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Ryler's Story

*Mules they come in all shapes and sizes.
They can be good or bad.
Sometimes you can fall off or you can get bucked off.
But you always get back on.*

*Sometimes I am scared to go show in a
class full of people.
But I always do my best.
You have to get passed your fear.
Never stop what you like.*

*If riding mules is your dream.
Never give up that dream.
Mules are good pack animals.
They are also good riding animals.*

By Ryler Fairbanks, AMA Youth Competitor



Ryler roping a calf off Ruby

Chairmanships

Website: Chris Lowrey amamules@gmail.com
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Inside This Issue

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President's Message



Hello All,

The AMA hosted another awesome awards banquet a couple weeks ago and we all left happy!! As always Kellie Shields, our awards chair offered some amazing things and we awarded 2 saddles!! We are such an awesome group!! Harris Ranch is such an accommodating and beautiful venue! Many thanks to Becky Santucci for organizing the banquet. We are excited to stay there for another year. We had record

LEVA and SSA participants. There will be some revamping of our programs so be looking for that. Spring is headed our way and I will see ya all at the shows!

Casie Fairbanks

Information and Things to Look For

- **Memberships and Registrations:** If you want to acquire points at the shows, your mule or donkey **must** be registered and both competitor and owner **must** be AMA members **BEFORE** the show. All information to complete both registration and membership are on the website. This is especially true for Bishop, don't wait until the last minute as the membership and registration chairperson may not be able to complete it before the show starts and your points would not count. www.americanmuleassociation.org/forms
- **Coming soon!** Look for our new survey to help us improve the AMA on the website - americanmuleassociation.org. This survey is open to non-members as well as members.
- **AMA Board of Directors** Michelle Chico is serving for the first time—welcome! Lou Moore-Jacobsen is our new vice president. The complete board along with their responsibilities' is listed on page 1. Our goal for the year is to improve the AMA and attract new members, if you have ideas please contact any board member.

Blossom Trail Spring Fling April 12—14, 2019

Verde View Farm, Sanger, CA Info: Kathy (559) 903-0707 or wpettit@mindspring.com

Friday 10am—Halter, Showmanship, Driving, Trail, Log Skidding

Saturday 8am—English performance, Hunter/Jumpers, Western performance, Ranch classes

Sunday 9am—Gymkhana, Packing

Special Awards to Show Champions: Bridled Mule, Green Mule, Amateur, Youth 6-17, Youth 10&under, Donkey, Open Packing, Non Pro Packing, Youth Packing, Open Gymkhana, Driving



Slender Mule Show May 4 & 5, 2019

Saturday @ 9am

Cutting and Cow Working Clinic

with clinicians Jim Brumfield and Micah Shumate

1. Open Trail—Horse & Mule
2. Ranch Steer Stopping (AMA)
3. Steer Stopping (AMA)
4. 2 Man Sorting—Alley Sort—Horse & Mule
5. Cut & Rope

Info: Tucker (559) 876-3713

Sunday @ 9:30 am

6. Team Roping—Draw (AMA)

7. Team Roping—Pick (AMA)

Packing (starts @ 9:30am

Box & Diamond—Open, Non-pro & Youth (AMA)

Buckles:

Top Ranch Horse/Mule: must enter classes 1 & 4

Packing—Box & Diamond, Open, Nonpro, Youth (AMA)

cattle charge \$25, entry fee \$25, pens \$25 50-50 payback

Bring your own lunch, Saturday Pot Luck dinner

Buckle sponsors: Jim Brumfield, Joe Gonzalez, Dan Baumgartner



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

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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 10th of the month prior to publication.

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

A Note from Tucker

Made the Mule Banquet. Enjoyed seeing old friends. I met a couple of new ones, they sure were nice people. Kellie and her crew did a great job!!

