



June, 2020

Board of Directors

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

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

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

Secretary/Registration: Jody Lowrey
(775) 849-9437 smokeylmules555@gmail.com

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

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

Promotions co-chair: Michelle Chico
(530) 632-3873 chicomk@yahoo.com

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

Teamster: Barbara Schuyler (916) 947-8258
rydamr@gmail.com

Banquet: Becky Santucci (916) 947-6619

Promotions/Co chair Teamster: Emily Berman
(805) 325-3208 eberman1998@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Chairmanships

Website: Chris Lowrey amamules@gmail.com
Elections: Brian Morris brigmorris@pbvillage.net

Inside This Issue

- 1 *President's Message*
- 2 *Board Meeting*
- 3 *Packing Clinic*
- 3 *Calendar of Events*
- 4 *Noteworthy*
- 5 *Member Activities*
- 6 *Power of Position*
- 7 *Loved & Lost*



Official Publication of the American Mule Association
260 Nelson Rd., Reno, NV 89521
www.americanmuleassociation.org

President's Message

Hello All,

I hope this finds you all in a somewhat more normal place. Our board met for their summer meeting and we got a lot accomplished. Make sure you read through all of our decisions. And stay up to date on the website and facebook. Any new news will show up there. Hope we can get to see each other at shows soon!! One thing I need to remind everyone is that proposed rule changes need to be in by December 31st, 2020 for the 2022 book. So any rules you would like to see changed need to be submitted this year! You can email them to me at 52mules@gmail.com. Stay safe and be seen loving your longears, even if you are social distancing!

Casie Fairbanks



*Bird aka Redman's
Yosemite Sam has
some girl friends!*

HIGHLIGHTS OF AMA BOARD MEETING ON JUNE 14, 2020



An emergency resolution was passed to extend our 10 and under youth, 6-13 youth, 14-17 youth and our first and second year green mules may show next year (2021) in the same category as this year so as not to penalize them because of this unstable year. If you decide to utilize this resolution as a youth in the lower two levels you will not be granted any extensions as you age out later on. Helmets required in all youth classes regardless of age. No 2020 points shall carry over past December 31st, 2020. Pre-Green division is not affected by this resolution.



Remember to save the date for the Banquet at Harris Ranch—February 27, 2021



We are sending complimentary newsletters to 2019 members as well as current 2020 members, if you want to continue receiving the newsletter remember to renew your membership.



Awards criteria remains the same; total number of points from all shows for division awards. All around award for bridled mules is top points from 5 shows in 4 divisions with a minimum of 5 points in each division. All around for donkeys and amateur is points in top 5 shows in all 3 divisions with a minimum of 5 points in each division. All around for youth is points in top 5 shows from 3 divisions (youth have 4 divisions to compete in, they may choose any 3 divisions to acquire points; performance, gymkhana, packing or driving) . There must be 5 qualified competitors for a saddle to be awarded for All Around Championships.



Rule change proposals will be accepted until December 31 for 2022. You can email proposals with the page number and rule number that you want to change along with wording of new rule. Email to onemoore@hotmail.com or 52mules@gmail.com



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.

PACKING CLINIC

AMA sponsored packing clinic on July 11 at One Moore Stables in Templeton, CA

Clinician: Joe Gonzalez

Animals and packing equipment will be provided

Free to anyone under 25 years of age with a complimentary membership to youths under 18 if you RSVP by July 6

Adults over 25 or no RSVP by July 6- \$25, membership not required

8:00 am start time

BBQ lunch

5640 El Pomar Dr., Templeton, CA

Please RSVP to Emily Berman eberman1998@gmail.com or (805) 325-3208



Calendar of Events

July 17-19		Blossom Trail Show, Sanger, CA Contact Kathy Pettit 559-903-0707 Double judged show counts as 2 shows!
August 7 –9		Bear Valley Springs Horseman’s Association Mule Show, Tehachapi, CA Info: Debbie dhumphreys16@yahoo.com Cattle classes will be included!
August 19-23		Goldmine Battle of the Breeds, Reno Nevada See AMA website for link to premium. Mule and all breed classes included!
Sept 19-20		Gold Country Mule & Donkey Show, Lincoln, CA info: (916) 390-1861 Double judged and cattle classes!
Oct 30-Nov1		Donkey Welfare Symposium, UC Davis CA

*Congratulations to Emily Berman for her graduation from Cal Poly and
Olivia Berman for her graduation from Dunn School*



*The AMA is so proud of you and so happy you are
representatives of the AMA*



Just want to shout out a Thank You!



