

Subject: Gymkhana

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For Immediate Release

To someone who isn't around horses very much, the name Gymkhana may sound a bit mysterious. To horse people, it means fun, fast, and exciting. Gymkhana is a chance for riders to show off what their horse can do when it comes to running obstacle courses quickly. The skill of animal and rider makes for a great afternoon of entertainment.

Saturday, July 17, marks the second competition in this year's Plumas Championship Series. Sponsored by the Fair, the series runs through October and offers competitors the chance to accumulate points towards winning the title and a silver buckle. Each competition date features 8 events; 6 are the same at every date and 2 change. Individual events use barrels, poles and flags to run various patterns and accomplish certain tasks in as fast a time as possible. Each event has three divisions; 7 to 12 years old, 13 to 17 years and 18 and over.

As an example, an event called "Figure 8 Flags" has a rider enter the ring on a run and approach the first barrel. On top of the barrel is a flag stuck in a pail of sand. The rider takes the flag, races for the other barrel in a figure 8 pattern, exchanges flags in another pail and returns to the first barrel, replaces that flag and heads for the finish line. Top finishers in each event receive ribbons, overall point winner for the day wins a large trophy and everyone receives points that count towards the Series Championship.

The event is free to watch and is held in the horse arena at the Plumas Sierra County Fairgrounds. The easiest access is through gate 3 off Lee Road. The next competition after July 17 is at the Fair, on August 14. Future dates are September 18 and October 2. For more information, visit the Fair's website at [www.plumas-sierracountfair.net](http://www.plumas-sierracountfair.net) or call the office at 283-6272.