



WALLOWA COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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KICK IT UP A NOTCH AND SCOOT YOUR BOOTS TO THE 32ND ANNUAL MULE DAYS!

Hells Canyon Mule Days will be celebrating Mules and Muleskinners on the weekend after Labor Day, September 7th, 8th, & 9th. From its humble beginnings in 1981 it has progressed steadily and is the fastest growing Mule Show 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 the 101 Great Western Events.

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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 8:30 am on Friday with a line-up of driving classes including singles and teams. The afternoon events include the Trail Class from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the warm-up arena and Team Roping. Highlights of the weekend events include the Western Mule Magazine 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 Bill Holmes 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 this year's 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. "Video Mike" from Napa Valley, California, will be part of this year's show. Visit his booth next to Bonnie Shields in the Exhibitors Barn and order your DVD of this year's Mule Days and see Video Mike's other Mule, Donkey & Horse related DVD titles.

CHAMBER STAFF

Vicki Searles, Executive Director
Diane Knox, Admin. Assist.

September 2012

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Old World Oxen Living History Company will set up camp. A rare, 1800's female bullwhacker "Pulls the past into your presence" with gentle 6' oxen, freighter's wagon and artifacts. Bullwhackin Kass AKA Sheryl Curtis, sets a camp that takes school kids 150 years back in time and hands-on experiences are lifted off the pages of an 1853 Journal.

In the Cloverleaf Hall you will find the Hells Canyon Mule Days Quilt Show. Over one hundred quilts are on display for the three day event. The Merchants Mall will represent quilt shops with all those "must have-can't resist" items. Daily Quilt Show admission: \$3.00 - Weekend return privileges...

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 leading the precession of riders, teams, pack-strings, local horse clubs, and former Grand Marshals. During the Saturday evening Pit B-B-Q Dinner there will be western music to entertain the guests. The Mule and Horse Sale, managed by Intermountain Livestock Inc., starts at 6:00 pm. in the Indoor Arena. For sale information call 800-824-5298. This is a fun event to attend and good deals are sure to be made!

The IDOS Dutch Oven Cook-Off is scheduled on Sunday from (9:00 am till 3:00 pm) 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 \$20.00 packet entitles samples of each teams dishes, a vote on the best dish in each category and a cookbook. People's Choice packets are limited and may be purchased during the Dutch Oven Cook-Off.

Daily Show admission: \$10.00 for Adults, \$8.00 for Seniors (60 & older) \$2.00 for Kids (7 thru 12 years) and Kids 6 years and younger are free when accompanied by an adult. Your HCMD Souvenir Admission Button is valid for return privileges all three days... Buy it on Friday and get three days for the price of one!

Be sure to make HCMD part of your summer plans and come celebrate with us a Wallowa County Tradition of Mules and Muleskinners. FMI contact Sondra Lozier, 541-426-3271, cell 541-263-0104, toll free 888-323-3271.

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

Handicap Accessible • Covered Seating • Free Parking

Visit us: www.hellscanyonmuledays.com • Like Us on facebook

**BUSINESS TIPS FROM
PACIFIC POWER – SEPTEMBER 2012**

WATTSMART? GET IT OUT IN THE OPEN

Local businesses are making a commitment to energy efficiency and Pacific Power is helping them let the community know.

If you would like an "Open" sign featuring the "wattsmart" smiling outlet to display at your business, please send an email to energy.expert@pacificpower.net. Once you receive the sign, take a snapshot of your team holding it, email it to the address above and Pacific Power will share it on the utility's wattsmart Facebook page.

Photos are beginning to come in and customers are having fun sharing their energy efficiency stories. See the latest at facebook.com/pacificpower.wattsmart.

Pacific Power teams with Energy Trust of Oregon to offer programs and incentives to help your business save energy and money. **Learn more at bewattsmart.com.**

Where did visitors get their information:

Other/Friend	6
Sunset	0
Triple A Via Magazine	11
Oregon Travel Guide	2
Oregonian	0
NW Travel	0
Brochures	5
EOVA	3
Travel Articles	0
Telephone Directory	51
Internet/ Letters	106
Conference/Reunion/wed	0
Other Chambers	8
Oregon Business	0
Other, Visitor Guides	2

Announcements

Chamber Businesses interested in registering for the 2012-2013 Buy Local Campaign please contact the Wallowa County Chamber Office and speak with Vicki Searles.

