



May, 2023

Board of Directors & Positions

President: Casie Fairbanks
(559) 658-5277 or (559) 760-2198
52mules@gmail.com

Vice President/Points/Perform/Judge:
Maggie Moore
(805) 674-7825 equines06@gmail.com

Treasurer: Michele Chico (916)632-3873
chicomk@yahoo.com

Secretary/Registration: Jody Lowrey
(775) 849-9437 smokeymules555@gmail.com

Awards: Kellie Shields kelliejshields@gmail.com

Packing/Cattle: Joe Gonzalez
ranchodelosaltos@gmail.com

Teamster: Barbara Schuyler rydamr@gmail.com

Promotions/Co chair Teamster/Scholarship/ Co-Perform/Judge:
Emily Berman eberman1998@gmail.com

Board: Becky Santucci becky.santucci@gmail.com

Board: Devrie Montgomery
montgomery4652@gmail.com

Board: Erin Kight erinkight@gmail.com

Board: Jeanne Raede jeanneraede@gmail.com

Board: Jode Collins ccmules@hotmail.com

Board: Joy Valcheck valcheck@msn.com

Board: Rebecca Raede rebeccaraede@gmail.com

Honorary Board Member: Jim Harvey

Chairmanships

Website: Chris Lowrey amamules@gmail.com

Elections: Brian Morris brigmorris@pbvillage.net

Newsletter: Casie Fairbanks 52mules@gmail.com

Memberships: Lou Moore Jacobsen ameri-
canmulemembers@gmail.com

Historian/Rule Change/Elections: Lou Moore
Jacobsen onemoore_@hotmail.com

Inside This Issue

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Fun Facts/Don't Forget
- 3 Why Mr. Spock Wakes Up Everyday
- 3 Calendar of Events
- 4 Blossom Trail Show Champions
- 5 Know What Your Board Members Do?
- 5 Blossom Trail Clinic



Our fearless leader,
Casie Fairbanks

President's Message

Hello All,

Hope this warmer weather is seeing you all getting out and enjoying your mules and donkeys more than we all got to this winter. I have been in a long term kindergarten sub job until the end of the school year. So I haven't been on as much as I would like. But the later days give me some much needed therapy with the long ears in my life.

Our first show of the year was a big success and our sponsor checks seem to be helping our youth. We will have the numbers soon to update everyone with. I hope to see our youth numbers keep rising. We sure would love to give away a youth saddle this year. Check out the rulebook to make sure you know what it takes to be in the top five.

Always remember, to get points for year end the mule or donkey must be registered with us, the owner must be a member and any rider must also be a member. A lot of heartbreak can be avoided if these steps are taken before you show. If you have any questions, ask earlier rather than later.

Our newsletter editor would love to hear from you. If you did a great trail ride, if you showed your mule or donkey somewhere new, if you learned something and would like to share, please email Lou and give her something to add. It would be great to see what our members are doing and it is less work for her.

This year Shane, Micah, Jim and Tucker had an all mule team at the Clovis Ranch Rodeo again. They enjoyed showing their mules against all horse teams. Shane also took Chance to the team roping in Clovis before the rodeo. Chance held his own against them. So he took him to another ACTRA in Coarsegold. We have been staying busy and it never seems to end, but I love it.

As always my revolving reminder that this is YOUR association and any ideas you have, bring them to the board, we can help you to get them going. Organize a trail ride or trail trials. Any gathering and we will try to support it. We love the gathering as much as the event!

In case you need the motivation, be seen loving your long ears!!! Hope to see you all out and about!

FUN FACTS

THOSE EARS!

Donkeys evolved in arid locations in Africa and Asia, where most herds tend to be spread over large areas. The large ears help enhance a donkey's sense of hearing, so it can pick up the calls of herd mates, as well as predators, from miles away.

Another use for the donkey's long ears is heat dissipation. The larger surface area helps the donkey, (and mules because they were lucky enough to inherit those awesome appendages), expel its internal heat at a high rate to stay cool in the hot desert environments.

AND THAT VOICE!

We all know that the donkey's characteristic sound is called braying, but did you know it is unique among the equids because it requires an ability that donkeys have but horses and zebras lack. When they bray they vocalize while both inhaling and exhaling. The *hee* occurs during air intake, and the *haw* comes during air outflow.

Despite this sound being specific to donkeys, there is still some variation. The duration and frequency of a bray, for instance, is unique to each individual animal.

Don't Forget

Everyone on the AMA board, as well as all the people holding positions such as point keeper, registrations, etc., are volunteers. Be nice when you talk to them, they have full, busy lives outside of AMA!

Exhibitors AND owners must be a AMA member if you want to earn points, and the mules and donkeys must be registered.

It is your responsibility to check your points throughout the year and bring any corrections to the points keeper.

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 10th of the month prior to publication.

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

Why Mr. Spock Wakes Up Everyday

Journaling with Chris Lowrey

“At dawn, when you have trouble getting out of bed, tell yourself: “I have to go to work—as a human being. What do I have to complain of, if I’m going to do what I was born for—the things I was brought into the world to do?”

