

Yreka City Newsletter

A Whole Year of Something for Everyone

By: Erica Gillingham

It is an often heard phrase that there is “nothing to do in Yreka.” We may not have the lights or glam of the big city, but for a small town we’re pretty exciting. The list of annual events that have become family traditions are not only abundant, but they are guaranteed to put a smile on your face. We would like to highlight a few of our favorite gatherings throughout the year, provide a sample of our City’s known annual events, and remind you not to forget about everything the local schools, theaters, churches and organizations have to offer - almost on a daily basis.

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Important Numbers

City Hall/
Water Division
(530) 841-2386

Fire Department
(530) 841-2383

Police Department
(530) 841-2300

Public Works
(530) 841-2370

Senior Program
(530) 841-2365

Elected Officials

Tom Amaral
Mayor

Jim Griffin
Mayor Pro Tempore

Rory McNeil
Councilmember

David Simmen
Councilmember

Jason Darrow
Councilmember

Liz Casson
City Clerk

Michael Pavlik
City Treasurer

Yreka Chamber of Commerce Mixers - (Monthly)

Meeting every 2nd Thursday of the month, the Chamber Mixers are held at different businesses around town from 5-7 PM and are open to the public. Refreshments and drinks are served at these monthly events to provide a place for communication and networking between local area businesses and people. Contact the Chamber of Commerce to see where the next mixer will be held!

Siskiyou Motor Speedway - (April through September)

The Siskiyou Motor Speedway, located at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds, entertains with sensational auto racing. Running almost every Saturday night through the spring and summer, the car classes include Dwarfs, Mini Stocks, Super Stocks, Pro Stocks & Modifieds. Other race highlights include the Ladies’ Night and Gentlemen’s Night at the Races, Run-What-U-Brung, Powderpuff Races, and the Mountain Modified Challenge.



Klamath National Wildflower Show and Siskiyou Daily News Home Show - (May)

On Mother’s Day weekend, the Klamath National Wildflower Show brightens the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds. In conjunction with the Wildflower Show, the Siskiyou Daily News sponsors a “home show,” bringing vendors from as far south as Redding and as far north as Southern Oregon.

Scott Valley Bank Summer Concert Series - (June through August)

The Summer Concert Series, sponsored by Scott Valley Bank and other local businesses, is held primarily at Miner Street Park almost every Friday night during the summer and is free of charge to the public. The Series has taken place for over a dozen years and has featured local bands such as the *Lucky Duck Blues Band* and *Gimme Shelter*. Other headliners have included *Tapwater* featuring Yreka-born drummer Rudy Slizewski; *Tempest*: a Celtic Rock band from the San Francisco Bay Area; and *King Cotton* with Dixieland Jazz from Athens, Georgia. A new schedule will be posted on the Scott Valley Bank website as the season approaches.

Yreka Gold Rush Days - (June)

A history as rich as ours calls for a birthday celebration. Downtown Yreka goes back in time 150 years with theatrical events like the Cowboy Action Shooters, a local group of participants that dress the part and reenact the famous gun fights of the Old West. Merchants, vendors, music and food line the streets with activity and mouth-watering aromas. The birthday bash is held in middle to late June, coinciding with the first days of summer.

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A Whole Year of Something for Everyone

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Yreka Elks Lodge #1980 Annual Crab Feed Dinner

FEBRUARY

Hearts of the Miners Dinner Dance

Yreka Volunteer Fire Department Firemen's Ball

MARCH

Yreka Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Dinner

Siskiyou Sportsmen's Expo

APRIL

Siskiyou Motor Speedway Racing (April thru Sept)

MAY

Siskiyou Motor Speedway Racing

Etna Pleasure Park Rodeo

Klamath National Forest Wildflower Show

Senior Services Fair

Montague Junior Rodeo

Siskiyou Daily News Home Show

Criterion Bicycle Race

Civil War Reenactment

JUNE

SVB Summer Concert Series (June - Aug)

Siskiyou Motor Speedway Racing

Yreka Western Railroad (June-Oct)

CHVA Father's Day Car Show & Pancake Breakfast

Gold Rush Days

JULY

SVB Summer Concert Series

Siskiyou Motor Speedway Racing

Yreka Western Railroad

4th of July Fireworks

Etna Old-Time Rodeo

Klamath Watershed Arts & Music Festival

AUGUST

SVB Summer Concert Series

Siskiyou Motor Speedway Racing

Yreka Western Railroad

Siskiyou Golden Fair

Far Side Motorcycle Run

SEPTEMBER

Siskiyou Motor Speedway Racing

Yreka Western Railroad

Yreka High School Homecoming

Siskiyou Century Bike Ride

Taste of Home Food Show

Septemberfest

Montague Balloon Faire

Fairchild Medical Center Health Fair

OCTOBER

Oktober Harvest Festival

Yreka Western Railroad - Pumpkin Train

Yreka Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

NOVEMBER

Chamber of Commerce Holiday Dinner Dance

Yreka Annual Holiday Parade

Senior Crafters Fair

DECEMBER

Chamber Night of Lights

Madrone Hospice Light Up a Life & Light Up Yreka

Share the Magic Christmas Festival

Siskiyou Golden Fair - (August)

The Siskiyou Golden Fair is held annually at the beginning of August for five consecutive hot summer days. The Siskiyou Golden Fair has everything you would hope for: carnival rides and games, vendors and booths, art and flower galleries, 4-H activities, a variety of food, live music and acts on multiple stages throughout the day, livestock showings and auctions, a talent show, a concert, a rodeo and a destruction derby, and a good chance to reunite with friends.

Septemberfest - (September)

What better way to kick off fall and the new school year than with Yreka's biggest sidewalk sale event! Introduced just a few years ago, Septemberfest is an opportunity for the whole family to enjoy Downtown Yreka with vendors, food and festivities. Of course, it would not be true Yreka style without tales of local history and music in the air. Downtown Miner Street is closed to traffic and tours of historic homes are available.

"Taste of Home" Food Show - (September/October)

Sponsored by the Siskiyou Daily News and Reader's Digest, the "Taste of Home" is a cooking show that takes place throughout the nation, coming to Yreka annually in early fall. The event is held at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds and has attendance records of up to 500 people from all over Northern California and Southern Oregon. Before the ten-recipe cooking demonstration, a growing number of vendors have their wares on display. The evening rounds out with the presentation of over 70 prizes donated by Raley's and other local businesses.

Oktober Harvest Festival - (October)

Brand new in 2008 at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds, the Oktober Harvest Festival has events for all ages. Throughout the day, a petting zoo and Ag-adventures area is set up for the kids. Local area vendors have merchandise and food for sale while music and pumpkin painting are also readily available. A beer sampling tent is a main attraction during the day and night while the event hosts professional bull riding in the evening.

Annual Holiday Parade - (November)

What would the holiday season and Thanksgiving weekend be without our Annual Holiday Parade? We have all managed to be in it at one point or another throughout our lives and attending is a family tradition. Entries range from the City's Fire and Police Departments, decorated Model A's and hot rods, the high school and junior high marching bands, day-care centers, community organizations, businesses, and, of course, a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus. The parade begins at Jackson Street School and makes its way to Downtown Yreka's Broadway and Miner Streets.



Night of Lights - (December)

Every year the Night of Lights officially begins with the blaring of the fire hall siren and the lighting of the City's Christmas tree at the Yreka Fire Department on Miner Street. With the vendors and live music, Yrekans brave the cold as shops stay open late with sales and restaurants are filled with family and friends for the holidays. Liberty Arts gallery also has their Winter Salon, featuring members' art work, refreshments and "fishing for ornaments."