



Eighth Annual

BIG SKY PBR

2018 Program

JULY 25-29, 2018

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mutton Bustin' lineup

**Montana favorite
Jess Lockwood**



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Welcome to the 8th annual Big Sky PBR!

What started eight years ago as a one-night event now spans four days of community events including a charity golf tournament, street dance, art and Calcutta auctions, four concerts, mutton bustin' and three nights of professional bull riding.

This growth would not be possible without the support of the Big Sky community, fans, sponsors and hard-working locals who live, play and work in Big Sky year-round. With tickets for Friday and Saturday night's bull riding events selling out in just 8 minutes this year, we went to bat for the community and added a third night of bull riding for Thursday night. For this added "local's night," we opened up more GA seats and intend to make this night a celebration of those who call Big Sky home—from the national anthem singers to the fans in the stands.

When Outlaw Partners started producing this event, we had two goals: to bring the town of Big Sky together and create a platform with a large charitable ethos that gives back to our community. After the 2017 PBR, an economic impact study found that the multi-day event generated \$2.6 million in gross economic output while generating over \$115,000 for local charities.

A genuine thank you to all of the event sponsors for helping make Big Sky PBR a success, especially to our lead sponsors the Simkins family, Big Sky Town Center, Yellowstone Club, Moonlight Basin, and Spanish Peaks Mountain Club; and our co-producers Continental Construction and Freestone Productions.

The 2018 Big Sky PBR will support many charities including Yellowstone Forever, Gallatin River Task Force, Arts Council of Big Sky, Big Sky Ski Education Foundation, Big Sky Community Food Bank, Western Sports Foundation, and many more.

It's an amazing draw this year—20 of the top 50 world-standing cowboys on the tour will be in Big Sky to buck bulls. Special thanks to the local families and businesses who have sponsored the PBR registration expenses for each cowboy kicking up dust in Big Sky. It's an honor for our town to have some of the top bull riders in the world on the Big Sky roster.

For five years in a row, these cowboys have voted Big Sky as PBR's "No. 1 Touring Pro Event of the Year," which is no small feat considering how many other reputable and established events are on the tour.

What makes this event so special? Sure, the arena is specifically designed for bull riding and doesn't have a bad seat in the house, but this honor is largely thanks to you—the cheering fans who fill the arena with excitement, stomping feet, singing along and laughing with entertainer Flint Rasmussen.

Enjoy the show!

Eric Ladd Megan Paulson Ersin Ozer



PBR PRIZE

The winner of the 2018 Big Sky PBR will take home a portion of nearly \$80,000 in prize money, as well as Sandy Epstein's prized "Sky Ride" trophy bronze, a new Gibson acoustic guitar, a golden buckle from Montana Silversmiths, a YETI cooler, a custom piece of jewelry from Shelly Bermont to give to his wife or girlfriend, and a commemorative bottle of Bozeman Spirits' 1889 Whiskey (provided he's 21 years old).

Past Big Sky PBR Winners

2011 - Beau Hill

2012 - Brant Atwood

2013 - Jared Farley

2014 - Nathan Schaper

2015 - Stetson Lawrence

2016 - Nathan Schaper



2017

Matt Triplett

Reigning Big Sky PBR Champion



BIG SKY PBR



Big Sky's Biggest Week • 2018 Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY JULY 25

Big Sky PBR Golf Tournament

to Benefit the Western Sports Foundation

Moonlight RESERVE Golf Course,

Registration at 9am | Shotgun Start at 11am

Buy a team and be paired with a cowboy. 18 teams of 4 plus a PBR cowboy will play a 18-hole, 5-person team scramble. All proceeds from the tournament will go to the Western Sports Foundation, whose mission is to support total athlete wellness for those competing in Western lifestyle sports by providing resources for life.

Big Sky PBR Street Dance presented by LEVI'S®

Town Center Ave | Big Sky Town Center

7 pm | FREE

Dance your boots off while taking in the sounds of The Dirty Shame. This event is family friendly and will include food and drinks for purchase. Grab your favorite dance partner and hit the street with your best moves.

THURSDAY JULY 26

Third Annual Big Sky Art Auction

PBR Arena Tent | 3-6pm | FREE

www.bigskyartauction.com

Featuring \$500,000+ in traditional and contemporary Western art, this event gives attendees the chance to appreciate a wide variety of art by famed artists from the region.

Big Sky PBR Local's Night Bull Riding Night 1

PBR Arena | 6-8pm

PBR's Touring Pro Division kicks off three nights of bull riding in Big Sky with 40 of the world's best cowboys going head to head with world-class bulls.

