

ALBERTA DONKEY AND MULE NEWS, OCTOBER, 2016

Our move to Eagle Hill Equine, west of Olds, AB. for our 27th Alberta Longears Show was a hit with participants and spectators alike. South central Alberta showed up with more representation than ever which upped our numbers to 35 plus mules and donkeys. New faces enjoyed the venue and new friends were made.



.L to R. Mounted Roy Quiring with granddaughter Kate Langell, Wanda Malcher and Marlene Quiring. On ground, Special guests: Bonnie Shields, Paula, London and Savanna Eller and Barb Melton.

The ability to make use of the indoor arena as well as what portion we could use of the outdoor arena [recent rain flooded one end!] made for a smooth running show and no classes had to be cancelled this year. We especially had a great turn out of donkeys of all sizes including 4 teams of driving donkeys!



Reagan Harper with her team of well trained donkeys competing in the Log Pull at the show.

Hi lights of the weekend included our special Guest, Bonnie Shields, the "Tennessee Mule Artist" who now hails from Sand Point Idaho. Bonnie donated several of her mule prints to our Fun Auction which followed our delicious catered Supper Saturday evening. With her contributions, our final tally of funds succeeded anything raised in the past! Other special guests included Barb Melton, daughter Paula Eller and granddaughter's Savanna and London. Eleven year old London started off our Grand Entry each day with her beautiful renditions of the Canadian and U.S. Anthems. This special family DID come all the way from Nashville, Tennessee to be with us. Other spectators flew in from as far away as Ontario.



Club president Russ Shandro, with hostess Kim Baerg presenting Sue Wensink and her mule Squidj with over all Champion.

Our Drill Team, despite a "going every which way " one time practice Friday evening, went off without any hitches both days and again received many compliments on how impressive we looked. Snappy white shirts with patterned vests and matching saddle pads and neck scarves didn't hurt any either.



Some of the Drill Team Members, L to R, Wendy Harper, Matt Neilson, Brittany Penner, Marlene Quiring and Roy Quiring.

Kim Baerg, daughter Samantha DeWitt, and their entire barn staff did a fabulous job of orchestrating the whole weekend and believe it or not are gearing up with improvements to be ready for us next year on the second weekend in August. Thank you to everyone that participated, spectated, donated to or bought from the auction or in any way helped make this show our best show in several years! Hats off to the Longears!!



Don Fossum with his Champion team of Candy Apple and Candy Floss

Several Championships were awarded at the completion of the 2 day show.

High Point Donkey--Mojo and Smiley Douglas

High Point Mule--Slim and Matt Neilsen

Best Team-- Don Fossum and Candy Apple and Candy Floss

Best Driving Donkey --Spitfire and Lynn Douglas

Over All Champion--Sue Wensink and Ed Burles with their Mule Squidj

Kate Langell received the Ethel Hollihan Memorial Youth Award



Best Driving Donkey Spitfire with his adoring owner, Lynn Douglas



Matt Neilsen with his High Point Mule Slim.

Our Semi-Annual Meeting is this month on Sunday October 16 at 1:30 in Ponoka at Ponoka Neighbourhood Place. If you have ideas for events you would like to happen in 2017, this is the meeting where events for 2017 are "birthed" and begin to take shape. If you can't attend please leave your input with one of our executive. As usual a Potluck Lunch will follow.

Marlene Quiring.