

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, Sept. 2010

TEAM MULE is once again at Spruce Meadows, competing in the Telus Battle of the Breeds. The club will also be manning a booth and mule/donkey stall at Equi Fair.

This spring, we suffered the terrible loss of our long time friend and Team Mule member, Deloit Wolfe. However we celebrate his life and the remarkable goal he set for himself in turning a recalcitrant mule into the mule we all came to know and love called "Horse"! This year, we are very excited that Deloit Wolfe Jr. and Horse will be honoring us with their participation as part of our Showcase demonstrations.

This may be the last year that you have a chance to enjoy Team Mule and the Club Booth. We do not see our way to coming back next year due to the growing financial costs of participating.



Joyce Stratton and her mule Biscuit demonstrating in last years
showcase at Spruce Meadows

Let me introduce you to Team Mule, 2010. What would Team mule be without, Maizie, the beloved 27 yr old molly mule belonging to Mogen's Nielson of Falkland, B.C. Originally from Alberta, Mogens and Maizie feel they have competed long enough and long to retire and go back to trail riding the beautiful mountains in their own backyard, so this will be their last appearance at Spruce Meadows. At 27, Maizie still has a lot of good years left and has surely earned her right to explore the high mountain trails. Mogens and Maizie go back many years in this competition and have won their fair share of ribbons at this event, including winning the Battle in 2008.

OK Whistlin' Dixie is a 5 yr. old 15.3 hh molly mule-owned and ridden by Katherine Cook of Camrose, AB., another veteran competitor. Dixie was sired by a mammoth donkey, and her mother was a TB mare. She enjoys daily turn out with mares from the barn, and like most performance equines, is on a specialized feed program. Dixie also has her hooves trimmed every 4-6 weeks, and gets shod during competition season.

Last year was Dixie's first year on Team Mule. Dixie placed 5th in dressage. Along with dressage, Dixie also enjoys jumping. Dixie has had a successful summer competing at local shows, consistently placing in the top three. Dixie has also added another talent to her resume - driving. Dixie and Katherine train with a hunter/jumper trainer on a regular basis.

LS Hot Buckaroo [Patrick] has also now competed at Spruce for a couple of years, owned and ridden by Jessica Bishop. Jessica has been riding her whole life and as a youth was an accomplished champion at mule and 4H shows, winning many US National titles.

Her backgrounds is in hunter/jumper and dressage, with further training in reining, western and trail. She is now a professional horse and mule trainer based out of Scio Oregon. Some fun awards won in the last few years were, placing in the top ten in Craig Cameron's Extreme Cowboy Race, 2009, top ten in the Extreme Mustang Makeover, 2010, and being part of the 2008 Telus Battle of the Breeds Champion, Team Mule!

Patrick was born on the family farm and raised and trained by Jessica Bishop. He is out of a cow bred palomino quarter horse mare and mammoth jack, Southside Hotshot. Two of his favorite activities are jumping and working cows.

LS Biscuit is owned and shown at Spruce Meadows by Joyce Stratton and Jessica Bishop. Biscuit has been a show mule since she was 4 years old. She is now 24 and is celebrating her 20th show season anniversary. Biscuit has already won a youth world championship at Bishop Mule Days in May 2010.

She does a variety of disciplines including Western, English, Jumping, Driving, and Trail. In 2004, Biscuit showed her incredible versatility by winning the Oregon Horsemen's Association's individual Battle of the Breeds Championship. She was the only animal in the field of 14 breeds to gain points in all 5 events. She was first in Reining, Trail, and Jumping as well.

Biscuit has also helped a lot of youth and novice riders along the way. She has been an Oregon High School Equestrian winner, 4-H medallion winner, and novice adult champion at open and mule shows. She has a multi-state fan club and the name Biscuit is well loved within that club. She has helped riders that had given up riding to renew love of the sport and return with confidence.

Driving is one of Biscuit's greatest loves, winning several Driving Championships. Biscuit has returned to the show arena for 2010 after a severe injury to a suspensory ligament. We are proud to announce she is completely free of any unsoundness and back to full competition.

So that's our Team for this year. Come out and cheer them on!



Alice Todd with her donkey and admirers after the demonstration with other club members at the Calgary Stampede in July.

Remember to attend our Semi-Annual meeting, Sunday, Oct. 3 at 1:30 p.m. tentatively booked for the Clymont Hall close to Devon. [Check our website for confirmation] Bring your friends and bring something for lunch. This is the important planning session that gets the events going for next year, so it's really important that you be there with your ideas and input!

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