Music in the Mountains

PBR Kick-Off Concert Featuring Shovels & Rope

Sponsored by Big Sky PBR, presented by Arts Council Big Sky

Town Center Park | FREE

6pm – Park opens

7:15pm – Opening act

8:30pm – Shovels & Rope concert

FRIDAY JULY 27

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 2

PBR Arena

4pm – Vendor Village opens

5pm – Golden Buckle gates open

6pm – Calcutta auction in the Golden Buckle tent and General Admission gates open

7pm – Bull Riding Begins

PBR's Touring Pro Division continues to light up Big Sky Town Center with 40 of the world's best cowboys going head to head with world-class bulls.

Big Sky PBR After Party & Music Featuring Steel Woods

SAV Stage | 9pm

Concert access included with Big Sky PBR tickets. Music-only tickets available at bigskypbr.com.

SATURDAY JULY 28

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 3

PBR Arena

4pm – Vendor Village opens

5pm – Golden Buckle gates open

6pm – Calcutta auction in the Golden Buckle tent and General Admission gates open

7pm – Bull Riding Begins

PBR's Touring Pro Division wraps up after three epic nights of bull riding in Big Sky. One cowboy will be named the champion and will take home the Western bronze, the check, the guitar and the buckle.

Big Sky PBR After Party & Music Featuring Thunderpussy

SAV Stage | 9pm

Concert access included with Big Sky PBR tickets. Music-only tickets available at bigskypbr.com.

Thank you to our title sponsors



PROFESSIONAL BULL RIDING BASICS



THE BULL ROPE

This is what the rider grips throughout his ride. A metal bell hanging at the bottom of the bull rope is designed to add weight, allowing the rope to fall off the bull as soon as the rider is bucked off or dismounts.

THE FLANK STRAP

This is what makes the bull kick. The idea: Rig it tight enough so it stays on, but loose enough so the bull thinks he can kick it off.

SCORING

A rider must stay atop a bull for eight seconds, ride with one hand, and is disqualified if he touches himself or the bull.

Judges award higher marks to riders with good control and body position.

A rider who spurs the bull earns extra points. Half of the rider's score is based on the bull's performance and how difficult he is to ride, and the other half is determined by how well the rider matches the animal's movement.

The clock begins when the bull's shoulder or hip crosses the bucking chutes and stops when the rider's hand comes out of the bull rope or he touches the ground.

Touring Pro Division events have two judges. Each can award up to 50 points for the ride (25 points for the bull and 25 for the rider). The total is added together to make up the score. The total score possible for a bull ride is 100 points. Riders earn points at each event based on their ride scores, their finish in each round, and their overall finish in the event.

If a bull doesn't perform at the level of others in the competition, judges can award a re-ride, so the cowboy has a fair chance to earn points on a different animal.

FOUL

If a rider is fouled, it means something happened during the eight-second ride that gave the bull an unfair advantage over the rider. This can include the animal hitting the rider or himself on the bucking chute before the ride, or the flank strap falling off before the ride is over. When a foul occurs, the judges often award a re-ride.

HIGH-POINT BONUS

There is a \$5,000 bounty up for grabs for both Thursday and Friday night. If the cowboy manages to hang on for eight seconds on Thursday, he'll win the \$5,000 bounty, sponsored by Outlaw Partners. If not, the bounty will carry over to bounty on Friday night, sponsored by Lone Pine Builders, and the top rider from Friday night will have a chance to win the \$10,000.

The High Point Ride Award (separate from the Bounty Bull) is a \$5,000 bonus given out on Saturday night of the PBR to the rider with the highest combined score from the long-go rounds on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Jess Lockwood

Rural Montana roots keep a world champion grounded

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

Jess Lockwood is the crown prince of professional bull riding, and his coronation came in Las Vegas at the 2017 PBR World Finals.

In front of a raucous crowd, jolting pyrotechnic displays, and lasers beaming from the rafters onto the shimmering dirt of T-Mobile Arena, Lockwood won the first three rounds of six in the world finals, the first rider ever to do so. The performance helped him close a 655-point deficit to earn him a championship golden buckle and the accompanying \$1 million prize.

At 20 years old, Lockwood became the youngest world champion in PBR's 24-year history, and just the second bull rider—after Silvano Alves in 2011—to capture the title a season after being named Rookie of the Year.

That feat is all the more impressive considering the spate of injuries that Lockwood endured during the 2017 season. Early on, a torn groin muscle kept him out of competition for five weeks, only to get knocked unconscious by a notorious bull named SweetPro's Bruiser shortly after his return.

Bull riding is often called the most dangerous sport on dirt, but that might be an understatement. It's hard to find a competition on any surface resulting in more injuries, and where the prospect of death is ever-present. A common refrain from the sport's athletes is: "It's not 'if' you get hurt, it's 'when.'"

Five weeks before his Las Vegas performance, after getting bucked off and stomped by Blue Magic, Lockwood suffered four broken ribs, a punctured lung, and a lacerated kidney at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale, New York. After leaving a Long Island hospital, he came down with pneumonia on a cross-country road trip to North Dakota. Three weeks later he was competing again.



