

Oysters take over Seneca



The Eagle/Carl Earl

Bill Long of Seneca shucks some really hot oysters. He's lived there for 46 years and "never gets tired" shucking the oysters. "Everybody likes it so we just keep going."

By Laura Sellers-Earl
Interim Editor

SENECA — An estimated 750 hardy souls feasted on oysters and burgers and more at the Seneca Oyster Feed, Saturday.

Winds and rain didn't deter 60-70 motorcyclists who made the journey.

"Weather is our governing factor," said Bob Turner of Seneca. Turner, one of the volunteers, is married to Charlene, who handles much of the event organization.

About 30 percent of the festival-goers are from out of county, Bob Turner said. He even talked to someone who came all the

way from Arizona just for the Oyster Feed.

Speaking of oysters, how about 275 dozen in-shell oysters and 65 gallons of shucked shellfish to whet the appetite? In addition, there were 500 cut ears of corn and salads made on-site by the women of the town. Turner mentioned that the burgers, with the secret relish, are a big hit, especially with the ball players.

But the day isn't just about food. Baseball teams slugged it out in a tournament; a golf scramble took place and the infamous Bud Race crowned another \$500 winner in Daryl Simmons of John Day. There were 46 other prizes in the race, too, ranging



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Steamer Richard Schwartzer of Seneca handles the initial steaming of the oysters from Yaquina bay. "They're better than the ones from Boise," he jokes.



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Early in the day, there were more than 30 motorcycles and cyclists at the feed, many coming from Burns for the festivities.



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Even the canines found something to do Saturday.

from \$200 to \$35. There was a horseshoe pit for playing and a parachute-like covering on a pole for both young and old to seek shelter or romp under.

"It's getting a little bigger every year," Turner said. "Most people who come are hardy people. The line was real long and no one complained."

In addition to Charlene Turner, the "nucleus" of the event is volunteers Pete Walker, Chris Gibson and John Saunders. But it takes about 100 volunteers and donors to bring the feed together.

The Seneca Oyster Feed is the third Saturday of May, every year.