

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, August 2011

Our big Event this month is our Annual Tees Longears Days Mule and Donkey Show, August 20 - 1 at the Rodeo Grounds at Tees, AB. 25 km. East of Lacombe on Hwy 12. We invite anyone that is looking for an inexpensive, entertaining weekend for the family to come and join us. Even better if you have a mule or a donkey and are willing to participate in some classes. If you have never "shown" before, this is definitely the place to be. We will help you and cheer you on. We love to show the public how versatile and smart our longears are. And sometimes they are indeed smarter than their handlers so please bring your sense of humor too!

Admission is free, also parking and camping. There are no hook ups but there is water and pens for the animals. A food concession on the grounds along with a Saturday evening catered BBQ supper is worth coming out for! Supper tickets need to be ordered in advance by calling Ethel at 403 783-3083, otherwise a limited number will be for sale at the grounds Saturday morning. Vendors that would like to set up a booth are welcome. Those that have tack to sell or swap are welcome to set up Saturday afternoon.

Please bring something to donate to our Fun Auction Saturday evening right after the supper. Money raised from it goes towards making sure that this show continues. Hugh Kelly from Lacombe will be sharing his fine musical talents with us and any other musicians or entertainers are encouraged to join us for the evening.

You do not have to be a club member to participate in the show but you do need to have AEF or similar insurance. Entries need to be received by Ethel [403 783-3083] by August 10 for the early registration fee of \$5 per class or \$20 for the whole weekend. Otherwise Post Entries will be taken before 9 a.m. each day at \$7 per class or \$30 for the weekend. For the list of classes and weekend program, please go to www.albertadonkeyandmule.com and click on Tees Longears Days

Throughout the show, we hold special "stick" mule and donkey classes for all the little tykes that want to participate. Entry is free and there is fun and prizes for all.

There will be a Drill Team practice Friday night for those that would like to ride in the Saturday and Sunday performance. Please bring black slacks and a white long sleeved shirt to wear for the actual performance. We do not always get everything right, but it is always a crowd pleaser.



Merv Hollihan and his mule Jesse in the Trail Class at Tees last year.

This year we will be honoring long time club member and avid supporter of Tees Longears Days, "swervin' Merv Hollihan." Besides having built, painted and maintained all of our props, trail obstacles, jumps etc, Merv, to my knowledge has never missed a show in the 22 years since it's inception. Without a doubt Merv's favorite classes have been gymkhana and trail. So it is with great pleasure this year that we dedicate all of our trail classes in his honor. Look for a few "swervin' Mervin" specialties in the Trail Classes Saturday morning!

Also this year we will be hosting a very famous mule called "Horse" and her new family from Washington, USA. Last year, we were deeply saddened when we heard of the passing of Deloit Wolfe Sr. Deloit and Horse had been a Team at Spruce Meadows Telus Battle of the Breeds for 11 years and of course were on the team when Team Mule won the Battle in 2008. I first met Deloit and Horse when they traveled up to Tees in 1997 to compete in our show. Even then, we were in awe of the marvelous communication

between the two and many of us realized for the first time that a mule really could be as well trained as any horse and maybe even better. This marvelous duo "set the bar" for future members of the Alberta Donkey and Mule club way back then. So it is a fitting tribute to Deloit Sr. that Horse is now travelling back to Tees with Deloit's son and family for another appearance at our show. We are indeed honored by Horse's "return performance!"

Below is an update by Deanne Martin on Horse and her new family...



Deanne Martin learning to drive with Horse, the mule!

"Well I promised you an update on what our girl "Horse" has been up to....

It's been a little over a year since Deloit Sr. has passed and Deloit Jr. brought his dad's beloved girls (Pony included) to Washington where he lives. ["Pony" is also a mule...a very tall mule!]

She and Pony settled right in and couldn't be happier (or fatter) with the 15 acres of lush green grass to graze on and the mild, yet very wet, weather. She actually became a redhead last fall as the iron content in the soil is much higher here than in Montana.

Deloit Jr. and Allie rode Horse in the Evergreen State Fair Parade last August dazzling the crowd, while her entourage of young "hands" passed out mule literature and coloring books. (see photo)

The winter brought us rain rain and more rain and we decided that Horse must be part pig as she enjoys rolling in the mud so much! :)

This spring Deloit took a refresher course on driving and is teaching me how to use the Meadowbrook buggy. Allie and I dressed in period costumes for the Woodinville All Fools Day Parade and the weather was perfect!

Allie turned 9 in May and had a handful of girls out to the barn for a picnic, piñata and games. Horse was such a sport to put up with the girls and their squeals, most of them had never even seen a Mule before much less ride one. Horse carried them around in the arena ~ through her trail course and delighted them with her big rainbow ball!

This summer we have plans to visit a few Washington Mule Shows and of course looking forward to Tees in August! "

Consider this YOUR invitation to join us August 20 and 21 as we celebrate Tees Longears Days! Visit our website for more information or you can call me at 403 783-5210.

See you at TEES LONGEARS DAYS!!

Marlene Quiring