

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, June, 2009

Time is running short to register for the Jerry Tindell Clinics scheduled for July at the Lakedell arena, Westeros, AB. The clinics are open to horses, mules and donkeys, and you do not have to be a club member to register. Please check out the information and registration form under events/clinics at www.albertadonkeyandmule.com or email me at marlenequiring@hotmail.com or phone me at 403 783-5210.

The first clinic is July 10 -12 and is geared as an Introductory Clinic but may change somewhat depending on registrations. This clinic will cover a lot of groundwork, safety and the 6 steps to control.

The second clinic from July 13 -15 is for Colt Starting or Re Starting problem animals, limited to 6 participants. Jerry will teach you how to start your equine for maximum safety for both. If you are having difficulties with your animal, this is defiantly the clinic to attend as Jerry will guide you through the steps to "re start" and move ahead. From our experiences last year, we can attest to his ability to "turn things around" for the good.

The third clinic July 17 -19, is geared especially for those that took Jerry's Clinics last year and will cover some ground work but will be mostly ridden work. Many of us are really looking forward to progressing from what we learned last summer under Jerry's excellent program. If you haven't yet checked out Jerry's website please do so at www.jerrytindell.com

Please get your registrations in to me by **June 20th**. Auditors are welcome and do not have to pre-register but may want to contact me to make sure all clinics are a go.

I stated in last month's newsletter that I would continue on with Jerry's points on being safe and successful with your animal. Since I know I am probably getting over my word count allowed, I picked just a few of his points to share with you under "How to ask for it"

- "It is crucial, that the human becomes proficient in his timing, awareness and release.
- FOCUS! Don't let you or your animal's attention wander.
- You must believe in yourself, before the horse[mule or donkey] can believe in you
- The human must be the leader. If you cannot lead, do not expect him to follow.

July 24-26 is our annual Hummingbird Trail Ride. Everyone welcome! Contact Keith Kendrew at 403 845-3293 for more information.

August 15 -16 is Tees Longears Days and we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of this fun and family orientated show. Programs, if not out already, will be available soon and the schedule of classes and events will also be listed on our website. There will be many surprises and looks to be a great celebration that you won't want to miss.

The Mane Event Held in Red Deer, April 24 -26 was another great opportunity for us to

connect with other mule and donkey lovers and to introduce ourselves to horse owners that perhaps have a desire to try something different.

I want to thank our Booth Workers, Paul and Vicki Barrow, Ken and Donna Quick, Keith and Lil Kendrew, Ethel Hollihan, Colleen Campbell, Heather Shandro, Katie Skeels and Amy Rust. Also our gratitude to Russ and Jade Shandro for riding their mules in our demonstrations at the UFA arena and for the very enthusiastic and informative presentation they also gave with their mules at the "Meet the Public" demos. They did a fantastic job and it was very rewarding to watch Russ's handsome 10 yr. old mule, Ruger, and Jade's 41 yr. old [yes, that is not a misprint!] mule Red Mulrooney handling the huge crowds with calmness and ease.

The following is a story from the Mane Event, as relayed to me by Russ Shandro

"How the Preacher got to Ride a Mule." or "Ruger Goes to Church with Hugh Mc Lennan and Bryn Thiessan"

We were in a restaurant Sunday morning and in walks Bryn. I recognized him from seeing him on TV [Cowboy Country]. The line up was long so I walked over and introduced myself and confirmed with him that he was the guy that I had seen on TV. I knew of the Cowboy Church Service coming up in 45 minutes and I asked him if he required a mount? He was very polite and turned me down, explaining that Hugh McLennan was to have a horse lined up for him. So we spoke for about 15 minutes and in walked Billie, Hugh's wife. She informed Bryn that they could not get the lend of a horse, she apologized. Bryn just smiled and walked back over to me and said, "Mr., I would like to borrow your mule for the church service." Billie's eyes just popped wide open and she gasped. I got Ruger over to the location, Bryn hopped on and walked him in a circle in the parking lot, then went into the round pen for the service. And it went well, very well.

Russ is chuckling, just a little over this, as he says "Hugh has never really endorsed mules. When Bryn rode into the pen for Cowboy Church, we heard "What is that.....?" Bryn also told me later, "Find me a blue roan mule, and we got a deal."

What fun would life be if we couldn't see the humor in things? Anyone that owns a mule or a donkey has to have a good sense of humor!

See you at the Tindell clinics, Marlene Quiring

See pictures below....



Russ Shandro on Ruger and daughter Jade on 41 yr old Red Mulrooney at the Mane Event in Red Deer, AB.



Bryn Thiessan preaching at Cowboy Church mounted on Ruger the mule. Hugh McLennan assisting and providing the music for the service.