Lockwood put up two qualifying rides in Big Sky last summer, taking third place for the weekend.

"[The injury] wasn't fun, but coming down with pneumonia was probably worse. And when I did come back, I wasn't in good form," Lockwood said. "That's part of bull riding though—dealing with the slumps, pushing on, being tough through it all. Grit, I guess."

Lockwood grew up in the small southeastern Montana town of Volborg, the son of a rancher. When he reminisces about his hometown being little more than "a post office and a few buildings," you get a sense of the quiet pride he has for the place where he was raised.

"Not only do you know everyone in the school, you know everyone in the community," he said. Remaining in touch with his roots seems to temper a hard-won confidence in his athletic prowess, with a humility that keeps him striving to improve even after reaching the top echelon of his sport.

Like most of the cowboys on the PBR circuit, Lockwood started riding stock when he was young, mounting a calf for the first time at just 2 years old. His father, Ed, was a former saddle bronc champion and his mother, Angie, was a competitive barrel racer. His parents know one of the most beloved characters in bull riding, entertainer Flint Rasmussen.

"We forget Jess is just a kid. Think about what we were doing at 19 or 20," Rasmussen said. "He handles more media in a weekend than most Montanans will in a lifetime. ... And he is still just a ranch kid from eastern Montana."



Lockwood puts his game face on during the Big Sky PBR in July 2017. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTOS

Jess and his younger brother, Jake, went to high school in the nearby town of Broadus where Lockwood excelled in wrestling, earning a high school state championship at 98 pounds during his freshman year. "That's where I got my dedication and mindset that help me out so much with riding bulls," he said. "You can't rely on teammates—it's all on you."

Lockwood left school after his sophomore year to pursue his passion full time, while taking online courses in his spare time. After winning two Northern Rodeo Association titles and three Montana high school state championships, he joined the PBR on Sept. 27, 2015, the day he turned 18.

Lockwood's eyes have a quiet intensity. He wears a 100-watt smile most of the time, stands 5-feet 5-inches and weighs only 130 pounds. "Skinny, light, strong," said the wiry world champ about his ideal physique. "I try to stay as strong as I can without getting too bulky."

His rancher work ethic is evident in his training regimen. "I run a lot. I do core and back strengthening exercises. And I train to improve my balance. Bull riding—it's mostly about balance."

When describing how it feels to climb on top of a one-ton steer, Lockwood said, "There is no adrenaline rush like it, I don't believe. There aren't too many sports where death is a possibility in an instant." To manage the fear and excitement before bursting out of the chute, Lockwood describes a flow-like state where instinct and muscle memory take over.

"You don't want to be thinking too much when you're in the chute, too many things could potentially go wrong," he said. "I'm just trying to clear my mind and let my body takeover."

The spectacle of bull riding is a distilled display of man versus beast, one deeply rooted in the culture of heartland America. To the ever-increasing number of PBR fans, bull riders exemplify the stoic cowboy, the fearless gladiator, the rock star, and the elite athlete wrapped up in one package.

The consensus on the tour is that Lockwood has yet to reach his full potential, and he has no shortage of ambition. "In a perfect world, I would win the next five world titles, and hopefully retire by 27 years old—and be smart with my money and buy more cattle," he said.

The record for the most PBR world championship titles is three, shared by Brazilians Adriano Moraes and Silvano Alves. Even the legendary J.B. Mauney, the all-time career money earner in bull riding, has only two championship buckles to his name.

Listening to a kid who can't legally buy a beer talk about retiring might sound strange, but bull riding is one sport where it's best to go out on top. With Lockwood's determination and preternatural abilities, it will take more than a few broken ribs and a cough to keep the heir apparent to bull-riding royalty from achieving his ambitious goals.

A version of this story was first published in the summer 2018 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine, on newsstands now.

Rockin' in the sage

Big Sky PBR hosts four nights of music

Big Sky PBR returns this year complete with a street dance, kick-off concert, and two nights of after-party music. Get ready to dance your boots off to the sounds of local talent and national acts during PBR week in Big Sky.



Wednesday, July 25 • Street Dance
Big Sky Town Center, 7 p.m.

Band: The Dirty Shame
Band Members: Brandon Hale, Gordon Stevens, Dan Bradner, Tom Day and Adam Greenberg
Hometown: Bozeman, Montana
Sound: Outlaw country

The Dirty Shame has been together in one iteration or another since 2006, playing country tunes fit for small town Montana. Vocalist Brandon Hale emulates the sounds of country legends, backed by precision guitar strumming, hard hitting drumming, and the rhythm of the steel guitar.

