

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, July, 2010

It is with great sadness that I share with you the passing of Deloit Wolfe of Missoula, Montana on May 23, 2010. This is a huge loss for many of us personally and marks the end of an era in the world of the longears. Most people will remember Deloit and his famous mule Horse, the mule that won the hearts of the Spruce Meadows crowds at the Battle of the Breeds competition for the last 10 years. Deloit's hard work paid off in 2008 when Team Mule captured the Championship title. We are so glad that he lived to see that dream come true! ADMC member, Russ Shandro speaks for many of us when he said '*It was certainly a pleasure to know Deloit. He was the kind of guy that I would call the "Roy Rogers of the Mule World."*' He was a fine ambassador, entertainer and friend. His family knows, we were inspired by Deloit. Rest in peace, my friend''

I believe that Deloit would very much want us to keep striving to promote our beloved equines; the mule and the donkey. This month, new director, Alice Todd has taken on the challenges of organizing a contingent of members to man a booth for the Alberta Donkey and Mule Club at the Calgary Stampede, July 13 and 14. Watch for Alice, Bob Leggette, Marla Hope- Rapp, Tom Barker and their respective longears. We are proud of our ambassadors and Deloit would be too!

Also this month is our annual ride at the Hummingbird/Ram Falls area July 23 –25. Everyone is welcome and that includes all horses! Bring your voices or musical instruments for some great evening campfires. For more information, please call Keith Kendrew at 403 843-3293. Hope to see many of you there!

TEES LONGEARS DAYS, August 21-22 at the Tees Rodeo Grounds, east of Lacombe, AB. If you need a show booklet, please call Ethel at 403 783-3083. You can also find the complete program online at www.albertadonkeyandmule.com. We need your entries by August 1st, so don't delay. This is always a fun, family oriented event and free to the public, including camping on site. Remember our Special Guest, Bonnie Shields "the Tennessee Mule Artist," you won't want to miss anything!
Marlene Quiring



Colleen Campbell with Tinsel the donkey hooked to her cart at the Driving clinic

The following is a report on a recent Driving clinic:

The Alberta Donkey & Mule Club in conjunction with Stonebridge Driving Club was excited to welcome Cheryl Fotheringham on May 7th & 8th to clinic at the Donalda Ag Society Arena. Originally planned as a driving clinic, driving Coach Cheryl Fotheringham guided six registrants through her basic foundation training. Cheryl has a philosophy that this foundation training is relevant for both driving and riding animals. Cheryl has been a member of the Canadian Horse battle of the breeds for the past several years and had many credentials to back her up.

Sadly, membership registrants' were low but 4 spots were filled by other equine enthusiasts eager to learn about driving. Animal participants included 4 large standard donkeys, 2 miniature donkeys, one Welsh pony, and 4 horses. Organizer, Colleen Campbell wants to thank the following participants and their grooms: Joe & Georgina Orcheski, Camrose, Ab Jennifer Johnson & Beck (last name not provided), Ponoka, Ab, Josef Hartung & Carolyn Lien, Killam, Ab, Caroline Boddy & Jeff Wallace, Forestburg, Ab, and Joni Roberts & Matt Leopard, Forestburg, Ab. Matt's expertise was also utilized on both days. Both Cheryl and Matt worked together providing instruction and guidance to everyone tailored to the level of training both handler and animal.

Saturday morning started with a group orientation and discussion providing the clinician an idea as to the level of training and experience of both handler and animals. Everyone started with ground work. Following work with a halter, Cheryl demonstrated lunging, ground driving with one and two lines. Throughout the weekend, Cheryl repeatedly reinforced that solid ground driving is the foundation for a good driving animal.

Cheryl also provided equipment that she uses in her bomb proofing clinics. Participants also worked on desensitizing their horses or donkeys to tarps, gates, balls, noise makers, flags, shredded curtains, and umbrellas. Animals also pulled tire tubes, and milk jugs.

Considerable amount of time was spent on learning harness parts, and function. Participants welcomed suggestions to their tack. Poor fitting harness or cart can greatly affect the animal or team.

Sunday afternoon Tinsel, a large standard donkey, was hooked to a cart while Cheryl explained and demonstrated harness fit and hitching safety. Later, participants rode with Colleen as Tinsel performed very well. Tinsel provided a thrill to everyone as he even cantered. This will be the third year that Tinsel has been hooked but despite many hours spent in training, Cheryl wanted to stress to everyone that he is still considered very green despite the number of hours already invested in him



Cheryl Fotheringham, clinic instructor with Tinsel the donkey doing work on the ground at the Driving clinic.

Thank you, Cheryl for providing such a great learning experience. Feedback from participants was very positive. Jennifer Johnson emailed this response "That was one of the best clinics I have been to in a long time! Thank You, Colleen for putting it on and Thank You, Cheryl for facilitating!... please keep me posted about other clinics!

Submitted by Colleen Campbell