



August, 2018

Board of Directors

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

Vice President: Jim Harvey (559) 336-2604
 Jimsplace36@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Jessica Bishop (916) 390-1861
 ama_mules@hotmail.com

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

Awards: Kellie Shields
 (209) 663-6878 kelliejshields@gmail.com

Pack/Cattle: Joe Gonzalez
 (805) 331-2081 emmadawson@mac.com

Dressage: Laura Hermanson
 (559) 868-8660 laura@oakstarranch.com

Perform/Judge: Jode Collins
 (916) 765-4585 ccmules@hotmail.com

Teamster: Kelly Moore
 (760) 920-3206 mooremules05@gmail.com

Banquet: Becky Santucci (916) 947-6619

Promotions: Diane Grimes
 (209) 996-8507 amapromotion@gmail.com

Scholarship: Chris McParland
 (209) 603-0913 cmcparland43@gmail.com

Points/Newsletter: Maggie Moore
 (805) 674-7825 equines06@gmail.com

Historian/Rule Change: Lou Moore Jacobsen
 (805) 239-2236 onemoore_@hotmail.com

Membership/Points Co-chair: Loni Langdon
 (760) 920-5159
 americanmulemembers@gmail.com

Chairmanships

Website: Chris Lowrey amamules@gmail.com
Elections: Barbara Schuyler rdamr@gmail.com

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President's Message



Loni and Casie dining on corn dogs at Bishop

Hello All,

I have to start this message with a lot of reminders. As we enter into the fall we get busier and all my summer "relaxing" comes to an end. I really don't even know what that means...Half of our summer has been spent under a layer of smoke and heat! Anyways, we have board of directors' elections coming up, we have 7 re-elects up and any nominations can be made to our newsletter editor to add to the ballots that will go out later this year. I have also had a rule change form added that needs to be turned in by the end of this year for the 2020 book. That gives us our summer meeting next year to sort

them out and vote on them.

I appreciate all of our show managers and teams working hard on getting shows for us to attend. My so acclaimed "relaxing" summer has hindered me in reaching some of these shows. My heart hurts when I am not there. Know that I am there in spirit always. And as just a general rule, we all do what we can. So please be supportive of each other when things get tough. This is one of the most loved parts of our association is the heart felt support shared by most all members, I hope we don't ever lose sight of that.

Let's finish this summer Mule and Donkey strong! Be thinking of the future but enjoy today. And as always be thinking of finding sponsors early this year to help our awards chair out so she knows what she gets to add to our lovely awards banquet!

Thank You,
 Casie Fairbanks





Invitation to all jack owners!

We are planning on a "Jack" issue for the October's newsletter; dedicated to advertising all jacks. Many mule owners would like to know the availability of jacks to breed to their mares or jennies to get the "perfect" mule or donkey.

Each jack will be given a half page advertisement at no cost. Please submit all relevant information and photos to Maggie Moore at equines06@gmail.com by the end of September.

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.

Celebrate our members!



AMERICAN MULE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION FORM

Please write the name and contact information for the AMA member you wish to nominate:

Name: _____ AMA # _____

Contact info: (phone and email): _____

Send form to Maggie Moore, 4395 Carrizo Rd., Atascadero, CA 93422 or email information to equines06@gmail.com

Dear Mule riders and competitors,

As you know I try my best to attend all the shows during the season, partly because I love to compete, but also because I know it takes all of our participation to keep these shows going.

Sometimes I can't make all the classes I want to, maybe it's a Sunday afternoon and I need to get home to be at work in the morning, but still I show up.

Over the years Phil and Bonnie Easley have both been avid competitors and also hosted several different shows, their current show is Penn Valley. This year the turnout was sad. They put a lot of effort into planning and executing the show and the participation numbers were way down.

So I would request that next year talk to Bonnie and Phil and let them know ahead of time if there are reasons why maybe the schedule didn't work for you or any other feedback that would help boost the numbers of entries, otherwise we risk losing an important event.

Thank you,
Joe Gonzalez



Many thanks to the hard working show managers for putting on AMA mule and donkey shows: Kathy Pettit, Reedley Mule club, Tucker and Marglou Slender, Debbie Humphreys, , Phil and Bonnie Easley, Bishop Mule days staff and Jessica Bishop. You all deserve our heartfelt thanks for your tremendous efforts!



Calendar of Events

Sept 7—9	Blossom Trail Fall Classic, Sanger, CA info Kathy: (559) 903-0707
Sept 14—16	11th Annual Ultimate Cowboy Trail Challenge , Double L Ranch, Bishop, CA
Sept 22—23	Gold Country Mule & Donkey Show, Lincoln, CA info: (916) 390-1861

Proposed Rule Changes

Complete and submit this form to the Rules Committee by December 31, 2018, for your proposed rule changes for the 2020 rulebook. The Committee reviews and presents the proposals, with their recommendations, to the Board. The Board has final approval of Rule Changes. Use this form for your proposals. List one rule proposal per form. Please make copies as needed. You may use the backside of the form for further clarification. **Be sure your new rule reads logically after the changes you want made.**

Existing Rule:

Page# Section Letter _____

Rule currently Reads:

Proposed Change of old Rule or New Rule to Read:

Must be **received** by December 31!!!!

