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George and Norma at the Hall of Fame Medallion Cermony

George Strait Wins Three At ACM Awards Song of the Year & Single of the Year for Artist and Producer!

George Strait made his trip to Las Vegas this week a very memorable one as he carted off three of the winning trophies from the Academy of Country Music. Strait who had been nominated for eight awards, won three awards including "Song of the Year" for "Give It Away" and also for "Single of the Year" for the same song. Strait picked up two trophies in that category for both Artist and Producer, a role he shared with long-time coproducer, Tony Brown.

Strait, dressed in all black for the occasion, made two trips to the podium and thanked his fans for their years of support. He also thanked his record company, country radio, his band and road crew for all their hard work on his behalf.

George Strait has won 18 awards from the Academy during his career and has received 70 nominations. $\overset{\bullet}{\flat}$

George Strait Receives Hall of Fame Medallion

NASHVILLE, TN - May 7, 2007 - Country Music Icon George Strait was honored Sunday evening as one of the newest members of the Country Music Hall of Fame. The prestigious ceremony, which has become on the Nashville's most cherished events, was hosted by the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum. Other honorees included legendary guitarist Harold Bradley and enduring country-pop hitmaker Sonny James. The Sunday, May 6th, event included more than a dozen veteran Hall of Fame members who gathered to welcome the 2006 inductees in an emotional ceremony filled with music, memories and warm embraces - as



George Strait with fellow inductees Sonny James (L) and Harold Bradley (R)

Continued on following page

George Strait Receives Hall of Fame Medallion

(Continued from previous page) well as plenty of tears and laughter.

The medallions were presented to the new inductees by longtime friends who preceded them in the Hall of Fame. George Jones presented Strait with his medallion and spoke of Strait's dedication to traditional country music and to his wife, Norma Strait, and son, Bubba Strait.

Those performing songs toasting his career included Dean Dillon, Alan Jackson, and Lee Ann Womack.

Among the Country Music Hall of Fame members attending were Alabama's Jeff Cook, Teddy Gentry and Randy Owen; Bill Anderson; Jimmy Dickens; Phil Everly of the Everly Brothers; George Jones; The Jordanaires' Louis Nunley, Gordon Stoker and Ray Walker; Brenda Lee; Charlie Louvin; Jo Walker-Meador; Frances Preston; Porter Wagoner; and E.W. "Bud" Wendell.

The evening began at 5 p.m. as the three honorees arrived to walk the red carpet into a reception in the Curb Conservatory, followed by other Hall of Fame members, where they enjoyed catered food and cocktails while cisiting with friends. At 7 p.m., guests moved into the 213-seat Ford Theater, where they were called to order with the western swing of Bob Wills, on a recording from the Museum's Bob Pinson Recorded Sound Collection. Other guests viewed Strait's back-to-roots sound and his stoic cowboy image. Now that Strait has more #1 hits than any other country singer, Young cited how the singer had raised the bar for all country artists while doing things his way.

The musical tribute began with songwriter Dean Dillon, who has had more Strait cuts than anyone else. He sang "The Chair," the first of many #1 hits he's created for the Texas star. Lee Ann Womack then offered a powerful version of "The King of Broken Hearts," a Jim Lauderdale song that Strait recorded on the multi-platinum Pure Country soundtrack.

After that, Alan Jackson strode out from the side of the stage, thanking Strait for his down-to-earth style and humble manner, before offering a romping take on "The Fireman," a song Jackson first sang while working his way up through nightclubs in Tennessee and Georgia.

George Jones then came up to introduce Strait and give him his medallion. The legendary Hall of Fame member said, "Few artists achieve what George Strait has." He also recalled their first meeting in the early eighties, when Strait performed at the Jones Country theme park and then joined Jones at home to watch a football game. "Now he's King George," Jones said. "And he never changed from being the shy, quiet kid from Texas. He still rides horses and



George Strait with Norma, John Strait, Anna Strait and Bubba Strait



George Strait with Norma, Nan Voss (Norma' Mother) and Bubba Strait

gets to be a cowboy. He stayed married to the same woman, Norma, for 35 years. Hot damn, that's good, you know!"

Strait accepted his medallion, telling Jones, "You're the king, I don't care what you say." Quickly growing emotional, Strait choked up between sentences. "From the day I started singing country music, I dreamed of getting into the Country Music Hall of Fame," he said. "It's the ultimate achievement you can have in this business, so that's what I wanted. I'm truly honored and blessed today to be in the Country Music Hall of Fame."

