

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, September, 2007

From September 2 –9, the Alberta Donkey and Mule club will once again be participating at the Spruce Meadows Masters Equifair and the ever popular Telus Battle of the Breeds. Team mule will compete with the many versatile horse breeds that make this event the crowd pleaser that it has grown to be.

Our team this year consists of Deloit Wolfe and "Horse" from Missoula, Montana, This pair has become a legend in the Battle and each year that we can convince them to come back gives us one more chance to enjoy the teamwork that they employ.

Jessica Bishop from Lebnon, Oregon on L.S. Buckaroo are back for their second appearance at Spruce. Jessica is a talented trainer and brings out the best in the mules and horses that she shows. We are so pleased that she has remained enthusiastic about this event and is willing to represent the mules again in the competitions.

Who doesn't love Mogens Nielsen and his mule Maizie? They just get better and better every year and are a delight to watch. Mogens had lived in Alberta for most of his life, but now calls Falkland, B.C. home. So good to have you back Mogens!

Last but not least on our Battle of the Breeds Team is our "princess" mule Mastco Jane and her partner, Katherine Cook from Camrose, AB. This pair are beautiful to watch and Jane has made quite a name for herself in the show jumping circuit.

These dedicated mule lovers volunteer their time and talents to show the world that the mule is just as talented as any horse and sometimes even better. Although Spruce Meadows itself and the many people that come to Spruce have been very supportive of the mules and donkeys in general, other areas of the country still hold onto false ideas and hear-say about mules and donkeys. So it has always been a wonderful opportunity for the Alberta Donkey and Mule Club to participate in Equifair and the Battle and to have the opportunity to show the public what these equines can do. And so we wish Good Luck to TEAM MULE and have fun at the games!

Unfortunately, as of the writing of this newsletter, I'm not sure of the demonstration and booth crew, so I will have to save that until next newsletter. Roy and I cannot fit in into our schedule this year, but our hearts will be with everyone there.

We just got back from the club ride at the Hummingbird in the Ram Falls area, west of Rocky Mountain House, AB. About 20 members and friends enjoyed several days of good riding, with hot weather, which I very much enjoyed. It is beautiful country with breath taking views every way you look.

Next on the Club Events is the Camp out at Reg and Hazel Rusts just north of Ponoka, Sept. 14-16, Suitable for riding and driving, this is a social event with lots of time for visiting and relaxing. The terrain is flat and makes for easy riding so if you want a nice

weekend with a slow pace, this is where you want to be. Pack up your critters, tent or trailer and join the fun. If you play a musical instrument, bring it along. Call 403 783-5197 for more information.

Our semi-annual meeting is coming up, scheduled for October 14, at Wetaskiwin, AB. The time and place are not available to me as yet.

If you have something to share with the club, please phone me at 403 783-5210 or email me at highoncountry@hotmail.com

Marlene Quiring