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Mule Days!

Bishop prepares for its
super 54th event

Bishop Mule Days photo

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The Bishop Mule Days Parade is the nation's largest non-motorized parade.

Bishop Mule Days photo

The Mules' Day



Bishop Mule Days photo

More than a show, Bishop Mule Days shares heritage

FROM HORSETRADER
STAFF REPORTS

BISHOP – For five days, every Memorial Day weekend, more than 25,000 fans from around the U.S. and the world converge on Bishop for this colorful and fun festival. It is a tradition that began in 1969 as a send-off event for local packers and outfitters to get the summer season going.

Today, more than 700 mules with their trainers, riders and packers attend 14 mule shows that include equestrian disciplines such as Western, English,

youth, barrel racing, gymkhana, packing, shoeing, chariot racing, team roping and driving. The result is a tremendous display of human and animal skills.

“The excitement of mule days is not exclusive to mule owners,” said Executive Director Donna Bird. “It’s a family-oriented event that celebrates all equestrian genres. Many of our guests that come to watch the event don’t own animals. They’re just here to be a part of the history of the event, and in doing so, they help



Bishop Mule Days photo

Started by the packers, Bishop Mule Days has grown into an international showcase.

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2024 RIDES & DATES

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■ Benton Hot Springs Mustang Trail Ride

4 Days • May 17-21 2024

\$995 (Tent accommodations)

\$1,295 (Private room at Benton Hot Springs, May 17 & 18, Tent in camp)

\$1,195 (Double occupancy room at Benton Hot Springs, May 17-18, Tent accommodations at camp)



■ Mule Days Special 3 Days \$990 May 22-24 ■ Memorial Day Ride 4 days \$1,075 May 25-28



PARENT/CHILD TRAIL RIDE

■ John Muir Wilderness

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Bishop Mule Days photo

Competition, entertainment, vendors and a unique environment make Bishop Mule Days special.

support the local economy."

One of the biggest draws is the the longest running non-motorized parade, as recognized in the Guinness Book of World Records, Bird said.

"It's an amazing sight," she added. "This year we're excited to have as our Grand Marshall Congressman Kevin Kiley. He will be joining us from Washington, and so will Senator Maria Alvarado Gill, who will be making her second visit here. We're very happy to have them as they are both supporters of backcountry and wilderness.

"Senator Maria Alvarado Gill also sits on several Veterans committees in California, and our Sunday show is a tribute to our U.S. veterans -- so we are proud to have them here to be a part of that celebration too."

For entertainment, 2019 American Idol winner Chayce

Beckham will perform Thursday night, and Justin Lawrence & The Double Average Band perform Saturday night.

Bishop Mule Days, a California 501c3 public benefit charity, appreciates tax-deductible donations for its programs, including support for local organizations that volunteer at Bishop Mule Days. Among those groups are 4-H, FFA, sports, drill and spirit teams at Bishop High School, Home Street School Eastern Sierra and Mammoth High School, and Lee Vining PTO.

"If anyone would like to support mule days in any way, we do have a donate button on our website as well as a QR code," said Bird. "With the rising cost of doing business and insurance and everything, any support would be greatly appreciated.

MORE ONLINE:
<https://bit.ly/mules>



Bishop Mule Days photo

Memorial Day and Bishop Mule Days are cinched together.

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