Jessica Bishop was on the Board and served as Treasurer for many years. During that time not only was she the treasurer but also did the newsletter, and believe me doing the newsletter is a chore in its self. I give out a big shout out to anyone who volunteers for that position. Jessica also arranged banquets for several years and always did a wonderful job. While doing all this she was also the memberships chairperson.

With whatever free time she had she competed in endurance with her mule and she put on the Gold Country mule/donkey shows. So a big thank you to someone that put in a lot of effort and time for our association and our wonderful long ear friends. Thank you Jessica for all you have done and what you continue to do.

Jody Lowrey

WHAT AMA MEMBERS HAVE BEEN UP TO DURING COVID



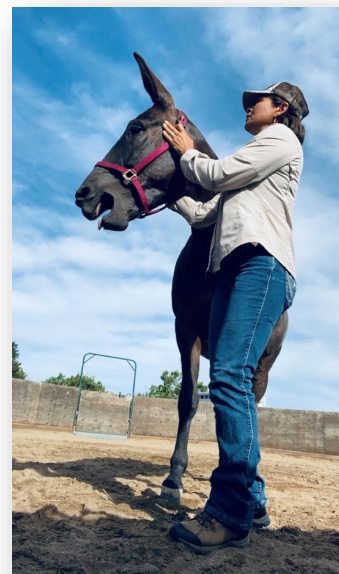
Jode Collins, Becky Santucci and friends invaded Rick Ware at his Nevada home to get in some great riding.



Mike & Randi Goldsworthy with their daughter Breece have been busy working cattle on the ranch.



Loni Langdon working her magic with mules at Lucy Hill Stable



Loved and Lost

Action's Little Brother Brewster

May 25, 1993–January 12, 2020

Brewster aka "Boobie" has won many many AMA High Point's and show championships, and was AMA hall of fame in 2019. Owned by Sue Plowden Wallace for 23 years and shown by Sue and trainer Angela Reich.



FF Cowboy's Royale

March 13 1999–May 3 2020

"Albert" aka "The Godfather" owned by Chris & Ron McParland, purchased as a yearling from Dawn Ferdinand. Albeert was an all around mule in every sense of the word. From therapy mule to pack mule, show mule and 2017 AMA All Around Champion Mule.. Al literally did it all. We miss him so much RIP Albee. With love from Chris, Kellie and all who knew him.



River

November 2009–May 24, 2020

River got her name because she was abandoned in the Estrella riverbed as a puppy. She went to all the mule shows and loved greeting everyone at their campsites. She was especially fond of Morris and Judy Aron and made a bee line to their motorhome as soon as she arrived at a show. She never won anything, but she was a winner in my heart–Maggie Moore



The Power of Position: Hunt Seat Tips

Riding hunt seat doesn't have to be hard but for many it is whether they're beginning or seasoned riders. Two common reasons for this are lack of practice and improper position. I can't do much about how often a rider practices other than to recommend it should be often. I can however give some advice on position that will help turn your practice from painful to productive.

I find most riders that have position issues, (that are not beginners) have started as western riders or primarily ride western but enter hunt seat classes when showing but rarely ride hunt seat at home. When they do ride throw an english saddle on they typically do not shorten their stirrup irons enough. To most western and dressage riders they feel very short compared to what they are used to but generally they are still too long to be affective. A good rule of thumb for measuring length is that, with your leg hanging out of the irons, relaxed, the bottom of the stirrup iron should rest equal to the ankle bone. Once you find the correct length give it time, it takes a few rides for the length to feel natural.

