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[www.americanmuleassociation.org](http://www.americanmuleassociation.org)

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## **President's Message**

My life light is less bright these days. I am missing a huge part of who I am. People come together in life that become more than just friends, you become family. You learn from them, you emulate them and your world tilts a little better. I met a person like that when I was a junior in high school and started to ride with a lady. She was one of the toughest people I had met. She had me riding thoroughbred colts with her. I had ridden horses my whole life and had no idea what real riding life was about. I learned a lot and a lot about what hot blooded horses are all about. Following a weekend off, riding race babies on Monday was taking your life in your hands and hoping you survived to see the next day. I learned so much those first years. We started a pile of horses. And I never left her side, whether she wanted me or not. Jaci Gaines let me hang around. From there we got a couple mules dropped off at the place. One being an older mule we named Hot Lips. Jaci bought him and I rode the shit out of him. I rode him everywhere and we started showing them. Jaci had an extensive horse life prior to me meeting her. Her step dad bought her her first horse. She ran gymkhana and did everything on that horse that was around. As a kid she would show up bareback with a strap around her neck to match races and blow those guys away. She raced sulkies, again a young girl against men. She went on to show all breeds, quarter horse, paints and Appys. She showed everything western and hunter jumpers. She rode with a jumper trainer who would make her drop her irons and jump 5 foot fences. I whined about 3 ½ feet. She used to hold cows on pasture all day in Madera. In her cow days she met up with a guy who had a mule and let her work some cows on her. She knew a good mule, as her first long eared mount was one of my favorite, Sanger Red. She rode cutters with some good friends, one being Tod White who ended up dropping Hot Lips off at her house. He also bought a little mule named Festus who we started and she went on to win the trail class at Bishop and it just went up from there. *(Continued below)*

## In Memory

*A thousand times we needed you.*

*A thousand times we cried.*

*If love alone could have saved you,  
you never would have died.*

*A heart of gold stopped beating;  
two twinkling eyes closed to rest.*

*God broke our hearts to prove he only took the best;  
never a day goes by that you're not in my heart and my  
soul.*

*By Kimberly N. Chastin (Published February 2006)*

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/in-memory-2>



## Remembering Those We Have Lost

As another year comes to a close, I look back over the last two years and see how this pandemic has changed each and every one of us. Not only have our lifestyles changed, we have also lost AMA members, loved ones, and friends. It is at this time that I would like to send loving thoughts to each and every person who has lost someone close to them. Every one of these people have touched us in some way and the grief is something that we can all relate to, no matter how we grieve.

Let's take a moment to remember those who have left us. They are gone but not forgotten. They will always live with us in our memories, and we will remember them always.

### 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

#### Advertising Rates

Full page \$110.00

½ page \$75.00

¼ page \$50.00

Business card \$18.00

Classified \$6.00

\$10/ photo includes up to 30 words, .25/word thereafter

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

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

# AMA Awards Banquet

It's that time of year again! Come and recognize all of the AMA award recipients for the 2021 show season.!!! The AMA Awards Banquet will be held on:

**February 19th, 2022 from 5:30pm-6:30pm**

Wyndham Garden Fresno Yosemite Airport

5090 East Clinton Way

Fresno, CA 93727

Room reservation discounts available if you mention the American Mule Association. Deadline for the discount is February 7, 2022.

Dinner reservations also required: Adult is \$50 and Child is \$22. Dinner deadline is February 5, 2022

Please go to the AMA website to purchase your dinner:

[www.americanmuleassociation.org](http://www.americanmuleassociation.org)

Please contact Becky Santucci at (916) 947-6619 for more information, special arrangements, and questions.

## *Calendar of Events*

Jan 8	Online Course/Care and Management of Donkeys and Mules, Amy McLean, UC Davis
Feb 19	AMA Board Meeting and Awards Banquet, Wyndham Garden Fresno Yosemite Airport Fresno CA
May 6-8	Gold Country Mule and Donkey Show I, Jessica Bishop (916) 390-1861

## **New AMA Board of Directors**

The results are in! Here are your new AMA board members as voted in by you!!!! All Board of Directors please remember to renew your AMA memberships ASAP to serve on the board!



JoDe Collins



Emily Berman



Barbara Schuyler



Joe Gonzalez



Michele Chico



Erin Kight



Rebecca Raede



Jeanne Raede

# **Approved Rule Changes For 2022 AMA Shows**

Submitted by Maggie Moore, AMA Vice President/Awards

(Decision made at July 24,2021 Board Meeting)



Non-pro division: Walk/jog division for youth and amateurs. Classes include western trail, western pleasure, English pleasure, ranch riding and ranch pleasure. Competitors may cross enter other divisions.

Championship point system:

Requirements to receive points: all animals must be registered with the AMA under the current owner. Owners and exhibitors must be current AMA members. Registration and membership numbers must appear on each show entry form to have points for that show counted towards championships.

Championship points calculations: all classes from all shows will count, 3 shows minimum, must compete in 3 divisions with a minimum of 10 points in each division.

Amateur donkey walk/jog division: Division open to amateur donkey exhibitors. Classes included English pleasure, western pleasure, trail, ranch riding, ranch pleasure and in-hand trail. Competitors may cross enter other divisions.

Show year defined as November 1 to October 31 to allow all points to be calculated by the end of the year.

## **President's Message (Continued)**

That is where our AMA commitment started. She really made waves in the mule and donkey industry. She was made for this world. She raised some great cow working mules and we ended up from Todd again a little jack we called Liberachi. We raised a few babies by him. The last being out of a big Colonel Freckles cutter mare named Last Chance. Named after my cousin Chance because he was born on his birthday and Jacci thought would be her last baby. Little did she know she would buy 2 more nice babies and sell for great money. She rode some great outside mules for people too. One year in the AMA she had trained 3 of the top 3 all around mules. My mule Ruby Rue, the famous Call me the Fireman was started by Jacci and the all around mule Joe C was ridden by her. Last Chance was a great western green mule and I grabbed him as soon as I could. We can talk good mules and Jacci will come up in the conversation at a few different times. She then started riding donkeys and there was where she did great things, every one she had became an all around performance donkey. Everything she touched turned to gold. I didn't, but I was much better because of her. She became a grandma to my son and always treated him with love and adoration. He has a little Grandma Jacci magic. I am glad to have had a hand in having her in his life. She was actually the first I told about being pregnant. It was a surprise for sure, and she was my first excited share. I can't believe we have lost her. I can't believe our industry has lost her. We will all be a little less without her. I am getting to ride her donks now as we decide where we go from here and I can't help but appreciate that I get to. They are all 3 some of the most well broke animals I can climb on. They are a treat to be around. So many memories I have to hold onto. She was such a huge impact on my life. I hope I can keep a piece of her alive. But her shoes will never be filled. A hole is left inside. A sad page indeed.





## **Happy New Year!!!**

We started to return to normal after a rough 2020 with the start of the Pandemic. In 2021 we started to see light at the end of the tunnel as our lives started to return to normal. We continued to have fears of COVID variants and continued with social distancing, and hopefully we can continue to return to a state of normalcy in 2022. Many lives have been lost, and we are hopeful that 2022 will show more hope and promise. I wish each and every one of my Longear friends a happy and safe 2022!!!!