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Official Publication of the American Mule Association

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Ryler Fairbanks and his cousin enjoying a little liquid sunshine in the Raymond Parade.

Hello All,

We are starting the show season for 2022!! Blossom Trail was our official kickoff followed by Gold Country's first Mule and Donkey Show of the year. Both double judged, so there is a huge opportunity for points and getting some good shows under our belts before Bishop. It will be good to see you all at Mule Days. It is always fun, even with the stress of such a big show. It is such an easy place to be seen loving our longears and all of their owners. I appreciate the camaraderie that comes with all of us gathering in one place and staying awhile. I want to thank each of you ahead of time for making my week more special. Mule and donkey people do know how to have fun. This newsletter will be filled with info regarding this start of the show year. Please make sure you are a current member and that your mule is registered. Also remember the mule owner has to be a current member too, for points to count. You all might be tired of hearing me say this, but every year we have some instance of points not being able to be counted. If you have any concerns, reach out to membership or registration chairs for clarification. Bishop Mule Days has made some changes too, so be aware of those before we get there. Awareness will keep the surprises to a minimum. Hopefully!! We try every year to keep them aware of our expectations, but you can also have your voice heard. If something doesn't make sense please call their office and ask questions. Call us first if you need guidance, we are trying to be very transparent in our actions and we will not try to spring any big changes on you all without warning. The AMA Board of Directors will be available during the week of Mule Days to answer any questions you may have. We all have pretty regular barn assignments, so that is the easiest way to find us. The whole board are basically the AMA Reps, so our numbers will be posted in the office as an easy way to track us down. See you all there!!

Thanks,
 Casie Fairbanks
 President

Respect Your Volunteers

As we are starting into the new show year I would like to familiarize our new members, and remind our returning members, how AMA functions. This organization is run by volunteers exclusively, without them we have no association! So with that said, please respect them and the position that they hold. The officers and board members are there because they want to be, not because they are getting paid. The same with the committee chair's and members, many are not board members, just willing to volunteer to keep AMA going.

So just a few things that seem like common sense but may get overlooked.

Know your rules. The most common part of our rule book that seems to get questioned, in my opinion, is the points. Please, if you have a question about the points go refresh yourself with them before you call the points chairman. Most the time, I think, you'll answer your own question. If you do need to call, be courteous, and don't get mad or demanding (Remember, more flies are gotten with honey than vinegar!). There are many factors, other than human nature, that can contribute to the points being incorrect. Unless you've done that job, you have no idea how many balls the points keeper has in the air, trying to get things done in a timely matter with the correct information. I won't get into the time commitment!

When registering an animal, please read all the instructions in order to make the registration chairman's job as easy as possible. They tend to come in all at once so it may take some time to process new registrations.

Be appreciative of the media team that puts together our website and gets the information out on Facebook and other social media sights. They can only report the information given to them.

Whether renewing your membership or joining for the first time, please provide all the information asked for on the form. You would be surprised how many forms have minimal information. In renewing if you don't provide your current membership number, you may get a new number, replacing your past one. Don't expect them to look up information you weren't willing to hunt down. If doing snail mail, send more than a check in an envelope! Even if you don't have an official membership form, at least write your information on a piece of paper. Unfortunately, most of us still can't read minds.

Another thing to remember, in this world of texts and emails, be careful how you write them. If you are using caps in any or all of your messages the recipient will more than likely assume they are being scolded or yelled at since they don't know your mood or intent. Expect a curt answer if you send what appears to be a curt message.

These are just a few of the jobs that our volunteers fill, and situations they run up against, so just remember to be respectful and put yourself in their shoes, hopefully one day it is you leading the committee and you'll appreciate the same consideration!

Submitted by Lou Moore Jacobsen

American Mule Association Mission Statement

A California non-profit benefit corporation that was founded in 1976. Since its inception, the AMA has been dedicated to building the reputation and integrity of mules throughout the United States.

MULES is published 6x per year, February, April, June, August, October, December

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Deadlines: Advertising and articles are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

Disclaimer: MULES does not accept any responsibility for any and all advertisements submitted to us.

From the back page:

Who Is Quoted Here?

