

Alberta Donkey and Mule News, May 2009

Join the members and friends of the ADMC club for the third annual trail ride at the Fort Assiniboine Wildland Park on May 16, 17 and 18, 2009. The park is located about 10-km northeast of the Fort hamlet along the north shore of the Athabasca River. This park was rescued from the quads and dirt bikes in 1997 and covers an area of 66 square km. One of the trails is part of the historic Klondike Trail of 1898. Along this trail is a 1898 grave of a nine year old girl who died on the way to the Yukon.

The eastern 2/3 of the park consists of sand dunes covered with mainly spruce and pine. The west 1/2 is predominately wetland where June and July mosquitoes hatch. This is why we ride in May. The Clearwater Creek flows through the park but is only suitable for horse watering at the East Side. Mule/horse water will be available at the camp but bring your own personal drinking water.

Wildlife includes black and grizzly bears, cougar, deer and moose. Joyce and Rob Muller from Westeros, AB. have done a lot of trail and mountain riding and reported to our host, Fred Godberson that they had never seen a bear while riding until they came to ride in the Sand Hills. Last year, our group also had several close sightings of a black mother bear and two cubs while riding the trails.

Members and friends of the ADMC will camp outside the park in a grass meadow [government land] that is just south of the Horse Creek Ranch gate. To get to the camp, follow the signs for about 10-km to Horse Creek Ranch [HCR] gate from main street Fort Assiniboine. Do not go into the Ranch unless you want to camp there. Fred says that you may want to avoid coming to the Park by way of the Vega Ferry as a horse trailer usually drags getting on and off the ferry.

Miles and miles of marked, named trails with maps at trailheads, steep valleys, river flats, wetlands, spruce and pine trees, and sand dunes make this a beautiful riding area. No shoes are required because the trails are all sandy.

Bring rain gear, as the Sand Trails are suitable for riding even when wet. Rain or Shine, we will show you a great Alberta Riding Area. We hope the mule and horse riding musicians bring along their instruments for the evening campfires.

Just as a side note, on Saturday morning there is also an Antique Car Run at the Fort complete with a breakfast. Fred reports that a few riders took a few hours off last year to visit the event and may plan to do the same this year.

For more information, phone Fred Godberson at 780 674-5775 or email fredjan@telusplanet.net. Or contact Mike Downing at 780 699-5522.

A reminder to those of you that are contemplating registering for the JERRY TINDELL CLINICS in July, I need to know real soon or the clinics will be cancelled or combined. So please contact me ASAP. The complete information and registration form is on the

club website under events: www.albertadonkeyandmule.com. All clinics are open to ALL EQUINES so if you're reading this and have a horse instead of a mule or a donkey, you CAN come. Also you do not have to be a member to register. If you are having a problem with your horse, donkey or mule or want to get one started right....this is the clinic you want to sign up for. Jerry gets results and not at the expense of the animal or the human handler. Jerry teaches a program that is learnable, clear, concise and enjoyable for people and equines. So visit the website or contact me directly at 403 783-5210 or email marlenequiring@hotmail.com. Also check out Jerry's website at www.jerrytindell.com

Here is an excerpt from TINDELLS HORSE & MULE SCHOOL brochure. Jerry says "Know what you want, Know how to ask it and Know when you get it." I'll leave you with some points from "Know what you want." and the rest will follow in the next month's newsletters: [Of course, you can substitute mule or donkey for horse!]

- A horse who is easily caught, who leads well on the halter rope with a soft feel.
- Correct ground manners; a horse easily directed on the halter rope.
- A horse that stands quietly while being groomed, saddled and mounted.
- A mount that is safe and confident, so you can be safe and confident.
- A pleasant riding experience in a group or by yourself, a ride both you and the horse enjoy.
- Your horse's complete attention at all times, no matter what the distraction may be.
- By creating forward motion, trailer loading is accomplished every time!
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Sign up for the clinic and then join us for the Fort Assiniboine Trail Ride. It is a great way to start off your Trail Riding year.

Marlene Quiring

(pictures on following page...)



Rob and Joyce Muller on the Fort Assiniboine Ride last May.



1898 grave of a young girl along the Klondike Trail.



Clip Clop and Roy checking out an old Trapper's Cabin close to one of the trails.