

2009 - Let The Games, Good Times And Family Fun Begin at the 29th Annual Mule Days!

Hells Canyon Mule Days will be celebrating Mules and Mule Skinners on the weekend after Labor Day, September 11th, 12th, 13th. From its humble beginnings in 1981 it has progressed steadily and is the fastest growing Mule Show in the Northwest. This annual event draws mule and donkey owners, and spectators intrigued by this long-eared equine, from all over the West. Once again, Hells Canyon Mule Days has been selected, for the fourth consecutive year, by *American Cowboy Magazine* as one of the 101 Great Western Events. Also, in part of this historical event, in 2008 First Lady Laura Bush awarded the city of Enterprise a Preserve American Community Award.

This year's Mule Show will be three full days of events that include classes for every age group and skill level. It is a fun family weekend and youngsters enjoy competing and showing their mulemanship abilities as much as the older well honed contestants. The gates open at 9:00 am on Friday with a line up of driving classes including singles and teams. Dick Walker harnessing demonstration will be held just before noon in the main arena followed by fun events for the afternoon and the Trail Class event in the warm-up arena. Highlights of the weekend events include the Classic Jump Off Challenge which is always a crowd pleaser, and fast action events include pole bending, barrel racing, mule and donkey races, wild cow milking and the Fast Ass Express. Don't miss Barry and Amy Krohn's mule clinic at 9:00 am Saturday for special tips on training your mule. Before the grand entry on Saturday, the popular Kids Stick Mule and Boot Scramble Races are scheduled. These two events are for kids (ages 4 - 9 years) who are spectators and everyone wins a blue ribbon and special awards to the winner of each heat. During the Saturday afternoon show there will also be a contest for the oldest spectator and the spectator who has traveled the most miles to attend the show.

The weekend is packed full of mule related happenings and there is always something to see and do for the whole family. Visitors can enjoy strolling The Green and visiting with vendors, exhibitors and western artists. Tennessee Mule Artist Bonnie Shields from Sandpoint, Idaho, is the *Featured Artist* at this year show. Shields is well known and her talents include drawing, painting, and sculpture. In 2005 Shields designed the Hells Canyon Mule Days signature logo. Shields is a longstanding member of the Cowboy Cartoonists Association, her "mule art" can be viewed at the show, as well as on her website at www.bonnieshields.com

Old World Oxen Living History Company will set up camp. A rare, 1800's female bullwhacker "Pulls the past into your presence" with gentle 6' oxen, freighter's wagon and artifacts. Bullwhackin Kass AKA Sheryl Curtis, sets a camp that takes school kids 150 years back in time and hands-on experiences are lifted off the pages of an 1853 Journal. Bullwhackin Kass is sponsored by Wallowa County Soroptimist Club.

The Hells Canyon Mule Days Quilt Show will be in the Cloverleaf Hall. There will be over one hundred quilts displayed for the three day event. New this year during the quilt show will be a Trunk Show of Wallowa County Ranch Women. The Merchants Mall will represent quilt shops with all those "must have-can't resist" items, artisans with quality crafted goods, home and country, and garden accents...

The Max Walker Memorial Cowboy Poetry Gathering will be on Friday evening in the show barn. You can sit and enjoy some cowboy yarns and be entertained by some good ole' country music. Saturday events not to be missed, include the non-motorized parade with this year's Grand Marshal leading the precession of riders, teams, pack-strings, local horse clubs, and past Grand Marshals. During the Jim Probert Pit B-B-Q dinner there will be western music to entertain the guest. The Mule and Horse Sale will start at 6:00 pm. The sale is managed by Intermountain Livestock, Inc.. For sale information call 800-824-5298. This is a fun event to attend and good deals are sure to be made!

The IDOS Dutch Oven Cook-Off is scheduled on Sunday with the North Central Idaho Cookin' Irons Club from Kooskia, Idaho, overseeing this event, so, all you good camp cooks come join the fun and show us what you have...

Daily Show admission: \$10.00 for Adults, \$8.00 for Seniors (60 & older) and Kids 12 years and younger are free when accompanied by an adult. Your HCMD Souvenir Admission Button will get you into the show each day, so buy it on Friday and get in for free on Saturday and Sunday. Three days for the price of one!

Daily Quilt Show admission: \$3.00 - Weekend return privileges...

Be sure to make HCMD part of your summer plans and come celebrate with us a Wallowa County Tradition of Mules and Mule Skinners. For more information call Sondra Lozier, 541-426-3271, cell 541-263-0104, toll free - 888-323-3271. Visit us: www.hellscanyonmuledays.com.

Hells Canyon Mule Days – Always the weekend after Labor Day • Rated E - For Everyone