

August 13, 2012 - Humboldt County Fair

This is Jill Duffy, with Community Comment

For most people, thoughts of summer often conjures images of hanging out with friends, camping, backyard grilling, visits to the beach and rivers, ice cream melting faster than one can eat, baseball and frisbee, tending to gardens and harvesting one's carefully tended vegetable plots. But, living behind the Redwood Curtain, we forget that the rest of the county regularly experiences temperatures in the upper '90s and higher. This summer in particular, many areas of the country are experiencing record heat waves. But not here. Once in a while the sun will grace us with its presence, but most of us reach for a light jacket before leaving for work in the morning. And because we had such a late season of rain and overcast skies, it is hard to believe we are into the second week of August!...August - the sun has begun to shift, and sometimes we catch a hint of the changing light signaling the pending return of Fall and the arrival of our County Fair.

Yesterday was the opening day of the Humboldt County Fair, and for the next 11 days, you, your friends and family can join in fair rides, horse races, exhibits and livestock shows .

For 116 years, the Humboldt County Fair Board has encouraged Humboldt residents to come present their best - Art, horticulture, produce, cooking and canning skills, beer and wine making, quilts, and sewing.

County fairs began as a way for area farmers, ranchers and families to come together to share ideas, demonstrate the latest in agricultural developments, be with friends and partake in entertainment and food. Today the county fair brings back memories of 'the way it used to be' as well as educating fairgoers about new things. But what hasn't changed is the dedication to make sure visitors have old-fashioned fun at our county 'family' reunion.

There are plenty of carnival rides to keep your young'uns laughing and smiling, and the smell of kettle corn and funnel cake pulling us back for more. For many of us, we'll go to watch the mule and horse races....especially the mules. My secret? Look at their times but generally bet on the oldest mules. They are the ones who have finally learned to run in a straight line.

There will be all sorts of demonstrations, acts and drawings – swing dancing, a spinning contest, fleece to fabric demonstrations where you can watch a sheep be sheared, then watch the fleece be spun into yarn which will then be woven into a garment – and don't miss Karen Quest – she'll bring a little vaudeville, ropes, whipcracking and cowgirl tricks.

Next Sunday, August 19 is the Junior Livestock Auction Day ~ There will be a lot of 4-H and FFA kids on hand and these youth work really hard all year to bring their livestock and projects to the fair to demonstrate their knowledge and proficiency in animal husbandry.

So come out to the Humboldt County Fair to celebrate all the things that make Humboldt special with your family and friends -

This has been Jill Duffy with Community Comment – and we'll see you at the fair.