

The Hells Canyon Mule Days Top Hand Award

"Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer."

Since 1981 this annual event has been organized and implemented with all volunteer help. Over the years many people have given their personal time and extra effort for the success of this annual Wallowa County Tradition...

The Hells Canyon Mule Days committee, realizing that its volunteers and show supporters are the life blood of this event and are often unrecognized for their valuable outstanding contributions and commitment to carry out many thankless tasks, established The Top Hand Award in 2006 to recognize one of its own and to extend a special "thank you".

This year's recipient is long-time show supporter Jay Connolly who has been the guy behind the scenes to be sure the sound equipment is installed and ready for the show announcer to entertain the crowd and keep the contestants lined out for their scheduled classes.

Jay is back to the fairgrounds at the end of Sunday's events and removes the sound system, cleans and double checks

all of it so the system is ready for the following year. He is also our IT guy and saved us last year, when the day before the opening show, the new computer, that had been programed and event files loaded along with contestant entries, crashed. Jay put his daily scheduled appointments on hold and reprogrammed the computer, loaded all the show files and had the computer back to our show secretary that afternoon to reload the contestant entries before the opening of the show office the following morning.

Jay has a willingness to help, an easy going manner, and no problem is too big for him to take care of. It has been such a pleasure to work with Jay over the years and to know he is always there for the success of our show.

Mule Days is paying tribute to the true spirit of volunteering by presenting this year's Top Hand Award to Jay Connolly and a big thank you to him for his time and dedicated efforts he brings to this event.

"We couldn't do it without him!"

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy...when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

Mule Days Sponsor Since 1997

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2006 - Larry and Juanita Waters Joseph, OR	2013 - John Hollenbeak Joseph, OR
2007 - Warren and Zoe Matthews Princeton, OR	2014 - Clay Freels Enterprise, OR
2008 - Dick Walker ~ Union, OR	2015 - Midge Kliever, Diane Knox Joseph, OR
2009 - Kent and Chris Lozier Enterprise, OR	2016 - Harold & Pam Stitzel Wallowa, OR
2010 - Susan Hollenbeak Riggins, ID	2017 - Sondra Lozier Enterprise, OR
2011 - George Burnett Aurora, OR	2018 - Belinda Kuntz Enterprise, OR
2012 - Alan & Cheri Miller Wallowa, OR	2019 - Jay Connolly ~ Enterprise, OR

Hurricane Creek Grange
will be
cooking GREAT
Food for
Hells Canyon Mule Days
September 6, 7, 8
Fri, Sat & Sun Breakfast: Biscuits & Sausage Gravy, 6 a.m.
Sat & Sun Breakfast 6 a.m.
2 eggs, sausage and all
the pancakes you can eat!
Lunch 11 a.m. to closing
Food booth proceeds help support our Ag Scholarship for
Wallowa County Kids.

*Hamburger
Pulled Pork &
Turkey Salad*

*Homemade
Pies &
Ice Cream*