Answer

Charles Darwin wrote the statement in 1835, while on the South American leg of his global expedition aboard the H.M.S. Beagle

ATTENTION!!

If you are showing at Bishop Mule Days there are a couple things to know.

The Team Roping competition does not count for AMA year-end points. Due to a change in Mule Days description of the class it no longer follows AMA rules.

Make sure you check the updates from Mule Days on their website and Facebook pages. Class descriptions and rules have changed from the original release of their handbook for the 2022 show.

AMA has no input on how Bishop Mule Days, or any other show, declares their championship awards, the show has the authority to choose the divisions or combination of divisions, point system they want to use, as well as the awards given.

Calendar of Events

May 6-8	Gold Country Mule and Donkey Show I, Lincoln, CA info: Jessica (916) 390-1861
May 24-29	Bishop Mule Days (760) 872-4263
June 17-19	Western States Mule and Donkey Spectacular info: kelliejshields@gmail.com
August 5-7	Bear Valley Springs Mule and Horse Show, Tehachapi, CA Info: Debbie dumphreys16@yahoo.com
Sept. 16-18	Gold Country Mule & Donkey Show , Lincoln, CA info: Jessica (916) 390-1861
Oct. 21-23	Blossom Trail Show, Sanger, CA Contact Kathy Pettit info: (559)-903-0707

AMA Isn't Just About Showing!

If showing isn't your thing or you and your mule want a break you might want to try some of the other programs we offer. Check out the descriptions here, and in our rule book, to better acquaint yourself with fun ways to spend time with your mule and friends.

LEVA: Long Ears Versatility Award. This program supports any activity you compete in with your mule or donkey that is not an AMA approved event. This includes open shows, trail trials, dressage competitions, ranch versatility, driving competitions or any equine competition. Riders/drivers must be an AMA member and their mule/donkey must be registered with the AMA. Information is provided by the member and submitted to the AMA for each month that they are involved in a competition. Awards are presented for this program at the yearly AMA Awards Banquet. Forms are available on the AMA website.

SSA: Time spent in the saddle for any reason other than competition and logging your hours can earn a Saddle Sore Award. This includes trail rides or schooling in an arena, just about any time you ride except when just using your long ear for a chair! Participants must be AMA members with a mule/donkey registered with the AMA. Hours are logged and submitted by the member on the honor system. This is a great program with wonderful awards that is overlooked each year. Refer to the AMA website for forms and information.

Submitted By Maggie Moore



Go Long Ears! The only All Mule Team at the Clovis Ranch Rodeo places third overall! Congratulations go to AMA members Micah Shumate on Shoofly, Shane Fairbanks and Last Chance, Jim Brumfield riding Heart B Lonesome Rebel, and Tucker Slender on Sanger Red.

Photo by: Casie Fairbanks



Photo by: Jennifer Berman

Congratulations go out to the first Non Pro Show Champion won by Michelle Kern and her mule My Maggie.

AMA introduced the new Non Pro Walk Jog division in 2022. The division was included at the Blossom Trail Mule Show in Sanger and was well received.

DID YOU KNOW?

The U.S. Military used over 10,000 mules during the 1980's in Afghanistan to carry supplies and weapons to Afghan mujahedeen camps.



Photo by: Unknown

Congratulations to Klara Greene and all the other Show Champions from the Blossom Trail Mule Show in Sanger, CA.



Did you know the AMA has a youth scholarship?!

The Terry Branco Youth Scholarship is awarded to a youth member that exhibits dedication to mules/donkeys, the AMA and their education. Applications are accepted March 1st-May 1st and are open to graduating high school seniors enrolled in any type of higher education as well as college students. Terry's legacy is alive and well with the induction of her mule Pippy Longstocking into our hall of fame in 2021. Her grandkids have started showing mules and we can't wait to see what they will accomplish. Not sure if you qualify or you have a question? Give our chairman a call!

Emily (805)325-3208

Article and photo submitted by Emily Berman

Who Is Quoted Here?

"The mule always appears to me a most surprising animal. That a hybrid should possess more reason, memory, obstinacy, social affection, powers of muscular endurance, and length of life, than either of its parents, seems to indicate that art has here outdone nature."

Answer on page 2.