To: AMA Rules Committee PO Box 143, Ahwahnee CA 93601

AMA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The AMA Scholarship Committee received two applications for the 2018 Terry Branco Youth Scholarship Award. The AMA Board of Directors voted to award scholarships to two worthy applicants at the meeting held in Oakdale in July. It was decided by the board to present each of the two recipients, Emily Berman and Miya Roccoforte, one thousand dollars each. Each applicant submitted an essay to the committee requesting the award. Those essays are reprinted to allow our members to see what fabulous and deserving youth are in our midst.

Emily Berman

At a young age I fell in love with the rural life style that I experienced on my grandparent's ranch. While sitting on my grandpa's lap as he drove a tractor, I soon realized that I would devote my life to keeping this lifestyle alive. Since that time, I have worked to develop skills necessary for life on a farm. I love animals especially mules and cows, and I am skilled in automotive mechanics. I can even plant a field walking behind a mule and a grain drill. Mules have been my passion since I was four years old and I could not imagine what my life would look like today if I did not grow up looking between long ears.

My love of the rural lifestyle has led me to become an Agricultural Business major at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where I am passionate about learning best practices in raising crops and livestock that will ensure financial viability for farmers and sustainability for the industry. After college my goal is to become a Feed Sales Representative for a company such as Purina, Nutrina or Sunglow Feeds. Being a sales rep would allow me to educate people and kids on proper animal nutrition as well as work with animals. My specialty would be speaking to 4-H and FFA clubs about animal nutrition and help kids individually to develop a specialized feed regimen for their animal. Having been a first time 4-H member I can relate to those who may not have the resources and knowledge when it comes to raising the healthiest animal possible. As a former member of these national organizations, I want to be an "ag" advocate for the leadership and agricultural training these youth development programs provide. I want to be the person kids turn to for help and guidance in an industry as amazing as agriculture.



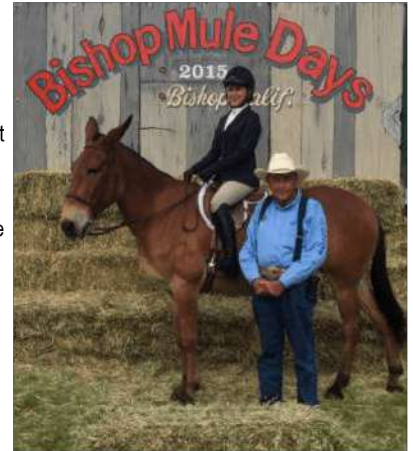
While my future career plans do not involve mules, they will remain an important part of my life forever. I plan on continuing to show mules with the American Mule Association and hopefully introduce new people to the amazing mule world. It is up to my generation to get more people involved or the AMA will die out.

After graduation I hope to be on the AMA board. Being fresh out of college I believe I will have new ideas and procedures that could help the AMA flourish and appeal to younger generations.

Mules have helped shape me into the person I am today. They have taught me more than a classroom ever will and they have been the best friend I never had. Growing up I did not have a lot of friends, but I did not need friends because I had my mule Ruby. She is my shoulder to cry on, my escape from the real world, my teacher more so than I am hers but more importantly she is my best friend. When I think about my favorite memories they always include Ruby and they will for the rest of my life. Ruby is my one in a lifetime mule and I will be forever in her debt to her for all she has taught me and for the friends she has brought me.

Miya Roccoforte

I am interested in either pathology or another career in the criminal justice department, thus allowing me to easily choose to study Criminal Justice. I want to help people and I want to make a difference to those around me. I want what is right to be maintained and I want what is wrong to be taken care of. I want truth and good to be spread around and I believe that this degree and choosing a career in this direction will allow me to achieve these goals. Throughout my life, I have had experiences where what was right was never acknowledged along with the many times when a wrong decision was made that negatively affected those around them, there weren't any consequences and they never even took responsibility for their actions. In every situation, I have forced myself, whether this be instinctual or conscientious in the moment, to never forgive those that have done any wrong doing if they never took responsibility, paid the price, or never even chose to apologize and try to fix what they did wrong. I want this to change in the small communities, towns, the big cities and even the world eventually. Good has to be welcomed and rewarded and bad has to be taken care of. This is why I am interested in studying criminal justice and am determined to choose a career in this direction.



I am very blessed to be given my beautiful Penny Music from Carl Lind. As an owner of a mule, getting my career solidified so that I will be able to continue showing and taking care of my mule are my priorities. There are many influences that my mule, friends and other contacts from my riding has brought into my life. I have been taught that dedication, responsibility, problem-solving skills, hard work, compassion and patience from all of this. My friendships and my love for mules is forever. Everything that I have been through in these chapters have impacted my life in a way no words can describe. Every single moment that I have been blessed with and every moment that I will be able to have in the future are those little moments that everyone talks about but despite this, they have a big importance that is indescribable. I know that college is going to be a busy and stressful time in my life, but that chapter is not the only one that matters to me. My mule is one of my main priorities, along with school of course, since that is the only way I will be able to set myself up for the future, because of just how much love and passion that has gone both ways in this relationship. I am determined to have my mule at college with me and although she may not be there the first year, she will be able to join me along this road and further expand our horizons in the AMA world as well as in or worlds in general.

