

Alberta Donkey and Mule News, Sept, 2015
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In July at Beaverlodge, Alberta we finished up the last leg of our club sponsored series of Jerry Tindell Clinics. Some clinics were predominately filled with horses while others attracted mostly mules. It mattered not! The flood of responses we received by the owners of their appreciation of being able to study under Jerry was overwhelming. He is scheduled to return to Canada next year.

While we are an "Alberta" club, we do have quite a few members in B.C. and other provinces.



Members, Joe and Laureen Kress from Hanley, Saskatchewan on their mules proudly bearing the Saskatchewan and Canadian flags at Jake Clark Mule Days in Ralston, Wyoming in June. They also joined in many of the events and classes offered at this popular mule show and sale.

One of our B.C. members is Mary Ann Scannell from central British Columbia. Mary Ann has three mammoth donkeys, two of which came from mule and donkey breeders, Mavis and Tom at Cedar Hill Ranch, Falkland, BC. She says the donkeys are her retirement plan and she hopes to ride, pack and drive them.



Mary Ann Scannell's mammoth donkeys; Left to right, Bella, Lovely and Asshlee

Having had and loved donkeys previously she spent many years breeding, raising and training the old genetics sport/working western Morgans. While being able to use the Morgan's energy to help train them, Mary Ann finds it sure is different training donkeys. However she says loving them is just as easy...even easier. She uses clicker training to help motivate the donkeys and feels that has worked well for training them with new things and then she phases it out. In the same way she trained her Morgans, she is taking her time and doesn't plan to have them deal with weight and physical stress until they are 5 years old and their bones have nearly finished maturing.

Mary Ann is very open to having contact with other donkey owners and sharing in experiences and training techniques. Her email address is isayeeha@gmail.com. Having her life dramatically slowed down by a stroke two and a half years ago, she has hung onto the three donkeys and has done all their chores throughout. She says they are her best therapy.

Happy Brays, from Mary Ann and Marlene Quiring