Registration open September 1st through October 15th

Info. Requests	August	July 2012	YTD	August 2011
Walk-In's Visitors/Business	466	539	2436	451
Visitor Packets (includes EOVA)	22	22	542	126
Incoming phone/email contacts	585	608	3644	522
Relocation packets	1	2	14	1
Total Contacts	1074	1171	6679	1100
Website Visits (not hits)	31,185	26,991	221,423	37,473
Member Referrals Made	2850	2588	10,861	3519
JOSEPH BOOTH	3258	2407	7315	3102

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALPENFEST WEEK WITH DÉCOR, DRESS, MUSIC AND SPECIALS

Alpenfest invites all Wallowa County businesses to take advantage of the Alpine spirit generated by the Swiss-Bavarian festival in September by planning to decorate your premises, dress up your staff, play appropriate music and offer Alpenfest specials.

Alpenfest will take place Sept. 27-30 in Enterprise and Joseph and at Wallowa Lake. You can draw some of the hundreds of visitors who wouldn't otherwise be here in late September. Since Gov. John Kitzhaber has proclaimed Sept. 24-30 as "Alpenfest Week" throughout Oregon, you can take advantage of the entire week.

It's only a few weeks away, so plan ahead. Here are some suggestions:

- Decorate with Swiss, Bavarian, Alpine and fall harvest themes.
- Dress your staff in lederhosen, dirndls, beer maid outfits, Alpine hats and/or Swiss and German folk shirts and vests. Some Internet sources: funhousetheatricalcostumes.com/swbageleco.html
www.costumecraze.com/History-World-Culture-Costumes-German-Costumes.html
- Play Swiss and German music.
- Advertise Alpenfest specials. Merchandise doesn't need to be Swiss or German, just advertised as "Our Alpenfest Special." If a restaurant, however, Swiss, German and Alpine dishes added to the menu will do the trick. Some Internet sources:

allrecipes.com/recipes/world-cuisine/europe/switzerland/top.aspx
www.myswitzerland.com/en/typically-swiss-recipes.html
www.swissrecipes.org
www.bavariankitchen.com
www.google.com search for "alpine recipes" or "easy alpine recipes"

For further information: Chuck Anderson, *Alpenmeister*
oregonalpenfest.com
41-432-0209 or 541-398-1096 cell

Annual Citizen Awards Banquet "Wallowa County—Alive With Community Pride" JANUARY 27, 2013

This is the year to nominate that special someone to receive an award at the Citizen Awards Banquet on January 27th. The theme is simple! It's all about honoring those individuals that step out, apart from the ordinary, and make a difference in Wallowa County. Let's get excited! Make your nomination early this year for that special person you admire, what could be better? Nominations are open!

Award categories include:

- **Business Leader**
- **Leader in the Arts**
- **Natural Resources, Timber and Agricultural Leader**
- **Employee of the Year**
- **Leader of Education**
- **Leader in Nonprofits/Events**
- **Unsung Hero**

Nomination forms are available at the Wallowa County office or we can email a form to you.

Do you have an employee you have valued for a long time? Is there a business owner that you have said, "He or she does a great job in their business and they are always stepping up to make the business community more vibrant, as they bring passion and ideas that will make life better from many businesses? or the Grand Finale — the Unsung Hero! For that special individual you truly admire, that gives selflessly to make life better for all of us.

If you would like to sponsor a banquet table or just have questions about the benefits of sponsoring a citizen awards banquet table, contact Cammie Hale, (541) 432-9050 (ext. 233) or 426-3707. Darlene Johnson, of the Enterprise Flower Shop, will be coordinating the tradeshow tables, contact Darlene at (541) 426-3025. The cost is what it takes to decorate/display your business or organization. Great for networking!



Central & Eastern Oregon Air Medical Coverage & Membership FAQs

Life Flight Network (LFN) has received numerous calls about changes with the AirLink Critical Care Transport program (previously known as AirLife of Oregon). Many callers are concerned about possible impacts for current LFN and AirLink members living in or visiting central and eastern Oregon. This list of frequently asked questions is designed to provide details to help you better understand changes underway and how they may impact you and your family.

Current LFN Members

What changes are underway with the AirLink program?

St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Oregon sold the AirLink flight program to new owners effective June 1, 2012. The new for-profit owners of AirLink will be Metro Aviation, Inc. from Louisiana and Med-Trans Corporation from Texas. The new AirLink program will only have a base in Bend, Oregon and the new owners have announced they will **not** have reciprocal agreements with **any** air service providers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, Utah, and Wyoming.

How could this change affect me if I live in central or eastern Oregon?

As a LFN member, you still have the benefit of being part of an Oregon-based, not-for-profit air medical service owned by a consortium of four world-class health institutions in the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West. LFN has been providing patients with the highest levels of critical care transport for over 34 years. We currently have 13 bases in Oregon, Idaho and Washington committed to serving residents living and traveling in our region of the country. LFN provides reciprocal coverage with many air medical services in the region.

