

THE JUMPING FROG JUBILEE OF 1865

It was summer of 1865 and Calaveras County was a booming, roaring, mining frontier camp. The roads were bad and travel was slow, and so the miners did not venture far for amusement.

This was the setting for Mark Twain's first published work, *"The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County"* — the story of a gambler named Jim Smiley.

Jim, a miner and gambler, paraded the streets of Angels Camp with a basket under his arm, boasting about the ability of a certain frog. The local gambling houses, taverns and their proprietors all were acquainted with Jim's tales.

About this time, two slickers from New York arrived in town just ahead of an arrest warrant. They made their rounds to the gambling halls and such. On one of those occasions, they had the fortune of meeting Jim Smiley and were subject to Jim's boasting. The New Yorkers poked and prodded at Smiley until a contest and a wager ensued.

Old Jim was easily distracted and left his prize frog, Dan'l Webster, in the care of the strangers who quietly filled Jim's frog with buck shot. So you can guess the rest — the city slicker's frog out-jumped poor Dan'l, and Jim lost \$40 in gold.

Mark Twain, an up-and-coming American humorist who lived just across the Stanislaus River at Jackass Hill, was a frequent visitor to the Calaveras County mining camps.

Local legend has it that he heard the tall tale from Ross Coon, the proprietor of the Angels Hotel. Some believe Twain was encouraged by Greek Mythology.

Whatever the inspiration, Mark Twain inspired what has become the Calaveras County Fair & Jumping Frog Jubilee.

"The most outrageous lies that can be invented will find believers if a man only tells them with all his might."

- Mark Twain

Calaveras County Fair & Jumping Frog Jubilee

**SET A NEW WORLD RECORD
YOU CAN WIN \$20,000!**



Of special interest to visitors attending the famous annual International Jumping Frog Jubilee is the unique setting and the wonderful Calaveras County Fair atmosphere. Our internationally-known celebration honors Mark Twain's immortal tale.

"The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

**FOUR DAYS OF CONTINUOUS FUN IN THE
HEART OF THE GOLD COUNTRY!**

2024 Jumping Frog Jubilee

May 16 to 19 • Frogtown, USA

FUN JUMP – Rosie the Ribiter Stage

\$5 Entry Fee per Jump
Kids \$2 per Jump on Thursday

Thursday, May 16

Kids 12 and under jump for \$2
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Entry Booth Open
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – FUN JUMP
1:30 to 2 p.m. – Frog Break

Friday, May 17

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Entry Booth Open
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – FUN JUMP
1:30 to 2 p.m. – Frog Break

Saturday, May 18

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Entry Booth Open
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – FUN JUMP
1:30 to 2 p.m. – Frog Break

Sunday, May 19

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – Entry Booth Open
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – FUN JUMP

**Watch up close or from a distance –
as frogs prepare to compete!**

Visit the Frog Spa - Under the Main Stage to see how our frogs are pampered. Our volunteers provide a hands-on experience you'll really enjoy.

Check Out the Frog Expo Area - To the right of the Main Stage. It's the frog warm-up zone for our frog teams.

Get Ready to Jump!

Jump for fun or in competition. Just \$5 a frog. Kids from 18 months to 80 years have jumped.

Rules of The Jump

Serious frog jockeys bring their own competitors, but anyone can rent a frog to join the fun.

Frogs must be 4 inches from nose to rear end and fit on an 8 inch pad.

Frogs placed on the pad are coaxed to leap three times and that distance is recorded.

The 50 longest jumpers qualify for the Grand Finals. Awards are presented to the three longest leapers with a First Prize of \$1,000.

\$20,000 If You Set a New World's Record

\$20,000 For the longest jump breaking the World's Record of 21 feet, 5 ¾ inches in the Grand Finals.

All the Fair Information

Visit www.frogtown.org, or call 209-736-2561.

Visit Angels Camp

See the outstanding **Jumping Frog Jubilee Exhibition** at the Angels Camp Museum and the sidewalk **Hop of Fame** plaques honoring the winning frog and jockey for every Frog Jump!

COMPETITIVE JUMP – Main Stage

\$5 Entry Fee per Jump
Kids \$2 per Jump on Thursday

Thursday, May 16

Kids 12 and under jump for \$2
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Entry Booth Open
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – FUN JUMP
1 p.m. to 2 p.m. – Frog Break
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. – Competitive Jumping

Friday, May 17

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. -- Entry Booth Open
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Competitive Jumping

Saturday, May 18

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Entry Booth Open
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Competitive Jumping

Sunday, May 19

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – Entry Booth Open
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Competitive Jumping

2 p.m. – The Rock Bottom Boys

“Rock ‘n Roll with Hillbilly Soul”

3 p.m. – INTERNATIONAL FROG JUMP GRAND FINALS

The 50 longest jumpers compete for awards, cash, and \$20,000 if they break the World's Record!