The evening ended with the honorees, performers and members of the Country Music Hall of Fame standing on stage performing "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" Afterward, they enjoyed dessert and coffee in the Curb Conservatory. Attendees embraced each other with goodbyes, speaking of family - both biological and musical - before promising to see each other again at next year's ceremony. The event was taped for future broadcast by the Great American Country cable network and 650 AM WSM.

25 Strait Years -A Record-Setting Success

Written by Dee Ann Cameron

Spin to Win Magazine, www.spintowin.com On March 23, 2007, a record number of 627 teams rode into The Rose Palace arena in San Antonio, Texas to rope for a record amount of cash and prizes. Along the way, other new records were set.

Hosted by country superstar and avid team roper, George Strait, the sold-out GSTRC event is among the largest and most prestigious open ropings in the world and annually plays host to the most accomplished names in the sport. Ropers competed for a chance at cash prizes totaling more than \$500,000, two Chevy Silverado Trucks provided by Cavender Chevrolet of Boerne, Texas, two Strait X-treme 3 horse slant trailers by Bruton, Twister saddles and Gist Buckles.

Nick Sartain and Jhett Johnson celebrated the event's silver anniversary in a big way. Sartain, of Yukon, OK, and Johnson, of Casper, WY, roped three steers in 16.84 seconds for a first place finish. Their efforts earned them each \$84,337 in cash, Chevy crew-cab trucks, Bruton Easy Pull trailers, and Browning shot guns. Only a fraction of a second behind, the brother duo of Jay and Randon Adams were 16.98 on three head. They were awarded \$33,775 each and Twister trophy saddles.

In addition to the general payout and extravagant prizes, the roping's unique format also draws the best teams in the world. Friday's format is a two-steer progressive, open to the world, enter up to three times at \$800 per team. The top 50 teams from this field then advance to the final three full rounds on Saturday.

Britt Williams and Russell Cordoza led the pack on Friday with a time of 9.56 on two head. They received Gist trophy buckles for their efforts. Rounding out the top 50 teams was J.D. Yates and Jory Levy, who were 12.01 on two head in Friday's roping. Several ropers had two call backs in Saturday's roping; however, after two

full rounds, it was headers Nick Sartain and Jay Adams who still held two posi-

tions in the top five teams. Jay and brother Randon entered the final round in fifth place with an 11.63. Their run of 5.35 put them in the lead with a 16.98. The fourth place high call back was Sartain and Johnson. Their 5.21 gave them a 16.84, taking over the lead.

Joe Beaver and Nicky Simmons were third high call. Beaver turned the steer fast, but a slipped leg cost the team five seconds, for a 21.94. Jay Adams rode back into the box in the second high call position, for partner Cody Cowden. Adams turned the steer in the money





Jhett Johnson (L) and Nick Sartain (R)

hold, and Cowden threw an expert heel loop that looked like it would take them to the lead. But at the last minute, the steer took a giant leap over his loop and he came up empty. The high call back team was Sartain and Kolyn VonAhn with a time of 10.63. Sartain needed to be 6.2 or faster to take over his own lead. "This is the jackpot roping of the year," Sartain said. "I grew up watching video tapes of this roping and I always dreamed of winning it someday. It was just an incredible feeling to ride in the box as the high call team, and I was already winning the roping. This is an amazing position to be in. Nothing really compares to that."

As he had many times throughout the day, Sartain reached out and grabbed the steer quick. VonAhn rolled in behind and delivered his loop under the steer. It looked like a change in the leader-board; however, as VonAhn dallied, the steer slipped a leg out of his loop, delivering the title to Sartain and Johnson.

While Sartain has won some money at the event before, this was Johnson's first time ever to cash in. The financial windfall was good timing for him. He had been hospitalized in February for an emergency appendectomy. Complications from previous surgeries left him with a 9: scar and a painful six-week recovery period. He had started the year roping with Charles Pogue, but missed all the major winter rodeos due to the surgery. He had only been Continued on following page

25 Strait Years of Success

(Continued from previous page)

back in the saddle for a week when he roped at the GSTRC.

"I had good partners with Nick, Kevin Daniels and Turtle Powell," Johnson said. "I knew I had to get well enough to get down here and rope in this roping. I'm just so thrilled it turned out like it did. Maybe this will turn my luck around."

The three full round format makes for a nail biting finish among the contenders for the average money. And it makes for some exciting watching as other teams hold nothing back and go all out for the fast time of the round.