Explore Big Sky: *What are you most looking forward to about playing during Big Sky PBR?*

Brandon Hale: Looking forward to playing good music for great people in a beautiful town. We always have a good time in Big Sky.



Thursday, July 26
Music in the Mountains Big Sky PBR
Kick-off Concert
Town Center Park, 8 p.m.

Band: Shovels and Rope
Band Members: Michael Trent and Cary Ann Hearst
Hometown: Charleston, South Carolina
Sound: American folk

Composed of husband and wife duo Michael Trent and Cary Ann Hearst, Shovels and Rope range in sound from hard rock to delicate acoustic. Their most recent music, penned by the duo themselves, explores new dimensions of their sound, while maintaining the bold personality they have come to be known for.



Friday, July 27
Big Sky PBR After-Party
SAV Stage, 9 p.m.

Band: The Steel Woods
Band Members: Wes Bayliss, Jason "Rowdy" Cope, Jay Tooke and Johnny Stanton
Hometown: Nashville, Tennessee
Sound: Southern rock

These Nashville-based musicians are a powerful hybrid force—one part Americana, one part rock, one part bluegrass, and bits of gospel, heavy metal, and soul. Steeped in the ethos of Southern rock, The Steel Woods play timeless music—songs that could have been recorded at any point in the last half-century.

Explore Big Sky: *What are you most looking forward to about playing during Big Sky PBR?*

Wes Bayliss: Not sure if we could pick just one thing, but the scenery is pretty high on the list. Also, PBRs are always great events and I know it will be a good time, but the most important thing at any of our shows are the fans.

Thunderpussy closes out PBR festivities

BY JESSICA ROUNDS
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The top bull riders in the world can be a tough act to follow, but the Big Sky PBR after-party on July 28 will surely keep the energy electric when Thunderpussy takes the stage. While the U.S. Supreme Court is deciding whether or not their name is too profane to be federally trademarked, Thunderpussy is kicking butt on the music scene, receiving accolades on NPR Music's 2018 Slingshot Artists and "100 artists to watch" at Austin's South by Southwest (SXSW) music festival.

The Seattle-based foursome—Molly Sides on vocals, guitarist Whitney Petty, Leah Julius on bass, and drummer Ruby Dunphy—make nothing but provocative music with classic rock, '70s punk and threads of blues all wrapped up in one high-octane, sexy, tongue-in-cheek sound.

At first, their controversial epithet, coupled with sequined studded bras, fishnet stockings, glittery boots and leather bodysuits could come across as gimmicky. Until they start playing. Seasoned and highly skilled musicians, Thunderpussy is a sonic tour de force. In 2017, Pearl Jam guitarist Mike McCready dubbed them his favorite new band and even made a cameo on the track "Velvet Noose."

EBS spoke to Julius minutes after she had touched the first copies of their new, self-titled vinyl album. She reflected on the band's artistic process and how they're looking forward to hitting the road for the "School's Out" East Coast tour, before playing Big Sky the last weekend of July.

Explore Big Sky: *Given that your live performances are so powerful, do you think you were able to do justice to that kind of energy in the recording studio?*

Leah Julius: We look at our live show and the studio as two different beasts. So when we approach the studio, it's "what can we do to be as creative as possible in this space?"



PHOTO BY MEREDITH TRUAX

Is it keys, percussion, vocal melody, harmonies? And then when we are on stage, it's the same question, whether it's dancers, light show, costumes, [or] projections. Our last song on the record is basically just a jam. I'm really excited for people to hear it because we didn't try to make it [like] anything you would feel at a live show.

EBS: *Your music spans genres, combining soulful vocals with raunchy lyrics, and muscle rock peppered with blues. What are Thunderpussy's musical influences?*

LJ.: I grew up listening to different music than the other three members. My dad was a Deadhead and we only heard Grateful Dead or NPR growing up. As I got older, I gravitated to punk music and played drums in a punk band. I still love more aggressive music. I bring that side of the table to Thunderpussy whereas Molly and Whitney were raised on the classics—Tom Petty, the Beatles, Zeppelin. Ruby comes from a jazz background so she brings a little bit of everything. I think what makes Thunderpussy cool is that we allow space for all of those influences.

EBS: *Do you have any pre-show rituals to get you in the zone to perform?*

LJ.: We have a chant that we do together before we go onto stage. Molly, Whitney and I aren't well trained classically—Ruby said we should learn a counting exercise so we can all get on the same page. That's turned into a pre-show chant [that] gets us hyped and ready to hit the stage.

EBS: *We're excited to have you in Big Sky this summer. Is there anything particular you want to do while you're here?*

LJ.: We shot a music video recently ["Badlands," that came out in May] and I got to ride a horse. Even though I'd ridden horses as a kid, it had been probably 15 years. But I've now decided I'm a horse person. So hopefully in Montana I can ride a horse. Maybe not in the rodeo, though.