Marcus Aurelius (Meditations 5-1)

As a human waking up you sometimes procrastinate for the many reasons you can tell yourself, this list of reasons can be endless sometimes. But you tell yourself that you have your job to go to, that project to complete, those daily chores to finish and many other purposes in life you are needed for the day. Have you ever wondered why your long-eared friends known by a few as the Mr. Spock’s of the equine world wake up? What are they born to do? Is it for the same reasons as you? Yes, some do still have those daily jobs but in today’s world there are much fewer compared to a 150 years ago when mules were the tractors in the fields and used to pull your wagons and carriages around. They must have a purpose but it sure isn’t for your companionship as you’ve had a few mules that could care less about you. Or maybe it’s to get their fill of food for the day but you doubt that to since they can live off the land much easier than you can. Could it be they live for the moment and experience the world so differently than you ever could comprehend. Being connected so close to nature could be one answer. You can and do connect to nature from time to time but nowhere even close to as much time as your beloved mule does. That could be their purpose is to wake up every day to live with nature that offers them those daily challenges to learn from and to experience in their own unique way.

Thanks for reading, maybe this will make you look at your mule or donkey a little bit differently today and come up with your own thoughts of your long-eared Mr. Spock. You can follow along on some of my adventures on Instagram @mountain_snail like the one where we all got up that summer morning to enjoy that view from Snow Valley Peak overlooking Lake Tahoe.

Calendar of Events

| | |
|-------------|---|
| April 21-23 | Blossom Trail Show, Sanger, CA Contact Kathy Pettit 559-903-0707 |
| May 12—14 | Gold Country Mule & Donkey Show, Lincoln, CA info: (916) 390-1861 |
| May 25 | Halter, Showmanship and Horsemanship Clinic See page 4 for information |
| May 23-28 | Bishop Mule Days |
| May 26 - 28 | Blossom Trail Memorial Day Spectacular contact Kathy Pettit 559-903-0707 |
| June 16-18 | Western States Mule and Donkey Spectacular Kristie Jorgensen 1(253)753-0275 |
| Aug. 4-6 | Bear Valley’s Buckaroo Summer Showdown Chery Ackerly 1(661)609-6113 |
| Sept 15-17 | Gold Country Mule & Donkey Show II, Lincoln, CA info: (916) 390-1861 |
| Oct. 20-23 | Blossom Trail Show, Sanger, CA Contact Kathy Pettit 559-903-0707 |
| | |

Blossom Trail Spring Fling Champions and Reserves

Congratulations to All!

Bridled Mule

Ok Big Iron - Kellie Shields

Hollywood Cowboy - Vicky Powers

Green Mule

Sheza Bella - Jeanne/Rebecca Raede

Dusty - Dennis Serpa

Youth Mule

E'Nola Kanola - Mia Sibley

Christmas Dun Right - Analiese Schat

Non-Pro Walk/Jog

My Maggie - Michelle Kern

Dun It In Chrome - Joyce Stratton

Amateur

Sue Wallace - OK Queen of Hearts

Amy McLean - Greystone's Silhouette

Donkey

DM Onyx Lady - Claudia Stevens Stevens

Akin's Chokolit Pudín - Tom & Jody Lowrey

Driving

Greystone's Silhouette - Amy McLean

LVF Cruizin to the Rhythem - Cindy Mallory

Open Gymkhana

Dolly's Too Rowdy - Joy Valcheck

Haley Sage - Joe Gonzalez

Non Pro Packing

Reedley College/Jessie Miles

Loni Langdon

Open Packing

Bob Herrick



Sue Wallace and OK Queen of Hearts All Around Amateur Champion Blossom Trail Spring Fling



Reedley Mule Club and Pack Team with coach Loni Langdon

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS!

All of the American Mule Association board members do their fair share of the duties to keep the association going. I hope to have all the board members contribute but I am going to start with the one member I know the best and don't have to ask her to submit something.

Meet Maggie Moore, she has been on the board for more years than I can count and has been keeping track of everyone's points for 10 years and, I believe, she goes above and beyond when it comes to her AMA volunteer duties.

A little pre AMA background, Maggie got started in the mule world helping me out at Bishop Mule Days in the 90's when I had more mules to show than I could ride. She had been riding horses in her spare time after work but got sucked in like the rest of us after finding that the mules and mule people were way more fun than the horse show crowd and has been hooked ever since.

Along with continuing to show she has extended her AMA duties list, adding Performance Chairman to go along with her Vice President and Points Keeper positions. So if you are interested in putting on a show for the first time, or come back to host again, Maggie is your contact person!

As you show and gather points, or ride and send in your LEVA and SSA hours know that the person logging your hours and tallying your points spends hours every week so that we can all easily check to see where we stand in the running for year end awards.

Be sure and thank her and all your board members, they contribute so much more than you realize to make your mule dreams a reality!

Submitted by Lou Moore-Jacobsen

Joy Valcheck, Maggie Moore, and Cindy Mallory at the Blossom Trail Spring Fling

Halter, Showmanship & Horsemanship Clinic

With

JANDO GUERRA

At

Verde View Farm

**Thursday,
May 25th**

4:00 PM ~ 7:00 PM

\$50/person

*Open to Horses, Mules or Donkeys
Call Kathy to Reserve Your Spot ~ 559/908-0707*





WHAT DO YOU CALL A BABY DONKEY?

A BURRITO!

WHAT DO YOU CALL A SCARED BABY DONKEY?

A CHICKEN BURRITO!

THE MULE IS THE ORIGINAL HYBRID VEHICLE!