



Northern Horse & Mule Harness Association

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

General Meeting September 9, 2025

Email: nhmha.harnessclub@gmail.com

The meeting was held at NLC, FSJ, Room 101

Attendees:

- President: Julius Reimer
- Secretary: Marion Dunn
- Directors: Maureen Simard, Louise Kempthorne

President Julius called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

Minutes - Marion moved the minutes from August 12 be adopted, seconded by Maureen and carried.

Treasurer's Report - Susan was not able to attend the meeting. Marion reported Susan prepared the cheque to Butler Ridge to pay for the WagonTrek portapotties and it was mailed. Marion handled the cheque from the District of Taylor for \$200 donated for the rides given at the Gold Panning Days. Marion to send a Thank You to the District of Taylor.

Oilmen's Weekend at Peace Island Park August 15-18 - Louise and Maureen recapped the weekend: Louise drove Fin and Lacy, and did lead line as well on the Saturday. Maureen drove Nylah. Deb and Theo drove their team both days. Bev and Dale drove their team both days. Deb and Theo brought King for lead line, which was the Saturday. There were so many kids riding on lead line – it was a great event and lasted from 1 til 4:30pm instead of 3pm. Bev and Dale had organized the assistance of volunteers from Ride for Disabled for the lead line and for loading wagons. Thank you so much – they were a great team of helpers!

Louise and Maureen said the club wagon worked well enough for the weekend, but identified a number of things that the club wagon needs. Some TLC is needed to repair the covers on the seats; the tires are cracked and the back brace bracket needs a weld instead of tape.

Julius mentioned that Les Christianson had at one time purchased a tarp and/or tarp shed for the wagon; not sure where the shed cover/tarp cover is. He'll check with Les.

North Peace Fall Fair, August 15-18 - The 2 classes we sponsored (Team Driving & Single Pleasure Driving classes) had no participants.

Julius and Dale/Mavis gave rides for the public during Saturday and Sunday of the Fall Fair at their request; after the organizers of the Fall Fair decided they did not need to be "named insured" under our HCBC insurance. The teams worked almost all day each day with the exception of Julius hauling the salt blocks to the Heavy Horse Pull event arena with the NHMHA banner, loaded with kids on each delivery!

Fall WagonTrek - August 29-Sept 1 - Again, we had a very fun and successful WagonTrek, attended by 34 people. The cost for food was \$305.67 and Susan had issued the cheque for reimbursement. Tally was 68 burgers, 48 weiners, and fruit tray. Everyone seemed to enjoy the new camping location and trails. Signage to the site was well communicated. The weather was great – perhaps a bit too hot on day 1 but we are not to complain! People were prepared by bringing their own water for their horses but some people had tanks of water to be sure there was enough. Thanks to Donna, Susan, Bev and Dale for bringing their

tanks full of water (and perhaps others not mentions here?). Also thanks to Dale Richards for providing his tokens for fill-ups in Hudson's Hope at the water station.

The trails were good – some tight spots. Lunches were great – appreciated the Chambers' lunch wagon and cooks! Louise did a fabulous job covering all the supplies including condiments, snacks, fruit and watermelon/dessert. She also brought the fire ring for the campsite. Dinners were amazing once again! Thanks to Donna for the tent; managing the totes, and to Marion and Garnet for transporting them. Thanks to Donna for transporting the portapotty trailer to and from the Butler Ridge site in Hudson's Hope and to Garnet for organizing the rental, and transporting the tent poles. Marion also reported she and Susan prepared and sent the cheque to Butler ridge to pay for the WagonTrek portapotties.

Marion brought the coffee pot generator but it couldn't be started.... found out later that it was waterlogged. Luckily we could plug in to Garnet's trailer.

Trail Guides - we all appreciated the time, effort and guiding that Shona and her team provided for this trek and the trail cleanups conducted ahead of time. Sorry if anyone was missed for thank you's...so many people helped with everything.

Louise brought up a concern related to when our wagons were travelling on the highway. Numerous dogs were loose on the highway, accompanying the wagons. This also happened in areas we passed where there were resident dogs or dogs at campsites which could have also been unsafe. It looks bad on us if we have dogs on the loose in these areas. Discussion resulted in agreement that dogs, in these areas of concern, should be contained in a wagon. Recommendations were put forward to resurrect trek guidelines and also to gather/meet before we leave on the ride to make sure everyone is aware of the guidelines and safety measures, are ready to embark, and understand where we are going (route). The morning kickoff meeting agenda we used to have was asked for by Dale Richards at the trek, and these were good ideas. It turned out that we again left some wagons behind because not everyone was ready to go on Saturday. Julius suggested we have 2 riders ahead and some behind to follow up, and perhaps carry the radios the club owns. For the most part, we did have riders ahead and behind.

Senior's WagonRide Request - No activity on this subject so this topic will be removed.

New Business, Admin and Membership

Christmas Party Thoughts: - Some possibilities for rental locations were tossed about, and will be looked into for rates and availability. These included Taylor Hall, Baldonnel School, Farmington (golf course?), Grandhaven Hall (FSJ), and Rod'n'Gun Club --- other ideas welcome.

Correspondence / Communication:

- Invoice from Butler Ridge for portapotties was received and paid.
- Donation cheque (\$200) from District of Taylor for Gold Panning Day wagon-rides.

Calendar 2026: Marion asked if we support the making of the 2026 Calendar and all present said "yes" Marion will relay the go-ahead to Connie who has already started compiling cover drafts.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm by Julius, seconded by Louise.



NOTE: Meetings are held every second Tuesday of each Month: 7 to 9pm

Next meeting is October 14th at Northern Lights College, 7pm

FALL WAGONTREK PHOTO slide shows here:

<https://www.nhma-harnessclub.ca/events.html>