

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, August, 2007

By the time you get this newsletter you need to be getting ready to head to TEES LONGEARS DAYS, August 18 & 19, 25 km east of Lacombe. AB. on Hwy 12. Bring along your friends, relatives and anyone that is even slightly intrigued by what happens when you hold a mule and donkey show!

Potential Drill Team Riders need to be at the grounds in time for practice at 7:30 Friday evening. Dress code for performing in the drill is still Black hats, black slacks and white shirts.

Last year we "bent" some of our previous rules and decided to up the "fun factor". Seems that worked and so this year will be more of the same. Pre-entries are \$10 for the weekend, but if that doesn't work for you, you can enter when you get there for \$20 and still show in any or all the classes. How much easier can that be!

Our judge this year is Henry Schmidt from Barrhead - no relation to last year's judge, Laverne Schmidt. However, we have heard that Laverne has been coaching Henry on what to expect and Henry is very excited about judging our longears show.

You "die hard" horse people might not want to read this next paragraph but mule and donkey shows make most horse shows look pretty starchy and anemic. Mules and donkeys do very well at a variety of classes, as they do not typically get stressed from switching events including participation in fun classes.

Roy and I just returned from attending the great Mule and Donkey Show in Bishop, California, where many mules and donkeys competed in numerous events. For example, Tuff Stuff, a world champion mule, under the guidance of his trainer Tim Philips, competed [and usually won] in several driving classes including gambler's choice, many western classes including reining and cow working and english classes including jumping. Most of the gymkhana mules also competed in the roping events. Donkeys rode, drove and did the fun classes. The neat thing is that this is NOT unusual for a mule or donkey to do and do well in all events. Add the fact that longears, with their high intelligence, will sometimes suggest to their riders or drivers that their ideas are superior, can make for an entertaining and humorous show. Even when a mule or donkey reverts to his or her own decision-making, their strong instinct of self-preservation over-rides dangerous behavior. They will not willingly do things that harm them and thus their handler benefits from this behavior.

So if we can convince you to open your mind to the uniqueness of the longears, we would love to have you join us for Tees Longears Days. I guarantee that you will not be bored, but you WILL be entertained, enlightened and delighted by what you see. There is a concession on site, free parking, camping and admission to the show. Saturday evening we are hosting a Beef Stew supper. Advance tickets are adults, \$10, 6 -12 yrs - \$6, 5 and under free. Remaining tickets will be sold Saturday morning at \$12 each. So if you want to enjoy supper with us, you MUST contact Ethel at 403 783-3083, and

reserve tickets by August 11.

After supper Saturday night, we also have a Fun Auction to raise funds to keep the show running. Your donations and support are greatly appreciated. Those that sing or play an instrument are invited to get together for some campfire songs and if you'd rather chortle away with a karaoke machine, we do that too. It's definitely fun for the whole family. Sunday morning kicks off with a Cowboy Church service at 8:30 a.m.

Spruce Meadows Battle of the Breeds, Sept. 2 -9, Calgary, AB. Team mule is in place and we will once again have a booth at Equi-Fair. Contact Jadene Mah for more information.

Club Camp out. Sept 14-16, Ponoka, AB. Contact Reg or Hazel Rust at 403 783-5197

Semi-annual Meeting, Oct 14, Wetaskiwin, Time and place TBA.

Remember, All club events and the TEES LONGEARS DAYS Program will be posted on our new club website: www.albertadonkeyandmule.com!! If you have questions about TEES SHOW, call Ethel at 403 783-3083.

We had a wonderful clinic at Josh Nichols home in June followed by a trail ride at Ft. Assiniboine Park. Reports on these events will have to wait as I'm out of space for this month.

Ch"ear"s
Marlene
p.,s.....See you at Tees!