I picked up a Mules and More magazine. Anna Arnold's story about her great mule, Ciera was so touching. Anyone who has lost a loved one, mule or dog, know it really hurts. I was around and competing against her. That mule was such a burner! She could run and make those turns like a top. My mule, Donk-a-Lena, was on her game then but I don't think that I ever beat her. Anna rode her like Charmayne James. So much fun to watch them. They hit Bishop, Winnemucca and were all over the east all summer. Quite a team, sorry Anna. We've all had the same story, I've taken a couple of mine up to the mountain country for their final rest.

We've lost a beautiful mule lady, Monica Sievert, I just loved her. She didn't compete but she and her husband made lots of shows. They never missed Bishop. They got married there and I was honored to be their best man. The ceremony was held in front the Bishop Mule Days sign. God Bless Monica and Bob Sievert. I have to say Cathy Cece and Nancy Roberts have been by her side at City of Hope for weeks. You're both amazing. The one thing that Monica was worried about was her old horse, Kemo. Anna told her not to worry, I'll take him home ad when he dies I'll cremate him and put his ashes with yours and spread them somewhere in Bishop."

We like our mules and dogs,

Tucker



Congratulations to Hall of Fame Mule Actions Little Brother Brewster owned by Sue Wallace and trained by Angie Sevold

Calendar of Events

March 23	Reedley Mule Club Fundraiser Dinner (www.facebook.com/reedleymuleclub/)
April 12-14	Blossom Trail Show, Sanger, CA Contact Kathy Pettit 559-903-0707
May 2-4	Slender Mule Show, Sanger CA Info: Tucker (559) 876-3713
May 21-27	Bishop Mule Days (760) 872-4263
June 15—16	Gold Country Mule & Donkey Show, Lincoln, CA ama_mules@hotmail.com
August 3—5	Bear Valley Springs Horseman's Association Mule Show, Tehachapi, CA Info: Debbie dhumphreys16@yahoo.com
Sept 21—22	Gold Country Mule & Donkey Show, Lincoln, CA ama_mules@hotmail.com



2018 AMA AWARDS

2018 YEAR END POINTS

ALL AROUND TOP TEN MULE CHAMPION

ARONHILL	MORRIS & JUDY ARON	265.5
LUTHER'S TOO SUPER	MORGAN VALCHECK	197
RUBY RUE	CASIE FAIRBANKS	150
CALL ME THE FIREMAN	KELLIE SHIELDS	131.5
SHUFLY	TUCKER & MARYLOU SLENDER	127
OK BIG IRON	SUE WALLACE	124.5
STELLA BY STARLIGHT	LINDA DEJORIA	122
OMT STARRING OLIVIA	MAGGIE MOORE	85
DOLLY'S TOO ROWDY	JOY VALCHECK	79
SONNY BOY	CLIFF LUNDGREN	62

ALL AROUND TOP TEN DONKEY CHAMPION

MISTER EAR E SISTABLE	DAWN MARIE HENDERSON	229
CADD O OKLAHOMA	JACCI GAINES	177
AKIN'S CHOKLIT PUD'N	JODY LOWERY	135.5
OK REPLAY RED	RANDY WALDBUSSER	71
REDMAN'S YOSEMITE SAM	CASIE FAIRBANKS	39

HALTER 2 & UNDER

COPYRIGHT'S BLACK CADILLAC	KELLIE SHIELDS	11
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HALTER 14.2 & OVER

ARONHILL	MORRIS & JUDY ARON	23
THE ACE OF SPADES	JARID ALPERS	21
GOOD MORNING HOLLY	EMILY BERMAN	19
MY MAGGIE MAE	DARIA VANSELOW	15
OK BIG IRON	SUE WALLACE	13.5
CALL ME THE FIREMAN	KELLIE SHIELDS	13.5
DOLLY'S TOO ROWDY	JOY VALCHECK	9
TESOMO'S SPOTTED DUKE	MICHELLE CHICO	7.5
STELLA BY STARLIGHT	LINDA DEJORIA	7