A version of this story was first published in the summer 2018 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine, on newsstands now.

Mutton Bustin': Little buckaroos to watch

Whether growing up on a ranch or having never set foot in a saddle, these little buckaroos are ready for some mutton bustin' action at Big Sky PBR. Each child will clamber aboard a wooly sheep and have a chance at a wild ride. We asked each mutton buster to name the sheep they'll ride, and they delivered, producing gems like Chicken Nugget, Fire Truck, and Pillow.



Name: Gunnar Berardi
Age: 5
Bio: Gunnar is a 5-year-old from San Francisco. He loves bugs, Legos, scootering, travel and music. His best friend is his twin sister, Kaia.
Sheep's Name: Chicken Nugget



Name: Kaia Berardi
Age: 5
Bio: Kaia is a 5-year-old from San Francisco. She loves horses, dolphins, swimming and music by Katy Perry. Her best friend is her twin brother, Gunnar.
Sheep's Name: Marshmallow Mommy



Name: Simon Watson
Age: 5
Bio: Simon is five years old. He loves adventure and plans on striking it rich as a miner when he grows up.
Sheep's Name: Dragon Eyes



Name: Hanji Howells
Age: 3
Bio: Hanji entered Montana at 2'11" and 38 pounds, climbing any and everything in his path. When it's snowing he is skiing and when the snow melts he works as a guide on the Middle Fork of the Salmon river.
Sheep's Name: Yawm-Sawm



Name: Jude Knox
Age: 5
Bio: Jude Knox, aka Big "Brubber" is a 5-year-old native of Big Sky, MT. He loves PB&Js and looking out for his little sister; Cora-Lu. After watching last year, he's learned the longer the ride, the longer the trophy!
Sheep's Name: Bullseye



Name: Mateo Harlin
Age: 4
Bio: Mateo has been mutton busting since... today (but he's been practicing on his aunts and uncles). Born in LA, he lives in New York, where he loves playing at the park. He wants to be a police man when he grows up.
Sheep's Name: Ramcharger



Name: Anders Paulson
Age: 3
Bio: 3 1/2-year-old Anders loves PBR bull riding, skiing, hockey, curling, Mickey Mouse, and mac and cheese, to name a few. He also loves being a big brother and spending time camping, hiking and rafting with his family.
Sheep's Name: Bruiser



Name: Ella Michiels
Age: 3
Bio: Ella is a sweet yet feisty 3-year-old from Big Sky. She enjoys dressing up like a princess then getting dirty and trying to keep up with her big brother. Her brother likes to call her our feral cat.
Sheep's Name: Princess



Name: Mason Michiels
Age: 6
Bio: Mason is a happy fun loving 6-year-old from Big Sky. He loves outdoor activities and hanging out with his little sister.
Sheep's Name: Buck-er-off



Name: Frank Daily
Age: 4
Bio: Last year, Frank's sheep, "Tow Truck," exploded from the chute and ripped him violently from his mount, his death grip no match for the ferocious beast. But Frank is back. And he returns thirsty for redemption.
Sheep's Name: Fire Truck



Name: Jasper Dodd
Age: 5
Bio: Jasper has lived in Big Sky for most of his life and loves skiing, sledding, and swimming. He has cheered at the rodeo for the past two years. Jasper loves Music in the Mountains, the weekly farmer's markets, camping and rafting.
Sheep's Name: Pillow



Name: Riley Harrison
Age: 3
Bio: Riley is a 3-year-old ball of fire from Bozeman. She loves princesses, dancing and idolizes her older brother Lane and younger brother Henry.
Sheep's Name: Cinderella



Name: Lane Harrison
Age: 5
Bio: Lane is a 5-year-old from Bozeman. He loves classic rock, playing hockey, skiing and swimming. He is a great big brother to Riley and Henry!
Sheep's Name: Hot Rod Lincoln



Name: Ella Blechta
Age: 6
Bio: Ella is a six-year-old from Big Sky who loves reading, ballet, soccer and making new friends. She has wanted to ride Luna Flufferbutter since she was 3 and can't wait to be a true Mutton Buster.
Sheep's Name: Luna Flufferbutter



Name: Ayden Kunz
Age: 6
Bio: Ayden loves all things adventure, road trips & vacations. When he grows up he's excited to be whatever he wants to be: top 3 current options being an astronaut, a rock star, or a real cowboy like dad.
Sheep's Name: Flash



Name: Bently Steel Gay
Age: 4
Bio: Son of Peyton & Gage Gay. Runs on sugar and Copenhagen Snuff (jerky snuff). Loves hunting and fishing and riding four-wheeler. He loves coming to Big Sky for the PBR and getting a cabin to play in the hot tub all day long.
Sheep's Name: Rank Hank



