

TEES 2011 REPORT

Sunny and hot best describes Tees Longears Days 2011. A good selection of mules and a few more donkeys than in recent years competed in the usual wide variety of performance, fun, and driving classes. Henry Schmidt of Barrhead served as the judge.

This year the show honoured two special guests.

Merv Hollihan, one of the founders of the ADMC, has competed in all 22 shows and has contributed to the show in so many ways. "Swervin' Mervin," a reference to his speedy runs in the gymkhana events, has won many ribbons and high point awards over the years. Merv and his wife Ethel, now in **their late 70s**, led the Grand Entry as usual, carrying the Canadian and Alberta flags. Merv was later presented with a personalized jacket and framed photo of his mule Jesse.

Our second guest was the famous mule Horse, formerly owned by the late Deloit Wolfe. Horse now lives with Deloit Jr. near Seattle and travelled the long distance to be with us once again. Horse and Deloit Sr. were part of Team Mule in every Battle of the Breeds competition at Spruce Meadows, culminating in their victory in 2008. Horse was back competing in a number of classes at this year's show, mainly either ridden or driven by Deanne Martin. Deanne's daughter, Allie borrowed a mule or two and competed in many of the youth or fun classes.



Allie Martin in the Youth Showmanship class with her "borrowed" mule Ginger

The family was presented with a personalized mule blanket for Horse, a set of personalized towels for the family and a stuffed donkey for Allie, in appreciation of their visit, thus also fulfilling one of Deloit Sr. last wishes that Horse make one last appearance at Tees Longears Days. It was not a secret that Deloit Sr. valued his friends and the memories that he made with his Canadian friends and now, Horse's new owners vowed that they would be back again too!



Deanne Martin driving the famous mule Horse in the Canadian Maze class



Adult Halter Showmanship...all sizes of longears!

The eight to ten member drill team held two of its most successful performances this year. A few members of the Donaldda Drill team joined us with their horses and a former very active ADMC member, Angie Jensen, also contributed to the drill team on her Arabian. As well, Angie showed her miniature hinny, Short and Sweet, in a number of classes.

Alice and Ron Todd organized a Friday night supper for those show-goers who arrived at the rodeo grounds early. Approximately 85 people were on hand for our catered Saturday night supper. The fun and silent auction of donated items which followed raised almost \$1,000 to support club activities. Show announcer Russ Finlay handled the auctioneering duties in his usual hilarious way.



Coon Jumping class. Freckles the miniature donkey with handler Anne Fossum

Our promotions team of Paul and Vicki Barrow fared very well in the club booth, resulting in over \$1,000 in merchandise sales, almost 100 signatures in our guest book, and numerous donations for the two charities we support, the Donkey Sanctuary of Canada and Babou, the student working hard to improve the health of equines in The Gambia, West Africa.



Don Fossum and his team of miniature donkeys.

After the show, special thank you awards were presented to various workers and competitors, along with a delicious catered supper to show our appreciation for all participants and volunteers.



Always popular Flapjack Race, contestants must cook an eatable pancake and ride back to the finish line



Russ Shandro and Ruger in the Old Clothes Race. contestants dress themselves from a bag of old clothes and ride back to the finish line.

Several possible major changes have been suggested for the next Longears Days show. The show may be moving so be sure to attend our semi-annual meeting, to provide your input. At the time of this writing in September, the place and date have not been finalized yet so be sure to check our website for current information.

www.albertadonkeyandmule.com.