

# Northern Horse & Mule Harness Association

PO Box 274, RPO Downtown, Fort St. John, British Columbia, V1J 6W7

Held at Northern Lights College, Room 104, Ft. St. John

## General Meeting July 11, 2023

[www.NHMHA-harnessclub.ca](http://www.NHMHA-harnessclub.ca) Email: [nhmha.harnessclub@gmail.com](mailto:nhmha.harnessclub@gmail.com)

### Attendees:

- *President: Julius Reimer*
- *Vice President: Donna Gregoire*
- *Secretary: Marion Dunn*
- *Treasurer: Susan Clarke*
- *Directors: Maureen Simard, Louise Kempthorne, Garnet Dunn*
- *Members: Cleo Baker*

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President, Julius Reimer, after we settled in to an alternate room at the college.

**Minutes:** Minutes from July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were read by Marion. Adopted with an amendment from Donna that the minutes show she had spoken with Julia Fellers re the N.Pine Fall Fair and not Thornton. Cleo 2nd.....carried.

### Upcoming Drive/Rides:

**SummerDaze**

**Taylor Parade**

**Peace Island Park Gold Panning**

**Oilmen's Weekend**

**N. Pine Fall Fair**

**Treasurer's Report:** Susan provided financial reports for May and June. May: no outstanding cheques, adjusted balance was \$6,824.92. June: Reimbursed \$200, bank interest \$4.75, Donations \$250. Five outstanding cheques. Adjusted bank balance \$6,370.17. Susan moved to adopt financial reports/2<sup>nd</sup> Cleo. Carried.

### Old Business

**North Pine Fall Fair: Aug. 18-20:** Julius confirmed he will be there with his team to deliver salt to the heavy horse pull sessions. Donna gave an overview of activities at NPFF which we may be involved as sponsors. NHMHA was not represented in the program outline as sponsors, although we identified our support at their early meetings. Donna moved we sponsor 2 driving event classes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cleo/carried:

C79 Pleasure Driving Single - Open (\$60) to be held Sunday August 20

C80 Team Driving – Open (\$60) to be held Sunday August 20

A cheque for \$120 was prepared by Susan to be delivered to the Fall Fair committee.

Julius was asked by Mary Neudorf if anyone in our association would be in the heavy horse pull; they needed more entries. Also if we had anyone willing to judge the event. Julius will relay our response that this is too late to plan on participating at these levels. Mary said there were precursor events to the heavy horse pull for single and team horse/pony obstacle and teamster driving.

**Spring Wagon Trek – May Long Weekend: May 19-22:** Susan has reimbursed people for the Trek – cheques by mail.

**Aitken Creek Falls Weekend Drive/Ride/Camp June 24-25:** Participants: Deb, Dale and Mavis Sutherland, Louise, and Julius. Julius recapped the Aitken Creek Falls trip – starting at Shepherd's Inn at 5pm – where dinner was not available that night! Theo, Wayne and Linda Ash had arrived to visit at the Inn for dinner so they had a short visit! The group gathered and headed to base camp area in order to avoid a section of gravel. They had a short drive after camp setup and dinner. Saturday drive was 14km to the Falls; returned to camp. Sunday drive was on several lease roads to Whiplash Ranch. They met John, Mindy and Cynthia and drove with them for the day. A note to make is that there is no potable water at the camping area, so it needs to be hauled in. Everyone enjoyed the scenery and drive, and there are photos on the NHMHA website for the event.

**Doig Gospel Music Festival – June 17/18:** Julius attended the event to represent NHMHA by giving rides. He reported they had a very good time.

**Ride for Disabled:** Marion reported she met with Susan to endorse the \$250 cheque and then mailed it out June 27 with a cover letter to the Ride for Disabled, attention Lana Neitz. No response has been received.

**Peace Island Park Wagon Rides - Gold Panning weekend: August 5, 6 and 7.** Theo/Deb, and Julius are ready to give rides on August long weekend. Camping will be free and participants are assigned to the Finch area.

**Taylor Parade** kicks off the Gold Panning on Friday, **August 4th**. Let Louise or Garnet know if you'd like to represent NHMHA in the parade.

**Oilman's Weekend August 2023: August 18, 19 and 20 – Peace Island Park:** - coincides with the North Pine Fall Fair. We will have teams at both events. Theo/Deb, Julius and Les Christianson will be driving a team for NHMHA. Julius will leave Peace Island Park to go to N.Pine Fall Fair on Sunday for the heavy horse pull. Free camping for participants.

**Summer Daze Weekend Drive/Ride/Camp:** July 21, 22 and 23 – Dunn's Bunkhouse camping and drive/rides. Poster details were sent out and on website. Hope to have a good turnout and good weather!

**NHMHA Nostalgia Gathering:** – this will be scheduled in winter since it is an indoor event; to be held at Dunn's Shop to see slide shows and the 22 year history of our association.

**Fun Day Wagon Ride Planning - Donna / Family Wagon Ride this summer:** Donna is postponing this to next year, as trails will not be ready this year.

**Fall Wagon Trek – September Long Weekend - Sept. 2, 3, 4:** Julius hadn't spoken with Mike and Angie Pomeroy for their farm to be a venue, however, the membership suggested the fall trip be held in the Aitken Creek Falls area since the July group enjoyed it very much and found there wasn't too much gravel. We should seek a First Aid tech due to the distance or check with local industry to see if there are services nearby. Cell coverage is quite good in the area. This will be a no-charge event, as everyone will need to cover their own meals/water/horse feed. We did settle on asking participants to provide a potluck meal for each dinner. Marion will draft a poster notice.