HALTER UNDER 14.2

COLONEL'S PRINCESS GRACE	JACCI GAINES	41
HSF SNAZZY TRICK	MICHELLE CHICO	18
HSF TRICK E ELVIS	LORI VALERIO	16
MS JOSIE TAYLOR	BETTY TAYLOR	13
MINDY LONGSTOCKINGS	CLAUDIA STEVENS	13
LUTHER'S TOO SUPER	MORGAN VALCHECK	8

DONKEY HALTER - JENNETS/GELDINGS

OK REPLAY RED	RANDY WALDBUSSER	34
CADD O OKLAHOMA	JACCI GAINES	25
DOUBLE C'S NIGHT FURY	JODE COLLINS	22
AKIN'S CHOKLIT PUD'N	JIM MCCAIN	16.5
MR EAR E SISTABLE	DAWN MARIE HENDERSON	16
DOUBLE C'S JAMUP	JODE COLLINS	12

DONKEY HALTER - JACKS

REDMAN'S YOSEMITE SAM	CASIE FAIRBANKS	5
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BRIDLED WESTERN PERFORMANCE

CALL ME THE FIREMAN	KELLIE SHIELDS	74
ARONHILL	MORRIS ARON	63.5
R RUBY SLIPPERS	EMILY BERMAN	42.5
OMT STARRING OLIVIA	MAGGIE MOORE	29
HEART B LONESOME REBEL	CHERYL PANOVICH	27
DOLLY'S TOO ROWDY	JOY VALCHECK	22
SONNY BOY	CLIFF LUNDGREN	20
FANNY MAE	LONI LANGDON	15
COPYRIGHT SEMI SWEET CHIP	VICKI HOVAN	15
RUBY RUE	CASIE FAIRBANKS	13

BRIDLED RANCH

ARONHILL	MORRIS ARON	72
HEART B LONESOME REBEL	CHERYL PANOVICH	70.5
DOLLY'S TOO ROWDY	JOY VALCHECK	33
CALL ME THE FIREMAN	KELLIE SHIELDS	32
TONY G	JOE GONZALEZ	26
HEART B OLIVER	AUDREY GOLDSMITH	26
OMT STARRING OLIVIA	MAGGIE MOORE	25
COPYRIGHT SEMI SWEET CHIP	VICKI HOVAN	21
JUST BURT	BARBARA SCHUYLER	19.5
SONNY BOY	CLIFF LUNDGREN	18
RUBY RUE	CASIE FAIRBANKS	18
HOBBY	BOB HERRICK	17.5
FANNY MAE	LONI LANGDON	17
R RUBY SLIPPERS	EMILY BERMAN	12

BRIDLED ENGLISH PERFORMANCE

ARONHILL	MORRIS ARON	43
CALL ME THE FIREMAN	KELLIE SHIELDS	21
SONNY BOY	CLIFF LUNDGREN	14
OMT STARRING OLIVIA	MAGGIE MOORE	9

BRIDLED HUNTER/JUMPER

ARONHILL	MORRIS ARON	35
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GREEN WESTERN PERFORMANCE

SAMMY P	RENEE DELPINO	86
LUTHER'S TOO SUPER	MORGAN VALCHECK	60
THE ACE OF SPADES	JARID ALPERS	60
OK BIG IRON	SUE WALLACE	48
STELLA BY STARLIGHT	LINDA DEJORIA	40
CR RHINESTONE COWBOY	JAMIE MCCAIN	37
SHUFLY	MARYLOU SLENDER	34
MINDY LONGSTOCKINGS	CLAUDIA STEVENS	29

GREEN RANCH

SAMMY P	RENEE DELPINO	91
THE ACE OF SPADES	JARID ALPERS	79
LUTHER'S TOO SUPER	MORGAN VALCHECK	68
SHUFLY	MARYLOU SLENDER	49



Youth Champions

*Audrey Moffatt
Sophia Moffatt
Analiese Schat*

OK BIG IRON	SUE WALLACE	45
STELLA BY STARLIGHT	LINDA DEJORIA	38.5
CR RHINESTONE COWBOY	JAMIE MCCAIN	29
MINDY LONGSTOCKINGS	CLAUDIA STEVENS	27