The "Red Wrapped Steer Challenge," sponsored by Wayne Wright Injury Lawyers, gives \$10,000 per round progressive bonuses for any team that wins a round fast time with a randomly selected steer that has a red horn wrap. If there is no red-wrap winner in the first round, then the bounty doubles to \$20,000 in the second round.

As luck would have it, Sartain and Johnson's first steer was a red wrap challenge steer.

"When we rode into the box, Jhett looked at me and asked, 'Are we going for it?" Nick recalls. "I said, 'No. We're going for the big win, we need to stay in the average.' But then when the steer broke, I thought I had a shot at him, so I reached and grabbed him. He handled a little wild at the end of my rope, but when Jhett came around the corner just right and roped him, I knew right then we were going to do good."

Johnson credits his horse with handling situations like that.

"My horse stays solid in conditions like this and gives me the same shot every time," he says. "Nick can reach and turn one quick. I knew he would give us a chance to win, I would just need to be ready on my end."

Johnson said his sons, Keller, 8, and Carson, 6, kept his horse tuned up for him while he was recovering from surgery.

"While I was laying on the couch, my sons were out there riding my horse for me," Johnson says. "My oldest would rope lead steers on him and my youngest would ride him all over the place. He didn't have a chance to get out of shape."

With Johnson back in the saddle and his horse still working for him, he's ready to start the spring rodeo season with Turtle Powell. Sartain, who has had what he calls a "long, dry, winter" hopes this win will turn his luck around too, as he and partner Shannon Frascht head into spring and summer rodeos.

"The neat thing is that all four of us are really good friends," Sartain said. "We all hang out together and travel together. We're ready to go hit it hard now. This money will help us roll one, that's for sure."

One of the most crowd pleasing runs at the roping was in the second round when the Arizona team of Derek Begay and Cesar de la Cruz drew a red wrapped incentive steer. They had gone out of the average on their first steer, and were ready to push the limit on their second steer. If anyone blinked, they missed the entire run. The pair roped their steer in a record-setting time of 3.31 seconds. The previous fast time of 3.62 seconds was set by Speed Williams and Rich Skelton in 2004. Begay and de la Cruz received a standing ovation from the crowd, and an added bonus of \$20,000.

The father-son team of Joel and reigning world champion Allen Bach were the 9th fastest team in Friday's roping, however the pair couldn't get in sync during Saturday's roping. The younger Bach is a fast, fearless header who is turning more than steer's heads in the roping arena. He and partner Gregg Bennett were 3.99 to win the fast time in the third round on Saturday.

In Saturday's opening ceremonies, all the roping contestants lined the arena and tipped their hats to George Strait and his family to thank them for their vision, persistence and dedication to make this roping one of the best in the world.

"Sponsors have made this roping what it is," Strait told the crowd. "We couldn't be doing this at the level we are without them."

Sponsors for the 2007 GSTRC included Cavender Chevrolet, Bruton Trailers, Tractor Supply Company, Wrangler, Resistol, Frost National Bank, Red Bluff Buckles, Twister Saddles, Gist, Classic Ropes, Justin Boots, Brake Check, Bill Miller's BBQ, U.S. Smokeless Tobacco, H.E.B. food Stores, Capital Farms Credit, Cactus Ropes, Fully Clingman and Wayne Wright Injury Lawyers.

"We really want to thank George Strait, his family and his crew for putting on this amazing roping," Sartain said appreciatively. "For guys like us to have a chance to win this kind of money and prizes is really awesome."

Strait's goal from the very first roping was to make it the best open roping event there is. That's what has made the GSTRC successful for 25 years - the best cowboys in the world going at the biggest prizes available. And the crowd gets the opportunity to watch the best cowboys in the world, including the crowd favorite, George Strait.

Top ropers, top prizes and a country super star with a passion for roping. No wonder that even after 25 years, the GSTRC still has a bright future.



HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30 A.M.-3:00 P.M. (CENTRAL TIME) FAN CLUB #: 1-615-824-7176 > ORDER DESK #: 1-800-338-4732 > FAX #: 1-615-826-7052

