

## Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, January, 2008

Time flies doesn't it! Here it is a New Year and we all get a year older. If you're near my age bracket, you'll notice that it sure takes longer to get things done anymore and it takes more energy to do it! On that train of thought, I think I've written this column for quite a few years now [memory goes first they say] and I'm giving notice that I really want to be replaced! So members, how about someone else taking over this job, as I'm ready to retire!

Memberships are due at the end of this month. Please send in your \$20 membership plus \$15.90 for your Horse's All subscription to Ethel Hollihan or renew at the AGM. Renewing now will insure that you don't miss out on anything!

On the books for this year's events will be our Annual General Meeting March 2 at the Alberta Reynolds Museum in Wetaskiwin. Positions up for election will be Vice- President, Secretary/Treasurer and 2 Directors. Please consider running for one of these positions. Full information will be out in next month's newsletter.

Participants and attendees at last year's Mane Event in Red Deer will be sure to make plans to attend this year, April 25 –27. Donkey and Mule enthusiasts are very excited that the Mane Event planners have confirmed Jerry Tindell, from Hesperia, California to be this year's presenter on behalf of the longears. Jerry also works with problem, wild or abused horses, mules and mustangs AND their handlers. Club members that want to take part in his or other clinics need to let the club executive know so that we can get spots filled. Also, we will be bringing Jerry Back to Alberta, August 8 -10 for a 3-day clinic. Please let me know at 403 783-5210 if you would be interested in taking that clinic.

It's been a long time since I've had much to say on the subject of understanding and working with mules. Since I now have very little free time myself to "play" with them and thus have disbanded my brood mares and sold my Jack, I'm content to let others try their hand at breeding, raising and selling mules. It was an expensive hobby as most equine related activities are, but certainly a labor of love too. I don't regret the time I put into working with and handling the lovable mule babies, but I don't miss the hard times when tragic events happened such as loosing a mule baby or finding out later that a mule I sold ended up in "bad" hands. I still have a couple of young mules that I should really sell and I suppose I will get around to that eventually but it sometimes would be easier to sell a member of the family!

I couldn't imagine life without a few mules in it. Horses are nice, and I still love them too, but there's nothing as irresistible in character and entertaining as a mule [or a donkey]. Now, mind you, Mules are not for everyone! Indeed, many folks should not own horses either. If you like to "control" animals or like to be the "boss" please DON'T get a mule. If you are serious about learning how to get the best out of your 4 legged friend AND have a great sense of humor, a mule or donkey might be just what you need to give your life that little extra "kick" [ no pun intended]!

I hope you enjoy the attached photos.

Marlene Quiring



Jim Potter and his mule Jose' on the left with Merv Hollihan and Jesse on the right. Jose' and Jesse are full brother and sister.



Diana Bigelow with one of her miniature donkeys in the Single Driving class at Tees Longears Days 3.



Brittany Rose leading Ginger and Amy Rust with Gizmo after participating in the Gummy Worm Race at Tees Longears Days. Yum- Yum.