

Trout Lake Fair Turns 50

Don't miss the fun at this three-day celebration

The Trout Lake Fair began 50 years ago when Bernice Duke moved to Trout Lake. Bernice wanted her children to participate in 4-H Club and experience showing animals in a fair.

Betty Schmid, a Trout Lake neighbor, had a sewing club for young girls. When Bernice started a dairy club, she and Betty joined the clubs together to start the fair. A horse club joined later.

At first, the Trout Lake Fair fair was part of the Klickitat County Fair and ran for three days.

On Friday was the judging of cows and horses, baked goods and flowers. Friday night, there was a talent show during which girls modeled their handmade dresses and other items for judging.

Saturday included games for adults and children, a pet show, a parade, and a dance at the Grange.

There was a community church service and picnic on Sunday.

The games included a bale-bucking contest; a tug-of-war contest with teams sponsored by local dairies, businesses and the forest service; a cow-milking contest; climbing a greased flag pole to get money at the top; a watermelon-eating contest; a chicken-crowing contest for children; a greased pig chase and lamb scramble; and an egg toss.

Each year, there was a pageant to choose the dairy princess for the fair. The princess rode in the parade and participated in other local fairs.

In addition to Bernice and Betty—who were both active into the '80s—others who helped organize the fair included Fred Hanson, George Woodruff, Bill Mitchell, Ray Thygesen and Cliff Bennett.

The fair had several locations, including the old school, the county park and Winter Brook Farm.

Join the fun this year and celebrate 50 years of the Trout Lake Fair Friday, July 31, through Sunday, August 2.

Friday, July 31

- Community Potluck Social at Elk Meadows RV Park



Parade-goers cool off with a little help from kids with squirt guns.

Photos by John Longfellow

- Grilled hot dogs and burgers are served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to bring a favorite side dish or dessert and share an evening of fun under the trees enjoying great entertainment and fun.

Saturday, August 1

- Fair activities start early with the Fireman's Breakfast at Trout Lake School from 6:30 to 10 a.m.
- Register at 7 a.m. at Jonah's Ministries for an 8 a.m. 5k/10k run and 1-mile fun run.
- Shop at the Saturday Market at the Grange and get ready for the parade that starts at 11 a.m. Follow the parade through town to Jonah's Ministries and the fair site for exhibits, family games, bounce house, food booths, zip line, timber carnival, bungee run, climbing wall, various contests, the Trout Lake Community Foundation silent auction for college scholarships for Trout Lake graduates, and the world-famous baking contest/auction.
- There are three raffles: the Washington Star quilt raffle (a



102-inch by 102-inch quilt by the Trout Lake Quilters); a driveway gravel raffle (10 yards donated by Terry Schmid; a delivery charge applies outside the Trout Lake area); and a truckload of firewood raffle (donated by SDS Lumber Co.; cut, split and delivered locally.) Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

- Jim White hosts stargazing at the Trout Lake School. Come and see the stars through the telescope.

Sunday, August 2

- Community social at Jonah Ministries.

Go to www.troutlakefair.org or visit the fair's page on Facebook for more details.

Clockwise from top left, paradegoers can see many types of automobiles on Saturday; take a turn on the zip line; the community gathers Friday night for a barbecue at Elk Meadows RV Park; bite into a watermelon-eating contest.