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	0000	with G.S. initials on front in pink over a vintage frayed camo patch with a small "George Strait" embroidered patch on back, self fabrice back strap with slide buckle)	\$19.95	
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	3530	CowGirl design, fitted)	\$17.95	
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	909 910	OCEAN FRONT PROPERTY GREATEST HITS #2 IF YOU AIN'T LOVIN' YOU AIN'T LIVIN BEYOND THE BLUE NEON	\$14 \$14		·	
	911 912	BEYOND THE BLUE NEON	\$14\$ \$15		·	
	913 914	CHILL OF AN EARLY FALL	\$15		·	
	916 917	HOLDING MY OWN PURE COUNTRY (Original motion picture soundtrack)	\$16 \$16		·	
	919 920	LEAD ON STRAIT OUT OF THE BOX (Boxed set comprised of 72 tracks and acc	\$16		·	
		featuring Strait's comments on each record plus dozens of photograph				
	921 922	biographical essay, and complete recording session information.) BLUE CLEAR SKY CARRYING YOUR LOVE WITH ME	\$16. \$16		·	
	923	ONE STEP AT A TIME	\$16		·	
	924 925	ALWAYS NEVER THE SAME				
	926 928	LATEST GREATEST STRAITEST HITS THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED	\$16			
	929 930	THE BEST OF GEORGE STRAIT (20th Century Masters, The Millenium Colle FOR THE LAST TIME - LIVE FROM THE ASTRODOME				
	931 932	HONKYTONKVILLE 50 NUMBER ONES (Double CD Set)	\$19			
	933 934	SOMEWHERE DOWN IN TEXAS IT JUST COMES NATURAL	\$19			
±	NEW ITEMS	☆☆ PLEASE MARK SIZES WHERE APPROPRIATE			·	
**** PLEAS	SE PRINT C	EARLY CUSTOMER #:		SUB TOTAL		
NAME:				SALES TAX(9.25%) ustomers must add 9.2		
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		ST.:ZIP:	To memberiorin o.	TRAIT CASH HERE		
		PHONE: ()	separate shipping charge for each address.	TOTAL AMOUNT		
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MASTERC	ARD: V	SA: If paying by MasterCard or Visa, please fill out below:	OF \$8.00 PER \$100.00 INCREASE. 40.01 - 50	0.00 = \$10.25 101.0	0 & Up = \$14.75	
MASTERC	ARD/VISA	0.:	MasterCard / Visa Orders Toll Free 1 *** NOTE: ALL ORDERS MUST BE PAID IN U.S. CURRENC	800-338-GSFC	ENT FOREIGN	
			*** NOTE: ALL ORDERS MUST BE PAID IN U.S. CURRENC'S EXCHANGE RATES. FOREIGN ORDERS PAID FOR IN ANY OTH FOREIGN ORDERS MUST DOUBLE THE NORMAL SHIPPING CH Number must accompany Credit Card orders. We reserve the right	IER MANNER WILL E ARGE FOR AIR DELI	BE RETURNED. VERY. ** Phone	
NAME ON CARD: (Please Print) Number must accompany Credit Card orders. We reserve the right to substitute new colors or designs f discontinued items.						
):	ALLOW 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY • http://w	SK 1-800-338-47 ww.georgestrait.c	32 om	
ORDERS	S FOR A FAN	CLUB MEMBERSHIP TAKE FOUR TO SIX WEEKS TO PROCESS EXCHANGES AND REFUNDS: All returns must be accompanied b	S. THEY WILL NOT BE SHIPPED BY OVERNIGHT SERVICES by our packing slip with all necessary information pertaining to your re	AND ARE NOT REP	FUNDABLE.	

EXCHANGERS AND REFUNDS: All returns must be accompanied by our packing slip with all necessary information pertaining to your return. We will credit your original payment method less shipping and handling charges. There is a 30 day return policy on all merchandise.

Fan Collectable Column

- Country Weekly Nashville, TN. 5-7-07. Front Cover, p. 12 Letters, p. 24 mentioned in "Revvin' Up" story, pp. 34-40 "Strait To You."
- Texas Music Magazine Dallas, TX. Spring 2007. P. 22 photo and mentioned, p. 23 mentioned, p. 44 advertisement, New Jackson, Strait, Buffett CD. Win a guitar signed by all 3, back cover full page ad.
- Spin to Win Rodeo Palm Coast, FL. May 2007. Front cover - photo of George on horseback, inside front cover photo w/2007 GSTRC winner, Nick Sartain (ad for Cactus Ropes and Pro Equine Products), p. 2 Resistol advertisement, p. 4 photo on contents page, p. 31 Wrangler ad full page pp. 36-40, p. 42 story "25 Strait

Years - A Record Setting Success" filled with great photos, p. 135 ad for "Spin to Win" past issues of magazine.

- San Antonio Express News. San Antonio, TX. p. 36 story on Strait, Buffett, and Jackson CD.
- NRS 2007 Spring Catalog. NRS world.com, p. 173 photo in concert, ad for Resistol George Strait 8 x "Silver Eagle," 8 x "Crossroads," 6 x "Chisholm" hats, p. 182 photo, ad for George Strait waterfproof series and "Gruene Hall Series" boots.
- San Antonio Express News. Weekender San Antonio, TX. 5-11-07. Mentioned "42nd Annual Academy of Country Music Awards."

