge, [now wouldn't it be fun to have them work with a mule or donkey] a Clinic Series and Educational Sessions. Any members wanting to find out more please contact Russ Shandro at 780 632-7510.

I hope to see many of you participation or auditing our series of clinics. I will be there with bells on!

Marlene Quiring