

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, Feb. 2018

MEET MEMBER LORRAINE WILLIAMS;

In 2015, I was looking around for a 55<sup>th</sup> birthday gift to myself, when, lo and behold, a white mammoth donkey came out of nowhere! Abel is 10 years old, and trained to drive and ride, and he was free. He is a celebrity at Christmas parades and carolling. Loping him is as if I am floating above the ground. Pure joy! My plan is to explore the mountains with him and my mule, and expose them to parades, guns, etc.



Annie, my mule, was born on my farm 6 years ago, out of a Paso Fino mare. She taught me almost everything I know today about mules. The rest of the credit goes to Jerry Tindell's Mule School. His annual clinics here in Alberta, as well as his training DVD's are priceless. ([Jerrytindell.com](http://Jerrytindell.com)) No doubt there are other horse trainers who have had luck with mules, but none can compare to Jerry's lifetime of working with mules. He has a "gift" with the people, that few trainers have. If it were not for his encouragement at clinics, I would have sold the mule a long time ago. I am so glad I didn't.



Most mule owners in Alberta are spread a few hours apart, geographically. We gather for the weeks that Jerry is here, learn from the best, and grow in friendship. From these clinics, we can practice at home, and take in other opportunities to expose our mules to new situations. The ADMC has been a source of information, encouragement, and mulemanship that is much appreciated by this gramma. Annie and I have a “connection” that is amazing. I have earned her trust, and that is huge. One of my riding buddies uses a wheelchair. The first time Annie saw her motorized scooter, zipping around the trailer, she looked at me, then ignored it. Mules deserve the accolades they get if trained properly, with patience, and safety in mind. They will go the distance for you, but be patient, learn everything you can, and love those longears! Remember, you ride the mule you lead.

Lorraine Williams

Our Annual General Meeting is Sunday, March 25 at 1:30 pm at 5015-46 Ave. Ponoka, AB. Mark your calendars.