The reason the length of leg is so important is, just as in riding stock seat, it is your foundation! Without the correct foundation you cannot build proper riding habits that will make you an effective rider. The longer the stirrup leathers are adjusted, compared to the rider's length of leg, the harder it is to have a quiet, effective leg. To be effective your leg has to be solid, it should not swing, be too far ahead, too far behind, or move when you post, (among other things but they are the smaller fixes).

If any of these things are happening you need to evaluate your position and then your practice habits. Yes, you may be getting your mule to walk, trot, and canter, and you may also be jumping, but ask yourself is it a pretty picture?! Even though the rider is not technically being judged in english pleasure, hunter under saddle, or hunter classes, the whole picture is being judged. If a rider doesn't look comfortable in the tack it is detracting from that picture. A quiet, secure rider will always add to the picture of a pretty moving, steady mule and can make a mediocre mules performance look better than it actually is. A weak rider, however, can take that perfect, beautiful mule and make it look mediocre because of the unnecessary motion that takes the judges eye away from the animal. If a rider is laboring to post, or is getting jolted loose when jumping, the judge can easily assume the mule is hard to ride. Not the picture we are looking for in our pleasure and hunter mules, so leg length is crucial!

Another common problem is the chair seat! This problem is where the lower leg stays too far forward, making the rider look like they are sitting in a chair. Posting is harder, as is jumping, because you are out of balance and always coming from behind the motion. If you have already addressed stirrup length it may already be fixed. If not make sure that your body is lined up correctly. As you sit in the saddle with your feet in the iron (ball of foot on the iron) you must have a straight line from your shoulder to your heel; otherwise the correct balance cannot be maintained. To check this, have someone use a lunge whip or something similar and make a line from the middle of your shoulder, your hip and down to the back of your heel. If things don't line up drop your irons and let your leg hang, relaxed, straight under your hip, then pick up the irons without allowing your leg to move forward or back by closing the angles at your hip, knee, and ankle. It isn't as hard as it sounds!

There is also a mental exercise to try. First, change the way you think. Don't think of riding as sitting on your mule; instead think of it as straddling them. If you can picture yourself straddling a stream, you'll see you have to keep your feet under you or you will fall in. Now picture yourself sitting on a chair, and it gets pulled out from under you. Are you still standing? Doubtful unless you are an acrobat! With your leg out in front too far you will be behind the motion and off balance. Riding is all about balance, so it is vital to keep your legs underneath you.

Once you have the proper leg position it will be easier to keep the upper body where it needs to be. Everyone has a different version of the same goal and that goal should be to have a soft, flat back, with a strong core, that will follow the motion of the mule. Soft hands and arms, with a comfortable bend to the elbow that are capable of working independent of the rest of your body so they, too, will follow the animals movement. To complete the picture your head should be lined up on top of your shoulders with your eyes up in order to guide your mule smoothly.

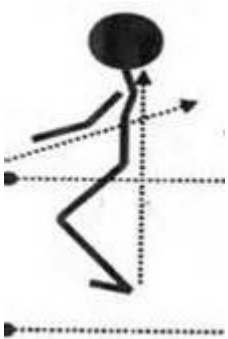




AMA

4395 Carrizo Rd.
Atascadero, CA 93422

Sounds easy enough, right? It is, but none of this will come to be without practice! Practice often, in the tack you plan to show in, and make sure you wear the boots you are going to show in at least part of the time. Break your saddle and boots in prior to showing and it will make life much more pleasant and OIL your tack, so it is soft and supple and not like riding on a stiff, slick plank. Don't buy the cheapest english saddle you can find just because it's inexpensive and you don't ride english that often. You can spend hundreds of hours of practice time and not improve if you have a saddle that sits you incorrectly. If you don't know, ask someone who does, it will be well worth it and save valuable time in your efforts.



Submitted by Lou Moore-Jacobsen

