

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, Nov. 2017

This article with photos appears in the November Issue of Saddle Up Magazine. PLEASE SUBMIT SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR MULES OR DONKEYS AND WHAT YOU DO WITH THEM TO ME SO I CAN CONTINUE WITH "MEET OUR MEMBERS"....Marlene

Meet members Mike and Shaunna Lewis!

“Well, I guess you could say that our fascination with mules started back in the days of Festus and Ruth (aka: Mike's childhood and the reruns for Shaunna). Skip ahead a few decades, where raising children and having careers were the priorities, we caught the mule bug again.

Mike was "hooking" for teamster, Brian Sutherland, at the Calgary Stampede for 10 straight days. Brian had the only team of mules at Draft Horse Town. Mike came home and said we had to get some. We started with two mollies and discovered our learning curve was about to be challenged. We became members of the Alberta Donkey and Mule Club, viewed training videos, and started taking clinics with Jerry Tindell. One of the best sayings we have heard was that "mules are like horses.....just a lot more". This is so true.

Over the last few years, we have bred our favorite saddle horse to a mammoth Jack (Duke of Griff), named her molly "Ruth" and collected a few more mules along the way. We have officially surpassed the number of mules we have compared to the horses. We have attended over 7 Jerry Tindell clinics (both as participants and auditors) and feel confident in building a strong foundation in our young mollies and even starting them under saddle.

When we started seeing issues on the trails with a "new to us" young molly, we knew we needed help. We sought out a well-respected mule trainer here in Alberta, Karen Lovell from Rocky Mountain Mules. Not only did she work with the molly, she provided guidance and understanding of what was going on with her. One of the best moments was Shaunna showing this molly at the annual ADMC Mule Days, placing in the ribbons in several events (western pleasure, barrel race, etc.) and being a part of the Drill Team. Mike also kept up during this event; placing 1st in Coon jumping with a 7 year old Molly and a few ribbons with a 2 year old molly.

ADMC has been instrumental in providing the educational support, the fun and friendly venues to learn and showcase our mules. And a great group of knowledgeable members that support each other and want to promote this breed.”ADMC- we can't thank you enough !!

Shaunna & Mike

P.S. Mike and Shaunna have jumped right into our club with helping with many events and Mike was elected as one of our new Directors this past spring.

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Best Regards,  
Marlene Quiring