Where does LFN have reciprocity with other air medical services in our region?

LFN members are covered by reciprocal agreements with other Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS) accredited air medical transport organizations in the western United States. Whether in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, northern Nevada or northern California, LFN members are covered if transported by a reciprocal partner, subject to the reciprocating program's membership rules.

The list of LFN's reciprocal partners as of May 16, 2012 includes:

- Air Idaho Rescue - Idaho Falls, ID
- Airlift Northwest – Seattle, Bellingham, and Olympia, WA; and Juneau, AK
- *AirLink - Bend, OR (Reciprocity ends after May 31, 2012 due to new ownership)*
- Air St. Luke's – Boise and Twin Falls, ID
- CALSTAR –Central and Northern, CA
- Care Flight Reno - Reno, NV
- Enloe FlightCare - Chico, CA
- Northwest Medstar – Spokane, Tri-Cities, and Moses Lake, WA
- Wyoming Life Flight - Casper, WY

Why are reciprocity agreements between AirLink and LFN changing?

The AirLink program under St. Charles ownership was a non-profit service that participated in reciprocity agreements with LFN and other non-profit air medical services in the region. The hospital sold AirLink to out-of-state, for-profit companies that will not participate in these agreements.



Central & Eastern Oregon Air Medical Coverage & Membership FAQs

Will my LFN air service membership be honored by AirLink?

No, after May 31st there will be no reciprocity between AirLink and LFN for the reasons stated above.

Do LFN members need to buy multiple air medical memberships?

Only you can decide what is in the best interest of your family. If you live and travel in central Oregon and you need air medical transport, it is possible AirLink could be called on to transport you. LFN offers the closest air medical service to a large number of communities in central and eastern Oregon and wide coverage throughout the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West. We recommend you look at the coverage areas and reciprocal agreements in place for each air medical service to help determine your best course of action.

Can I request that LFN provides my air medical transport?

Yes! You can inform your physician, fire department, or ground ambulance service you are a LFN member. While there is no guarantee they will be able to honor your request, you are within your rights to request LFN and ask for the *closest available air medical resource*. Medical providers are *required* to inform you of your options and honor a reasonable request as long as you are mentally competent at the time you make the request.

Who decides whether a person needs air medical transport?

A physician, fire department or ground ambulance service decides the mode of transport required based on medical need. Once the decision for air medical transport is made, you are completely within your rights to request the program you want them to call. Preferred provider agreements are reported to be in place between the new owners of AirLink and some central Oregon hospitals. These agreements may impact you financially or delay transport for the medical care you need. If someone tells you a few minutes won't make a difference, you should question why you even need an air ambulance then. Imagine having a medical emergency at home and someone trying to convince you to wait for a fire truck or ground ambulance from miles away instead of getting help from one right around the corner.

Which hospitals in central and eastern Oregon is Life Flight Network closer to than any other air medical provider?

Our Redmond base is the closest resource for the hospitals in John Day, Burns, Madras, St. Charles Redmond, and Pioneer Memorial in Prineville. When you factor in our bases in Dallesport, La Grande, Ontario, Redmond, Aurora, and Eugene, we are the closest helicopter resource for most Oregon residents to the east, north and west of Redmond.

Current AirLink Members

I have an AirLink air membership that doesn't meet the needs of my family anymore. Can I get a refund from AirLink?

St. Charles Medical Center has told FireMed organizations they will provide a prorated refund to existing AirLink members *who request the refund in writing by May 31*. If members do not request a refund, the membership will continue. Refund requests after May 31, 2012 will be the decision of Med-Trans Corporation, the new program owners.



PO Box 427
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www.wallowacountychamber.com

Hells Canyon Mule Days
September 7-9th

Wallowa Lake State Park Triathlon
September 15th

Hells Canyon Relay
September 21-22nd

Alpenfest
September 27-30th

Paint the Town
September 30th



**Free and Confidential
Business Coaching!**

Every new business idea, no matter how good, faces serious challenges.

The mission of Business Facilitation is to support Wallowa County citizens in bringing their business dreams to reality.

- ◆ If you have a good idea for a new business, but don't know where to begin or
- ◆ If you have an existing business that you would like to expand or fine tune, but don't know how to find the right resources or
- ◆ If your existing business is struggling?

Wallowa County Business Facilitation may be your answer. The service is free. Business Facilitator Catherine Matthias helps businesses thrive through sound principles, creativity, and innovation.

Contact WCBF for free and confidential business assistance:
Catherine Matthias, Business Facilitator, PO Box 995, Joseph, OR 97846

www.wallowacountybusiness.org

Phone: 541 426-5858 or

Email: facilitator@wallowacountybusiness.org

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