

## **Let the Games, Good Times and Family Fun Begin at the 36th Annual Mule Days!**

Hells Canyon Mule Days will be celebrating Mules and Muleskinners on the weekend after Labor Day, September 9th, 10th, & 11th. From its humble beginnings in 1981 it has progressed steadily and is one of the best mule shows in the Northwest. This annual event draws mule owners, and spectators intrigued by this long-eared equine, from all over the West and Canada. Hells Canyon Mule Days was selected for five consecutive years by *American Cowboy Magazine* as "One of 101 Great Western Events."

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. The afternoon events include the Trail Class in the warm-up arena and the Timed Trail Class in the main arena followed by the Progressive Mule Race and Team Roping. 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 races, and the Fast Ass Express. Don't miss the free mule clinic at 9:00 am Saturday and 10:00 am on Sunday 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 is the *Featured Artist* at the show. Shields is well known and her talents include drawing, painting, and sculpture. 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](http://www.bonnieshields.com).

The Max Walker Memorial Cowboy Poetry Gathering will start at 6:00 pm Friday evening in the Indoor Arena. Come sit, enjoy some cowboy yarns and experience traditional country music from a great line-up of poets and musicians. There isn't an admission fee, but a \$5.00 donation is suggested and will go to the Max Walker Memorial Scholarship Fund. Early arrival is advised as this quickly becomes a standing-room-only event.

Saturday events not to be missed include the non-motorized parade with this year's Grand Marshal, Marvin Lovell and his wife Evelyn leading the precession of riders, teams, pack-strings, local horse clubs, and former Grand Marshals. New this year is a Private Treaty Mule Sale. Mules will be shown in the warm-up arena at 4:00 pm and the agreement of the sale is between the buyer and the seller. During the Saturday evening Max Walker Memorial Scholarship Pit B-B-Q Dinner there will be western music to entertain the dinner guests.

The Saturday night concert is scheduled for 7:00 pm in the Cloverleaf Hall. Well known country singer, Joni Harms will entertain with her show "Let's Put the Western Back in the Country." Tickets: \$10.00 Advance - \$15.00 Door. Great evening for the whole family!

The Dutch Oven Cook-Off is scheduled on Sunday starting at 9:00 am with some great local and visiting teams working their culinary magic. If you wish to enter, the Dutch Oven Cook-off packet is on the Mule Days website. Spectators are invited to visit team members and learn about traditional pioneer cooking. There will be a People's Choice category and the packet entitles samples of each team's dishes, a vote on the best dish in each category. People's Choice packets are limited and may be purchased during the Dutch Oven Cook-Off.

Your HCMD Souvenir Admission Button is valid for return privileges all three days... \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for seniors (60 & older) \$3.00 for kids (7 thru 12 yrs.) and kids 6 years and younger are free when accompanied by an adult. *Can only attend the show for one day?* Daily admission, adults or seniors \$5.00, kids (7 thru 12 yrs.) \$2.00.

Be sure to make HCMD part of your summer plans and come celebrate with us a Wallowa County Tradition of Mules and Muleskinners. FMI: Sondra Lozier, Home 541-426-3271, Cell 541-263-0104, Antiques Shop 541-426-3229.

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

**Handicap Accessible • Covered Seating • Free Parking**

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