GREEN ENGLISH PERFORMANCE

LUTHER'S TOO SUPER	MORGAN VALCHECK	47
STELLA BY STARLIGHT	LINDA DEJORIA	44
SHUFLY	MARYLOU SLENDER	28
CR RHINESTONE COWBOY	JAMIE MCCAIN	25.5
OK BIG IRON	SUE WALLACE	22

GREEN HUNTER/JUMPER

LUTHER'S TOO SUPER	MORGAN VALCHECK	22
SHUFLY	TUCKER SLENDER	15

AMATEUR

HEART B OLIVER	VICTORIA TOY	178.5
UPTOWN GIRL	RANDI GOLDSWORTHY	109
MY MAGGIE MAE	DARIA VANSELOW	89.5
OMT STARRING OLIVIA	MAGGIE MOORE	78
DOLLY'S TOO ROWDY	JOY VALCHECK	78
FANNY MAE	LONI LANGDON	66
PADDY O' MULE	RICK CLARK	56
STELLA BY STARLIGHT	LINDA DEJORIA	42
HSF SNAZZY TRICK	MICHELLE CHICO	36
CALL ME THE FIREMAN	SUE WALLACE	35
GOOD MORNING HOLLY	EMILY BERMAN	28.5

YOUTH 14 - 17

STRAWBERRY G	ABBY JOHNSON	98
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YOUTH 6 - 13

MAX	AUDREY MOFFATT	122
SWEET MELISSA	SOPHIA MOFFATT	73
DESERT SANDS MISS KITTY	ANALIESE SCHAT	61

YOUTH 10 & UNDER

RUBY RUE	RYLER FAIRBANKS	15
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YOUTH GYMKHANA

OKLAHOMA SWEET PEA	OLIVIA BERMAN	41
STRAWBERRY G	ABBY JOHNSON	35

GYMKHANA

R RUBY SLIPPERS	EMILY BERMAN	138
RUBY RUE	CASIE & SHANE FAIRBANKS	94
ARONHILL	MORRIS ARON	87
TRICK PONY	BRIAN MORRIS	72
JODE G	JOE GONZALEZ	48
JANI NELSON	ROGER DOWNEY	30
DOLLY'S TOO ROWDY	JOY VALCHECK	23
OMT STARRING OLIVIA	MAGGIE MOORE	22

ROPING & PENNING

HEART B LONESOME REBEL	CHERYL PANOVICH	34
RUBY RUE	SHANE & CASIE FAIRBANKS	29
TONY G	JOE GONZALEZ	24
SHU FLY	TUCKER SLENDER	18
HOBBY	BOB HERRICK	11
SONNY BOY	CLIFF LUNDGREN	5

DONKEY PERFORMANCE

MR EAR E SISTIABLE	DAWN MARIE HENDERSON	122
CADD O OKLAHOMA	JACCI GAINES	102
AKIN'S CHOKLIT PUD'N	JODY LOWERY	66
REDMAN'S YOSEMITE SAM	CASIE FAIRBANKS	13
OK REPLAY RED	RANDY WALDBUSSER	6

DONKEY GYMKHANA

CADD O OKLAHOMA	JACCI GAINES	104
MR EAR E SISTIABLE	DAWN MARIE HENDERSON	97
AKIN'S CHOKLIT PUD'N	JODY LOWREY	63
OK REPLAY RED	RANDY WALDBUSSER	32

DRIVING SINGLES

COOPER	KELLY MOORE	59
SHREK	ANDY RICHARD	39
J.B. BROWN	BARBARA & CLARK SCHUYLER	26
HUCKLEBERRY'S SMOKIN' DUN	ANDY RICHARD	22.5

PULLING SINGLE

COOPER	KELLY MOORE	7
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PRO PACKER

