

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, August 2017

ALBERTA LONGEARS DAYS happens this month, August 11 -13 at Eagle Hill Equine, west of Olds, AB. This will be our 2nd year at this beautiful venue and our 28th LONGEARS SHOW!

Everyone is welcome to attend for the weekend and the fun begins at 10 am Saturday and Sunday. Camping is free but no hook ups. Free admission to spectators but do bring your lawn chairs as seating is limited. There will be a concession on site and a catered Saturday evening supper is offered along with a fabulous Concert by " The Offramp Boys." Please call in advance to reserve tickets by calling 403 556-1195. We will also be holding our annual silent and live fun auction and donations towards this are always welcome. All proceeds go towards our educational events. Featured will be fun and performance classes for donkeys and mules at all levels of training. Classes are also offered that are suitable for young or green mules or donkeys or green handlers so that they may gain confidence. We keep things low key and keep the fun in showing. It's our only show for the year so your support is needed and appreciated.

As I write this we are in the middle of our series of Tindells Horse and Mule School Club sponsored clinics for the year.



Mammoth donkey in the Colt Starting class. Learning to come to the fence for mounting and getting them use to seeing you above them.

So far many mules, one mammoth donkey and several horses and their handlers have been learning a lot about safety and control on the ground and how that transfers to a safe ride once in the saddle.



Working a hard to catch and head shy young mule from the back of another well trained saddle mule has a lot of advantages

Building a solid foundation with green equines or going back and rebuilding with those already being ridden requires effort on our part, understanding of how we need to move their feet in order to reach the mind and how important our timing is in releasing them for each try. Learning to be effective in communicating with them in a positive manner is generally not something we are born with and so we have to take the time to learn the skills from someone that has studied and worked with mules and horses for his entire life. The results are awesome!



Celebrating Canada Day in the Beginner/Intermediate Riding Class.

Happy Trails,
Marlene Quiring