Name: Sloan Knott
Age: 6
Bio: Sloan has been a champion stick horse rider since the age of 2. With a 2nd place finish at this year's Livermore Rodeo, she is a veteran mutton buster practicing her technique on the backs of her Daddy and PopPop.
Sheep's Name: Wooly Chops



Name: Caeden O'Connor
Age: 3
Bio: From Big Sky, Montana, Caeden spends his summers building sand castles at the lake and riding tubes down the Madison. When he's not on the water, he's working on his golf swing with friends and family.
Sheep's Name: A Sheep Named Moo



Name: Jackson Smith
Age: 5
Bio: Jackson was born in Chicago, but has spent every winter since in Big Sky, Montana, before his family finally moved here in 2016. Jackson loves to hike, camp, fish and float the rivers in the summer, and alpine ski in the winters.
Sheep's Name: Rocket

Big Sky Art Auction to feature over \$800K in Western art

Artist donate works to protect open lands, wildlife

EBS STAFF

Outlaw Partners, the publisher of EBS, and Creighton Block Gallery have teamed up for the third year to present the Big Sky Art Auction, which will be held in Big Sky Town Center on Thursday, July 26 from 3-6 p.m. The event, part of "Big Sky's Biggest Week," kicks off the Thursday night PBR rodeo festivities. There will be an artist reception and preview in the PBR arena tent from noon to 3 p.m. on the day of the auction. Over 75 artists will be featured, with a total art value of more than \$800,000. Both the preview and auction are open to the public and free to attend.

At the auction preview, attendees will have a chance to browse auction pieces at their leisure before the fast-paced excitement of the live auction, led by auctioneer Troy Black, and meet guest artist R. Tom Gilleon, who will also discuss the evolution of his work. Gilleon, who is one of the most sought-after Western artists working today, will have three large paintings in this year's auction, including two tipi paintings, the subject that first won him notoriety.

"We have a genuinely first class line up of paintings and sculpture by very well-known artists," said Colin Mathews, owner of Creighton Block Gallery.

In addition to the many returning artists, including Kevin Red Star, Ben Pease, Brenna Tyler, and Harry Koyama, there are more than 10 new artists from near and far joining their ranks and diversifying the Western art offerings, including photographer Ali Darvish and his photographs of the horses of Sable Island (see pg. 53).



An authenticated pair of Native American Chief Sitting Bull's moccasins, with an approximate value of \$50-\$60,000, is an artifact in the Big Sky Art Auction. Sitting Bull was a Hunkpapa Lakota leader who led his people during years of resistance to U.S. government policies, most famously for defeating Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer in southeastern Montana in the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Other new artists to the auction include C. Michael Dudash, John DeMott, Allen Knows His Gun, Troy Collins, Carol Guzman, Terry Cooke Hall, David Mayer and Michael Ome Untiedt, all of whom take a unique approach to themes of the West, from landscapes, wildlife, cowboys, abstracts, and Native American history, in traditional and contemporary aesthetics and many mediums. Home furnishings, sculptures and rare consignment items, will also be featured in the auction.

Four artists have also donated pieces to the auction to benefit local charities. Fifty percent of the proceeds of Virginia Baude's oil painting "Call of the Wild" will be donated to Yellowstone Forever to support the park's Wolf Project. Lorri Lagerbloom will donate 50 percent of the sale price of "Peace Like a River" and furniture craftsman Andrew Bishop half

of the proceeds from a Russian olivewood bench to the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance. Tom Mangelsen will donate all of the proceeds from his photograph "Twilight of the Mustangs" to Montana Land Reliance.

A highlight piece in the auction is an authentic pair of Sitting Bull's moccasins, which are expected to sell for \$45,000 or more. Sitting Bull was the leader of the Hunkpapa Lakota Native American tribe.

RSVPs are recommended, but not required. Visit bigskyartauction.com for more information.

THANK YOU COWBOY SPONSORS!

Special thanks to these businesses and families for sponsoring the registration fees and expenses for individual bull riders competing in the Big Sky PBR

Alan Higginson	Joe Wisnieski & Family	Sandy Thomson
Beth & Ross Myers	Lone Pine Builders	Shane & Kim Usselman
Big Sky Vacation Rentals	Mia Lennon	Shelter Interiors
Bud the Wonder Dog	Nanci & Jeff Cranford	Shore To Summit Wealth Management
Charles Chase	Nordic Hot Tub	Sit Means Sit Dog Training
Continental Construction	Rainbow Ranch Lodge	Summit Aviation
Gabrielle Wirth	RC Smith Medical Supplies	Tate & Olivia Bulis
Gallatin Timberwrights	Redleaf Engineering	Ticket River
Harlee Maddox	Roger Ladd	Wendy Higginson
		Yellowstone Club



Calcutta

The 2018 Big Sky PBR will include a Calcutta auction at 5:30 p.m. in the VIP Golden Buckle tent. Thursday night's Calcutta proceeds will be added to the overall bonus dollars, and Friday and Saturday night's Calcutta will raise money for Gallatin River Task Force and Yellowstone Forever, respectively.