BRANDIE MONTGOMERY	56.5
DAKOTA MASSEY	52
LEE HERRICK	51.5

NON PRO PACKER

DEVRIE MONTGOMERY	96
DONNA HAMPTON	63.5
JESTINE BUTTS	59
JODY LOWREY	46.5

COON JUMPING

HEART B OLIVER	AUDREY GOLDSMITH	7
R RUBY SLIPPERS	STEVE BERMAN	4



Packing Champs Brandie and Devrie Montgomery

AMA SADDLE SORE AWARD and LONG EARS VERSATILITY AWARD

SSA and LEVA Combo Awards

JoDe Collins and Trickey	120 points/240 hours
Jessica Bishop and Wide Awake	12 points/20 hours
Linda Wahls and I'm Your Huckleberry	90 points/177.9 hours
Michelle Chico and HSF Snazzy Trick	90 points/41 hours

SADDLE SORE AWARDS

Betty Taylor riding Ms Josie Taylor	144.5 hours
Maggie Moore riding Custom Chrome	86 hours
Maggie Moore riding Heart B A Living Doll	91 hours
Michelle Chico riding Tessoro's Spotted Duke	28.5 hours
Michelle Chico riding OK Replay Red	40.25 hours
Ryler Fairbanks riding Double C's Boba Louie	27 hours
Cash Conley riding Ruby Rue	17 hours
Casie Fairbanks riding Juan Wayne	77 hours

LONG EARS VERSATILITY AWARDS

Tellin Wyatt Lies and April Trimmer	120 points
One Fancy Fallacy and April Trimmer	80 points
Ruby Rue and Ryler Fairbanks	60 points
Cooper and Kelly Moore Ketcham	40 points
Hoochi Gucci and Casie Fairbanks	100 points
OK Big Iron and Kellie Shields	80 points



*SO THANKFUL FOR OUR WONDERFUL AMA SPONSORS
WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT OUR SPONSORS SUPPORT*

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Haywire Stock Farm & Haywire Photos	Aronhill Vineyards	Jim Harvey
Lucy Hill Stables	Taylor Ranches	Back Country Horseman, Mid Valley Unit
John Sullivan	Maggie Moore	Landslide Mules—Renee Delpino
Slender Ranch	Kelly Moore & John Ketcham	Barbara & Clark Schuyler
Michelle Chico & Randy Waldbusser	One Moore Training Stables	Mid-Valley Plumbing
Gem State Mules— Gail & Michel Stegman		

Bonding With Your Mule

printed with permission from Nathan Medcalf - Professional Mule World facebook page

Nathan Medcalf



Bunch of folks asked about bonding with a new mule. Here's my take. Again, right or wrong its solely my opinion on the matter. So, to get started, it seemed that this topic came up quite a bit during one of my posts, and it seems that a lot of people want to bond with their new animal. I am probably going to ruffle some feather's and probably upset a few, but here is my opinion on it. Seems that a lot of people want to be loving to their animals, and rightfully so. They want that connection, that feeling of one with their animals. Who doesn't? It is awesome when you and your mule in a sense become one. However, I feel there is a lot of misconception as to what bonding is and the way people are going about it. New mule owners tend to spend a lot of time grooming, walking, heck some of you carry on full blown conversations with your mule, giving treats, etc. in hopes that fluffy will love us. That is all fine and good, but you are doing it backwards. Yes, I said you are doing it backwards.

Mules are very black and white animals, and the one thing that every single mule on the planet is looking for is a strong leader. You are not showing your new mule you are his leader by doing those things right

off the bat, in a sense you are doing just the opposite. Everyone wants their mule to like them. We know mules are very emotional animals, and we know them to also be very relationship oriented. People say all the time, "I want my mule to like me and I want my mule to trust me!" All the "want" in the world won't make this happen. You will hear people say jump on and ride, and if you are a great rider and know how to ride anything, ride on brother.