**Club Supplies, etc.:** Susan has 3 tables and will take them to Julius's. One of two first aid kits is not yet located; nor are the cones. They are at Alice's and she will take them to Susan who will in turn store them with Julius. Garnet and Donna have their 2 tents and no pieces are missing. The club can use them. Garnet also reminded the members that NHMHA owns a tent garage which was purchased to house the club wagon. It is believed the tent garage is still in the box and is at Les Christianson's. All items will be stored at Julius's once gathered up. Reminder that Donna has pots, pans and other kitchen items if we need to use them.

**Correspondence / Communication:** Received an email from Horse Council BC (HCBC) requesting we complete a BC Membership Outreach Initiative” to identify benefits and recommendations related to services provided by HCBC to our association. Marion recorded the answers from the membership to 10 questions and will submit them to HCBC. Response attached.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm by Julius/Donna.



**NOTE:** Meetings are held every second Tuesday of each Month: 7 to 9pm  
NHMHA's next General Meeting will be held on August 8, 2023 at Northern Lights College (Room 101), Fort St. John...

**Website and Membership Renewals:** maintained by ConnieLynnGraphics  
[nhmha.harnessclub@gmail.com](mailto:nhmha.harnessclub@gmail.com)

Membership Renewals can be completed online:

<https://www.nhmha-harnessclub.ca/membership.html>

Payment can be completed through e-transfer to NHMHA.



## SummerDaze July 21-23, 2023

Pasture/trail Drive/Ride July 21-23 Friday through Sunday... camp-over . Afternoon rides

**SUMMERDAZE DRIVE and RIDE**

**Location: Bunkhouse Pasture, Montney**



### **Location: Bunkhouse Pasture, 273 Rd. Montney**

Welcome to the SummerDaze Drive and Ride weekend July 21-23; bring your camper or trailer for overnighting if you wish. Lots of firewood available, and spring dugout water piped to a trough for the horses; bottled water for the people.

Campfire or stovetop Coffee provided – depending upon Fire Ban info. There is electricity at one point in the property, but the cell coverage is excellent!

The trails are fields, some bush trails, and some lease roads – possibly out to Montney Park if we've scouted the long hill to see if it's ok for wagons. Approx. 9 km. of trails per day. Some hills, so brakes on wagons are recommended. There are some cows in a few of the fields but we won't be travelling through them.

You'll need to take care of your meals. Bring your lawn chairs. There are some horse pens and a round pen available for horses; grazing in the pens.

Call Marion 250-262-6259, Louise Kempthorne 250-219-6074 (Activity Director) or Garnet Dunn 250-262-9844 (Activity Director).

***Members and Friends welcome!***

## Request from HCBC for Survey:

On Wed, Jul 5, 2023 at 8:29 AM Stephanie MacKay <[stephanie.mackay@hcbc.ca](mailto:stephanie.mackay@hcbc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Marion,

Please see the attached survey questions. This questionnaire is somewhat of a precursor for a larger project - we will be sending out a more thorough survey in the near term once we have collected this data. So keep an eye out for that!

1. Do you feel you are getting value out of the organization?
  - o Yes: What is providing you with that value?
  - o No: Why not?
2. Based on what you know, what are some of the top services and programs that HCBC provides?
3. How would you describe your membership activity over the past five years (growth/stable/decline)?
4. What would you say is the average age of your members? (Please provide as a median value)
5. What types of membership do you offer?
6. When thinking about your membership what would you approximate the percentage breakdown to be of members that own their own horses or lease/borrow their horse?
7. Are there external pressures that are impacting your club activities?
8. Are there any areas of concern that HCBC could help with?
9. HCBC is looking at obtaining charitable status with the ability to issue donation receipts. If we had the ability to accept donations on your behalf, would this service be of interest to you?
10. How do you like to receive communication from us (i.e., email, printed, website sections)?

**From:** Marion Dunn <[nhmha.harnessclub@gmail.com](mailto:nhmha.harnessclub@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** July 13, 2023 1:07 PM

**To:** Stephanie MacKay <[stephanie.mackay@hcbc.ca](mailto:stephanie.mackay@hcbc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Horse Council BC Membership Outreach Initiative

Attention: Stephanie

Response from Northern Horse & Mule Harness Association (NHMHA)

1. and 2. Yes, benefits: the HCBC has a wealth of resources for information for our equine association and also provides a structure and standards for us to operate within. Interaction is easy with the collection of organizations who are under HCBC's umbrella. It gives us credibility and linkage to other like-minded associations and individuals. The Capri insurance and management liability linkage also allows us to enjoy our activities within our rules to others who share our activities.

HCBC's programs and grants are valuable opportunities and incentives for association's applications are great.

HCBC's staff are always responsive and helpful.

3. NHMHA's membership was stable for 15 years, then grew substantially for 5 yrs prior to covid - then declined over the past 3 yrs.

4. NHMHA's membership was about 60 adults (fairly evenly split between men and women), and 17 youths under 19. Now there are about 6 youths, and 50 adults. The average age of the adults is around 56 and youths average 9.

5. Single and Family

6. Own

7. Certainly the covid mandates. These were ridiculously restrictive for outdoor activities. The control over gatherings was inconsistent and caused the cancellation of 2 years of outside driving activities and camping.

8. We believe that HCBC has a lot of services we haven't even investigated

9. Yes

10. All: email, printed, website sections. Add to that contact by phone as we know you do ... and add a library and references listings in an easy format.

Regards,

Marion Johansen Dunn 7026

Sec'ty NHMHA