



RHYMES AND RANCHERS

Elko, NV

For eight days every January, there's poetry in them thar hills. Thousands and thousands of cowboys and cowgirls, poets and musicians, artisans and scholars, rural people and just plain city folks from around the world will turn up in Elko, Nev., to be part of the 26th National Cowboy Poetry Gathering slated for January 23-30, 2010. Visitors can see lots of examples of cowboy craftsmanship, with custom-made saddles and bits, brands and chaps on display at the Western Folklife Center. Poetry readings (cowboy poetry is an "oral" tradition) are held throughout the event dates at a variety of locations in and around town.

In addition to the poetry, the event offers nonstop entertainment. Concerts with the likes of Ian Tyson, Riders in the Sky, Red Steagall and Ramblin' Jack Elliott are scheduled throughout the week, as well as branding and roping competitions, wagon rides and genuine Indian attacks. Selecting a place to stay can be as much fun as the poetry gathering itself. Consider the 71 Ranch (71-Ranch.com) as a western resort destination. There aren't any tennis courts or spas, but instead the opportunity to mount up and be a real cowboy.

For more information, contact the Western Folklife Center online, WesternFolklife.org, or call 775.738.7508. Arrivals: Elko Regional Airport (EKO).