Elections are coming up again. We hold elections each year where half the board seats are up for election. Biographies for those running for election are posted in the newsletter as well as a nomination form for anyone wishing to run. Additional biographies will be posted in the next newsletter.

Becky Santucci, current board member

I am fairly new to Donkeys and Mules but not to horses. I got involved with the AMA and purchased my 1st mule approximately 4 years ago. Shortly after purchasing my mule I started showing her in the AMA shows and of course Bishop. One thing I noticed whenever I was at a show was everyone at the AMA shows were very supportive of each other. I was very impressed with that and decided to get more involved with the AMA. I was asked to be the person to tally the Ballot votes and the following year was asked to become the Banquet coordinator. I have enjoyed whatever hats I have worn and look forward to carrying on my duties as Banquet coordinator. I am running for another term as a Board of Director and if elected I will serve in this position to the best of my ability and will ensure that the AMA stays committed to enhancing our sport.



Casie Fairbanks, current board member

Hello, I am Casie Fairbanks. I have been an AMA member for over 15 years now and have enjoyed being a part of the board for a few of those. I have enjoyed being President with such an amazing Board of Directors. We have accomplished a lot and always welcome new ideas. I would like to continue to be a part of the best Mule and Donkey association around and I would appreciate your vote.

Michelle Chico, nominee

Mules are a gift of equine intelligence and I want to tell the world! That's how I feel about Mules & Donkeys. Spreading the word about these amazing creatures that are so misunderstood & stereotyped. Educate thru awareness about who we are, what we do and what THEY can do is my goal. At age 3 started riding on the family cattle ranch. Mules & donkeys were not spoken of. Trained under Bobby Ingersoll, Bob Avilla, and David James as we traveled the state showing in the AQHA atmosphere. Then became a show mom. Still "New" only 8 years into mule ownership & showing we continue to grow. The opportunities for growth is the success of our association and we have a great family that I would love to be a part of your board. Please take the time to vote.



Maggie Moore, current board member

I used to show horses and I loved them (still do) but after I was introduced to the people of the mule world, I switched over to showing mules. Even though tough competitors, I have never met a more supportive and fun group of people to be around. I have served on the board for the past 4 years and have been a member for about 12 years. Working with these great people who donate their time to enhancing mules and donkeys has been a pleasure. I currently am the Points Chairman and Newsletter editor for the AMA. Thanks to all members for their

support of the American Mule Association.

Jody Lowrey, current board member

I started out showing a mule in 1997 and then started showing donkeys. They are both wonderful animals. I am happy I found these awesome animals. I love going to shows and see all the other members out there showing off their skills and hard work. I hope to keep showing until I am so old that I am unable to get on.



Kellie Shields, current board member

Thank you for considering me for a Board of Director position. I am a current Board member serving in my 8th year of service to the AMA. Currently, I serve on several committees, including rule changes and scholarship. I am in my 8th season as Chairperson for your Year-End Awards Program including planning, designing, purchasing and coordinating over 350 awards. My dedication to our mules and donkeys is unwavering. I am proud of our Association and of our fine group of people who love and respect our talented mules.



Jim Harvey, current board member

I have been a member since the inception of the AMA and have been on the board for the last 20 years, currently as vice president for the past 12 years and never missed a board meeting. I am active in Back Country Horseman and AMA, promoting the livestock that is essential to our way of life. I work to keep livestock allowed in the back country and keep the shows active to exhibit our amazing mules and donkeys. I would appreciate your vote.



Current Board of Directors



AMA

4395 Carrizo Rd.
Atascadero, CA 93422

AMERICAN MULE ASSOCIATION

2018 Year End Awards Program Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsors listed on our website and in the awards program!

Our awards are purchased using funds collected at AMA mule shows and donations from mule and donkey enthusiasts.

Each year our Association awards more than 30 buckles and over 100 amazing prizes to our top Mules, Donkeys, Youth, Amateurs, Drivers, Teamsters and Packers!

Each year our members are recognized during our awards celebration and banquet.

To sponsor a buckle or award, please send your check payable to:

American Mule Association and USPS Mail to:

Kellie Shields, Awards Chairperson

PO Box 146 Clements, CA 95227

Questions??? Email : kelliejshields@gmail.com or text Kellie 209-663-6878

All Around Mule Saddle=\$1500, All Around Donkey Saddle=\$1500

Division Buckles = \$150

High Point All Around and Reserve Buckles =\$200

TOP TEN AWARD= \$200

Division RESERVE= \$100

Division AWARD= \$75

LEVA /SSA Award=\$75

SPONSOR Program BACK COVER= \$300