

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club news, July, 2008

The month of May saw club members and friends very active in two exceptional events. First was a 2-day driving Clinic held just east of Camrose, taught by Rise Massey of High River. AB. Several donkeys and mules and one horse made up an interesting menagerie of critters to work with, some already driving and some just being started. Great food prepared and served by Jadene Mah's mom, Connie and friends, and good fellowship made for a lovely weekend. Personally, it was great to do a little driving again with my mule *Daisy*.

Daisy has been used very little in the last several years as she has suffered from intermittent lameness and lameness in a mule is generally pretty rare! After one treatment from a talented gal that treats horses using various therapies - *Daisy* has been moving great. This may sound rather unreal, but *Daisy* has only been driven about once a year in the last 5 years. However, she forgets nothing and just drives better each time! In fact, she was used as a lesson mule for some participants to drive that had not driven before.

Thank you to Colleen Campbell for planning the clinic and to all those that helped her make it such a success. To those of you that missed it- you missed out on some very good and useful instruction and a lot of fun.



One weekend later, found more club members and friends camped together at Fort Assiniboine Wildland Park for some great riding in the sand hills. Seven mule riders, a team of donkeys and many riders on various breeds of horses took to the trails for some great scenic riding while enjoying the warm sunny weather. Fred Godberson hosted this ride and did an exceptional job of setting up camp, providing water and toilets, a tent for inclement weather [which we didn't need to use!] and a campfire each evening, plus some wonderful musical entertainment by Scott Smith of Barrhead, AB., Saturday evening.

This area does have wildlife and besides seeing a wolf or a very large coyote, our group had two encounters with what I assume was the same black bear and cubs. The first time, my mule *Smokin' Joe* and I were in the lead and were startled by the bears as they didn't see us and were moving at an angle towards us. The second time, in the lead again, *Joe* never flinched at the bears not far ahead on the trail and just kept on trucking towards them. The bears keep looking back to see if we were still coming and finally scooted off into the trees.

Again, those of you that weren't able to make this ride, missed a wonderful weekend with great hospitality, fun around the campfire and unique trail riding that includes part of the historic Klondike Trail of 1898. And I've never seen wild bears so up close and personal!



So now, here's your chance to take part in our next Trail Ride. This one is this month, July 25 –27, [or come earlier or stay later] at the Hummingbird, in the Ram Falls area, west of Rocky Mt. House. If you need directions or have questions please call Keith Kendrew at 403 843-3293. This ride has also become an annual club event and offers the most beautiful mountain scenery and interesting trails. Shoes are recommended, as the terrain is rocky. Again, we welcome all equines, donkeys, mules and horses.

August 8 –10, you will want to be geared up for the JERRY TINDELL CLINIC held at Equine Wise Services, north of Camrose Ab. Go to www.albertadonkeyandmuleclub.com and check club events for specific information and directions/map. The clinic has been full for a long time, however if you were one of the unlucky many that didn't get in, Jerry strongly encourages you to audit the clinic as he promises that you will find it very beneficial. Personally, I know from watching Jerry before that he is very receptive to auditors and answers all questions from the audience. He has also already warned me that "We participants better be taking our "Geritol" as we will be worked hard!" Jerry rides, drives and packs and making sure that we and our animals are safe is of the utmost importance to him.

Auditors can pre-register with me, especially if they would like to purchase lunches as they need to be pre-ordered. Otherwise, you will need to bring a bagged lunch and bring a chair. Beverages and doughnuts will be provided compliments of the Alberta Donkey and Mule Club. All equines will be represented at the clinic. To pre-register to audit, please call me at 403 783 –5210 or email marlenequiring@hotmail.com

TEES LONGEARS DAYS, happens the following weekend, August16 –17. Check out our website for Show classes and information. This is one weekend you really don't want to miss. No one has more fun than mule and donkey aficionado's and their remarkable critters!

See you at the Hummingbird!
Marlene Quiring