The 40 bull riders will be split into eight teams of five, and a professional auctioneer will sell off each team to the highest bidder. Half of the money will go to the beneficiary and the other half will be split between buyers of the top-scoring individual riders in the long go-round.

The Big Sky PBR Calcutta involves riders in the long go-round, not the championship round. The Calcutta auction is open to VIP Golden Buckle ticket holders only.

Rules

The 40 riders are split into eight teams of five, each team auctioned off to the highest bidder. 50 percent of proceeds will be split three ways with the other 50 percent going to charity. Calcutta winnings are determined by individual performance of the riders in the long go-round, not the collective score of the team.

- 1st place - 60%
- 2nd place - 30%
- 3rd place - 10%



Big Sky's private clubs offer endless opportunities in a thriving community

Located in the heart of the Greater Yellowstone region, at the doorstep to the nation's first national park and home to arguably the best skiing in North America, Big Sky attracts vacationers from around the world. Many of those visitors choose to own a slice of this paradise, and soon find that the winter recreation is only the beginning of the unparalleled lifestyle the area has to offer.

And the area is growing quickly. According to an April 2018 study published by Bozeman-based nonprofit Headwaters Economics, from 2001 to 2016, Gallatin County's population grew three times faster than the rest of Montana—and personal income increased 12 times faster than the rest of the state.

"Gallatin County's high quality of life and natural amenities attract entrepreneurs, workers, retirees, and tourists," the report noted. For members of the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin, the region's vibrant economy is only dwarfed by the unequaled natural landscape.



Moonlight Basin offers its members unrivaled access to the outdoors, including the adjacent Lee Metcalf Wilderness.

Big Sky's three private and semi-private clubs offer so much for their members: custom homes built in jaw-dropping settings, top-notch dining, trails, fishing, equestrian activities—the list goes on and on. These clubs can help you live out your mountain adventure dreams—membership has endless benefits.

The Yellowstone Club has a long history in Big Sky, and an exciting future for its members to look forward to. The club sits on 15,200 acres with 2,700 skiable acres of private powder, steep chutes, perfect groomers and nonexistent lift lines. The Village at YC, in its final stage of construction, will include 48 residential units, a world-class spa and fitness center, two restaurants, a bar, as well as expanded retail and skier services.

The skiing at the Yellowstone Club is just the beginning, and the club has set the bar on mountain architecture, with homes built to showcase the spectacular mountain setting for their residents. Members enjoy many other seasonal activities such as playing golf on the Tom Weiskopf-designed course, fly fishing, the ropes challenge course, mountain biking and so many additional pursuits.

Spanish Peaks Mountain Club is a home-away-from-home for its members, and it has grown into a vibrant community over a short period of time. The club had 171 members in December 2013 and now has nearly 300, a 70 percent increase in just five years.



Spanish Peaks Mountain Club has grown into a world-class, year-round community with nearly 300 members.

Amenities at Spanish Peaks include a Weiskopf-designed golf course, a fish camp along a fork of the Gallatin River, an intimate clubhouse with direct views of the Spanish Peaks, a full-time activities team, a wide-range of real estate opportunities, and much more. With outstanding dining options located just steps away from golfing and skiing, members can enjoy anything from a quick bite between runs, to a five-course meal with superb fine wine pairings.

Members of Moonlight Basin also enjoy Big Sky living at its best: ski-in, ski-out access to Big Sky Resort, a Jack Nicklaus signature golf course, the iconic Moonlight Lodge and Tavern, direct access to the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, and private lakeside and outdoor activities with Moonlight Outfitters. Homes at Moonlight are designed to minimize impact on the environment, resulting in a living experience that feels tucked away from it all, yet just a short drive from everything else Big Sky has to offer.

The Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin offer their members endless opportunities in a thriving community.

For more information on club opportunities, visit yellowstoneclub.com, moonlightbasin.com or spanishpeaks.findyourbigsky.com.