However, let's take another look at a different scenario. Let's go down a rabbit hole for a minute and look at a big reason I feel that bonding has become such a hot topic. For the sake of this I will use the name Karen, (if your name is Karen, sorry.) Karen wants to buy a new mule, she's ridden for a few years but is coming over to the dark side and wants a safe, gentle mule. Karen scours the internet and finds the mule of her dreams, and this mule is owned by Bob. Bob is a great rider and does a phenomenal job raising and training mules and has done so for many years. Karen gets fluffy home and spends the next couple weeks petting, rubbing, and giving treats to fluffy in hopes that fluffy will like her. One fine Sunday afternoon she decides to tack up, ride out, and it is a total disaster. Fluffy isn't doing a darn thing that the mule was doing over at Bob's house. Karen is mad, sad, and crying wondering what went wrong.

What went wrong is that fluffy had a leader, Bob... and now fluffy does not have a leader. Sound familiar? What Karen should have done at the very least if her comfort level was not up to snuff was spent some time doing some ground work, anything to keep that leadership established with that mule until she felt comfortable enough with her new mule, or, sought out some help. Now I am exaggerating a lot of this to make a point, so don't get off track here and start talking about the finer points of buying mules, we are not going there, at least not on this thread.

Let's look at it from another perspective. When a young mule is ridden primarily by pro-riders, or a very skilled rider, that level of rider becomes the norm for that mule. They are highly sensitive, fast-learning animals—and they come to know the patterns, routines and idiosyncrasies of the rider fast. Of course, the very skilled rider is generally very balanced, using light aids, and very consistent in their cues and expectations of the mule—giving praise and rest when earned, and correcting the mule fairly when needed. The rider that is very accustomed to riding green mules also knows what to expect and knows how to avoid problems. This consistency and confidence of the rider is palpable to the mule and results in a confident and compliant mule. I learned a long time ago that when starting colts, it's a good idea to have more than one person ride the mule, so that the young mule comes to understand that there will be different riders, who cue and ride differently.

When a mule is only ever ridden by one person as a youngster, and that one person is a highly qualified rider, the mule rightfully may come to believe that all riders will be exactly this way. Then at some point, when the new rider comes along and cues differently, holds the reins tighter, and gives conflicting and confusing signals, the mule is shocked and frustrated. Mules are all quite different in their temperaments, so their reactions to a new and/or lesser skilled rider may range from mild frustration to downright anger and revolt. Some mules have a strong sense of right and wrong, fair and unfair. These mules tend to be less tolerant of the rid-

er's mistakes. Like people, some mules have the patience of a saint, while others, not so much. When a trained mule becomes frustrated with the rider, the signs may be as subtle as a shake of his head or tensing/hollowing of his body, or as blatant as swishing the tail, kicking out or flat out refusing to do what the rider asks. As his frustration with a lesser skilled rider grows, he may start shutting down, refusing to move forward, diving toward the gate or center of the arena, or running right through the bridle—no steering, no brakes. These are all signs that the mule is frustrated with the rider and feels like he is being treated unfairly.

Fortunately for us, mules don't stand around the water cooler and decide which humans they like and dislike, or who did what to whom. They live in the present moment and they react to your actions (good or bad). They learn to trust you—or not—based on your actions, not whether they like you. They get frustrated or irritated—or they become content and relaxed—based on what you do. That's why most of the time when we are having problems with trained mules, we must examine our own actions—not blame the mule. Every single mule that is sent to us for any training, every single mule we own, every single colt on the property, the absolute very first thing I do with that mule is hook it on. The reason is simple, I am building mutual respect with that mule and I am becoming his leader. Say what you will, but the hooking on process does so many things if people would just take the time to do it. But, that is a whole discussion for another day, lets focus on the bonding aspect of things.

What mules want the most is security and comfort. They love things that make them feel safe, like clear rules and expectations, (black and white), consistency and strong leadership. They love to rest, they love to be praised for a job well done and they love it when you take all the pressure off them. Mules don't like you or dislike you randomly. They react to how you make them feel—safe and content or anxious and uncomfortable. Analyzing the mistakes you make and the reactions of your mule will help you find the answers and bring your relationship with your mule to a whole new level.

Hope that helps.



AMA

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