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Apprentices Steve "Deuce" Moore, Spokane, foreground, and Bill Farlow, Seattle, compete in 2007's Andrew York Lineman Rodeo, rescuing a 180-pound dummy. (World file photo/Don Seabrook)

For Dad, skip the flowers and seek fun

Posted June 18, 2009

Your dad probably doesn't want flowers for Father's Day, so skip through the floral industry hype (it's heavy this year) and go straight to fishing rods, AppleSox tickets, Metallica downloads and tools — such as the Channellock 6-in-1 Rescue Tool (pricey but handy). He'll snip, pry, squeeze and whap to his heart's content. Or take him to one of these choice events over the next few days for some affordable fun:

They're Bookin' It on Bikes (today) — If your dad's a military buff ... Iraq War veterans led by Tyler Boudreau, former soldier and now author, will pedal into town for a reading and signing of Boudreau's new book, "Packing Inferno: The Unmaking of a Marine." The guys are on a cross-country bike tour to "reacquaint themselves with the land and reinvest their strength in America." Boudreau will speak at 7 p.m. at Read It Again Books, 11 Palouse St., Wenatchee. Info: 662-2093.

A Shocking High-Wire Act (Saturday) — If your dad's a mechanics buff ... The Andrew York Memorial Lineman Rodeo pits a pack of "pole" cats — utility poles, that is — against each other in various competitions. Climbing, wiring, bolting, stringing and just about anything you can do on a pole in a hardhat (no, not that) will be on display. Even spectators (that means your dad) can try climbing one of the 60-foot poles — if they wear a safety harness. Opening ceremonies start at 8 a.m. and competition at 8:30 a.m. at Walla Walla Point Park, 1351 Walla Walla Ave., Wenatchee. Admission: free. Info: 663-8121.

Catching Rays at the Drag Races (Saturday) — If your dad's a science buff ... No earplugs needed. The cars in these annual Solar Drag Races are built by local teams of adults and whiz kids and whisper to the finish line. And, y'know, it's really quite thrilling. If the sun's blazing, these cars can reach speeds of — well, faster than a brisk jog, so watch out! It's all free. Bring a lawn chair and your solar questions. Motors switch on at 11 a.m. at the Confluence Technology Center in Olds Station, Wenatchee. Info: 661-4829.

Serenity Now! Serenity Now! (Saturday-Sunday) — If your dad's an art buff ... Some of our area's top creative folks will set up shop during Artists in the Gardens, a weekend of casual art demos and sales at bucolic Ohme Gardens, 3327 Ohme Road, Wenatchee. You'll be able to observe and chat with up to 20 artists working in oils, acrylics, pastels, watercolors, clay, beads and mixed media. Gardens are open daily 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., with artists on site at differing times. Admission: Adults \$7, Kids \$3.50. Info: 662-5785.

Leavenworth Before the Bavarians (Tuesday) — If your dad's a history buff ... The Upper Valley Historical Society and the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery co-sponsor a discussion (with artifacts) of American Indian traditions, including fishing, hunting, dancing and food gathering. The program starts at 6:30 p.m. at the hatchery complex up Icicle Road. Admission by donation. Info: 548-7641 or 548-0728.

CheckList is a weekly posting for Culture Check, a wenatchee-world.com blog, where Mike Irwin writes about art, movies, books, bad TV, Tater Tots and anything else he finds interesting. You can reach him at 665-1179 or irwin@wenatchee-world.com.

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