

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, December, 2007

Mid September, mule and donkey lovers gathered at Reg and Hazel Rusts in Ponoka to take part in their annual trail ride and drive. The weather was gorgeous and the ride very enjoyable. Food was ample and lots of good live music was provided by Reg, Ron and friends. For many of us it was the last good ride of the year. Now with Christmas fast approaching, those memories of summer rides are held quite dear.

Our Semi-annual meeting in October had a good turnout of members with some exciting events set in motion for next year. Get out those new calendars and start marking these dates down.

Our Annual General meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2008 at the Alberta Reynolds Museum in Wetaskiwin. By then most of us will be ready to come out of hibernation and renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

A First Aid course is being planned for sometime in February and Colleen Campbell is hoping to organize a Driving clinic also for the spring.

The club plans to once again have a booth at The Mane Event in Red Deer, April 25-27. We are very excited knowing that Jerry Tindell from California will be one of the presenters at the Mane Event and we are hoping we can arrange to keep him for a few extra days for a Clinic. Jerry is the horse/mule/donkey trainer that Roy and I had the privilege of watching at Bishop Mule Days this past spring.

Club member Fred Godberson drove down from Barrhead for the meeting and to make sure we all knew about the club trail ride that he will be hosting at Ft. Assiniboine Park, the May long weekend. This will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> yr for this ride.

Keith Kendrew offered to be a contact for the Club Annual Humminbird Ride, July 17-19 and Colleen Campbell volunteered to Chair Tees Longears Days, August 16-17.

Plans for Spruce Meadows and Team Mule are already in motion.

So that gives you an idea of some of the happenings in store for 2008!

With Winter around the bend, many of our members will be getting out the sleighs and cutters and enjoying a ride behind a team of mules or donkeys with sleigh bells jingling and snow crunching underneath. On behalf of the Alberta Donkey and Mule Club members, we wish you all a very blessed and happy Christmas!

Marlene Quiring