

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, July 2009

Fred Godberson reports that the ADMC Memorial Day ride on May 15 to 18 at the Fort Assiniboine Sandhill Park had a showing of only three mules and 6 horses as the bad weather forecast probably kept some riders close to home. Some members reported being ill. Some members chose to work instead of riding. [I think Fred was poking that comment at me as we regrettably missed the ride!] He reports that strong winds blew a lot of trees across the trails that were supposed to be cleared by the park officials but it did not happen in time for the ride. The riders did ok but wagons from another camp had problems.

Fred also said the weather was good on Friday and Saturday but Sunday brought showers, nonetheless they had a good ride and the riders reported seeing a black bear with 2 cubs on the trail a few hundred yards ahead of them. [A black bear mauled a young camper about 30 miles north of the park in the Swan Hills area on Saturday.] Sunday evening became windy and cold with a little snow and Monday morning found riders breaking camp.

Fred was looking forward to seeing Mike Downing with his unicorn donkey hitch, but Mike was ill with a flu. Fred says "there is always next year". A big thanks from the ADMC to Nexen Oil Co. for supplying the portipotty for the weekend.

This month we are hosting the **Jerry Tindell Clinics** at the Lakedell Ag. Society's Arena, at Westerose, AB. The first clinic was planned for July 10 -12, but at the time of this writing looks like it will be cancelled or turned into private sessions. So please if you were planning to audit this clinic, check with me first! I know money is short around the country, but if you are struggling with your horse, mule or donkey, this is money well spent and the place you want to be to get Help! Jerry is one of the very best trainers I have had the privilege to learn under. He has infinite patience with man and beast both, and knows what needs to happen between you and your equine. Jerry is an excellent communicator and his goal is to give YOU the knowledge and tools to move ahead in your relationship with your animal. Safety is his #1 priority for all involved! Last year, we brought two mules to him that had issues that were becoming dangerous. Both the mules and us got put back on track! I highly recommend him to anyone that is frustrated with an equine or just wants to learn more about training them!! The Colt Starting Clinic July 13 - 15 should be full by now and hopefully so will the riding clinic July 17-19 but please check with me as there is more room in this clinic at the present time. Auditors will be welcome at the door @ \$30 per day but please check and make sure which clinics are a go! Feel free to email me at marlenequiring@hotmail.com or call me evenings @ home 403 783-5210. These clinics are open to anyone, not just ADMC members. If you don't have the time for a full three-day clinic, you might prefer a private or a semi-private session with Jerry, at your home, half day or full day. Please contact me if that works better for you. Please check on line at www.albertadonkeyandmule.com under events/clinics for registration information, maps etc.

The following weekend after the Tindell clinics, you will be able to put your newfound skills to the test by joining us for the annual Hummingbird Trail Ride, July 24-26. Call

Keith Kendrew at 403 843-3293.

August 15-16 is the 20th Anniversary of the TEES LONGEARS DAYS SHOW, Tees Rodeo Grounds, Tees, AB. This is quite a milestone as this fall also marks the start of the Alberta Donkey and Mule club, twenty years ago. Tees is likely the longest running mule and donkey Show in Canada and this year we want to honor those that made this show possible and those that have kept it running. We plan to have some special Anniversary Celebrations for the show, including honoring Moses, a mule owned by Reg and Hazel Rust of Ponoka, AB. that has participated at Tees every one of the 20 years it has been operating and has been shown by the whole family including grandchildren. Moses holds a special place in the Rust family's hearts and now will be making history in the mule and donkey world. You will want to come and meet this special mule and share with us in the fun and entertainment that one can have at a mule/donkey show. Call Show Chairperson Colleen Campbell at 780 672-6105 for further information or call our Show Secretary Ethel Hollihan @ 403 783- 3083 if you would like to sponsor a class, contribute to our annual fun auction, or order BBQ Tickets for the Saturday night supper. Everyone is welcome and admission and camping are free.

Hope to see you at the Tindell Clinics. Remember to check with me first before coming to audit.

Marlene Quiring

See pictures below.... (photos taken by Doug Moran of Wetaskiwin, AB)



Susan Cotterill and her mule Jade, first time participants in the Fort Assiniboine ride.



Joyce Muller and her mule Brazen taking a break after the ride.



Fred Godberson and his mule John reading the signs along the Trails.