Yellowstone Club members enjoy exclusive powder in the winter, and countless activities during the summer months. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE YELLOWSTONE CLUB



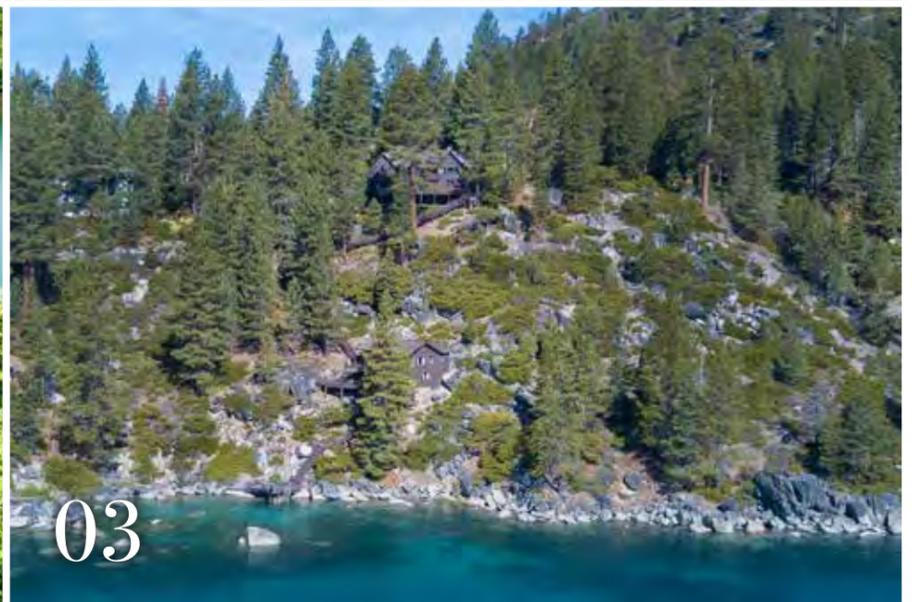
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Don't believe the BS The lowdown on PBR bulls

Can any bull compete in a PBR event?

Not every bull is qualified to participate in a PBR event. That's like saying just anybody is qualified to compete in the Olympic Games. PBR bulls are the best of the best bucking bulls in the business. Many of them come from elite breeding programs that have spent years fine-tuning genetics to produce the highest caliber bucking bulls. Most PBR bulls are bred specifically to be animal athletes in the PBR arena.

On average, how much does a PBR bull weigh?

Bucking bulls that participate in PBR events usually weigh between 1,600-1,700 pounds, although there have been PBR bulls that competed at 2,200 pounds. They very rarely weigh under 1,200 pounds.

What do the bulls eat?

PBR bulls get their nourishment from high-protein feed and high-quality hay. The high-protein feed allows the bulls to maintain their strength and endurance. The hay ensures that they have the nutrients to keep them healthy.

How much is the average PBR bull worth?

PBR bulls are ranked just as the riders are. When a bull receives high scores consistently in areas like overall performance, buck-off percentage, and average rider score, its value goes up. While most PBR bulls are worth a minimum of \$10,000, some have been valued at over half a million dollars.

How long do bucking bulls live?

PBR bulls often live well past the decade mark, making it into their teens. For an average bull, this would be considered geriatric. Most PBR bulls are considered in the prime of their athleticism at age 5-6, but many can continue competing well past the age of 10. When the bulls retire, they are often used as sires in breeding programs for bucking bulls.

What makes a bull buck?

Despite popular misbelief, bulls do not buck because of irritation of the genitals. The breeding program and a bull's genetics are the number one factors in determining whether a bull will be willing and able to buck. After being released from the gate, bulls kick their hind legs in an effort to remove, or buck off, the flank strap which is wrapped around their torso in front of their hips. The strap never comes in contact with their genitals.

What is a bull rope?

The bull rope wraps around the chest of the bull, directly behind the animal's front legs, and is what the bull rider hangs on to throughout his ride. There is a bell that hangs at the bottom of the rope, which provides a bit of weight to the rope, and is designed to fall off as soon as the rider is bucked off or dismounts.

Care of the animal athletes

- Bulls eat between 10-15 pounds of high-protein feed per day. Depending on the bull's needs, the blend of grain can vary.
- Bulls eat about 15 pounds of high-quality hay per day.
- Many bulls receive a monthly shot of vitamin B-12 as a nutritional supplement.
- Each time a bull crosses state lines, they receive a health inspection as required by federal, state and city regulations.
- The maximum travel allowed for bulls per day is 10 hours. The bulls stand in 6 to 10 inches of sawdust shavings to increase their comfort during travel.
- Many PBR bulls receive additional health support, such as chiropractic care and acupuncture to keep them in tip-top shape and feeling their best.



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Buckoff Rate: 80.23%
Average Bull Score: 40.17



Fire and Smoke
Probullstats Power Rating: 84.38
Buckoff Rate: 82.61%
Average Bull Score: 41.47



Speed Demon
Probullstats Power Rating: 85.59
Buckoff Rate: 94.29%
Average Bull Score: 36.13

Probullstats power rating measures both a bull's marking and his record against riders and top riders combined. Buckoff rate refers to how often the bull bucks off the rider, resulting in a no score for the bull rider. Average bull score refers to the average of scores given to the bull for his efforts or his "half" of the rider's score. All info based on 2018 stats. Sources: probullstats.com and pbr.com

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