The following George Strait Fan Club Members submitted to the Collectable Column...

And We Thank You!

As a GSFC member, you can join in and earn Strait Cash, receive your Strait Talk 1st Class and a Collector's Card. This is all you need to do - collect magazine or newspaper articles, photos or reviews - send them in and if we use them, your name is added to the list. It's easy. Remember to enclose the article, where it came from, date, page #, issue and your name and address. Thank You!!!

Debbie Erickson - Taylor, MI Alexis Gaffney - Gales Creek, OR Judy Shisk - San Antonio, TX Maria Rodriguez - Miami, FL Rami Stevens - Longview, TX Linda Robbins - San Antonio, TX



Jhett Johnson and Nick Sartain get congratulations from George Strait and Stuart Cavender (L) of Cavender Chevrolet in Boerne, TX

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Jay Adams, George, Randon Adams with Runner-up Saddles

PION

EVROLE

Charly Crawford, George and Cody Hintz Winners of Gist Buckles

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ROPIN

CHAMPIONSHI

Booths were set up at the 25th Anniversary George Strait Team Roping Classic for shopping and meals.

Wrangier 20X

EVROLE

MPIONSHIP HEELP

Nick Sartain and Jhett Johnson won these beautiful Chevy Silverado Trucks provided by Cavender Chevrolet of Boerne, TX and Strait X-treme 3-horse slant trailers by Bruton

AM ROPING

15 10

Bubba and George Strait

Stuart Cavender, George and Tommy Pipes Cavender Chevrolet in Boerne, TX

George with Roping Friends

Jhett Johnson and Nick Sartain accept congratulations from Strait and Kerry Bruton (L) of Bruton Trailers

DED

Robert Lever (L), Strait and Karl Stressman with Wranglers

George

Fans at the 25th Anniversary of the George Strait Team Roping Classic The Rose Palace Arena - San Antonio, TX



1:1

Jody Fillebrown, George Strait and David Fillebrown of Priefert Rodeo and Ranch Equipment

Prie

George Strait, Guest and Mike Piland of Cactus Ropes

25 YEARS OF Strait Ropin

> Fan showing off t-shirt at the 25th Anniversary George Strait Team Roping Classic. The Rose Palace Arena San Antonio, TX

Welcome to the summer issue of Strait Talk. We have some very interesting stories for this issue about the ACM Awards Show, George's Medallion presentation at the Country Music Hall of Fame and the 25th Anniversary George Strait Team Roping Classic that established a myriad of new records. You will see a lot of photos from the Team Roping that we hope you will enjoy and some very special ones from the Hall of Fame ceremony. It was wonderful to see so many friends return to the roping and can't wait for the 26th Annual GSTRC.

George has been very busy wrapping up his 2007 concert tour and only has one show left to perform. It is the new Country Thunder Music Festival that will be held in Waxahachie, TX on Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

As mentioned earlier, George was in Nashville on May 6th for his medallion sig-

Congratulations to Debbie Erickson of Taylor, MI!!!!

She is our June, July, August Winner! If you submit a review, photo, magazine or newspaper story and it is used in Strait Talk - your name is entered in the drawing just like Debbie Erickson. nifying his enshrinement in the Country Music Hall of Fame. The event was a 5-Star event that included a Red Carpet and dinner before each of the new members were honored.

On May 15th, George was in Las Vegas for the Academy of Country Music Awards Show as he performed his new single - "Wrapped" on the telecast. I think we should proudly mention that he also walked away with three awards for his 53rd Number One single "Give It Away."

We would also like to remind everyone to please notify us if you have a change in your mailing address. Please drop us a note or call us at 615-824-7176. The post office will not forward newsletters as they are shipped by bulk mail.

If you would like to submit photos, Fan Club Collector's column items, a game or puzzle, please submit them as soon as possible since our newsletter starts getting put together about a month before you are scheduled to receive it.

We have heard from many people who like the Fan Club merchandise specials that we have been sending out from the General Store. We will continue to give you the opportunity to purchase these items. Thanks for your overwhelming positive response.

Have you checked out the website merchandise lately? We have added some new merchandise to our Garage Sale items that are only available on the website. In addition, we will be adding new merchandise for the Holiday Shopping season over the next few months.

We would like to say "Thank You" for all the notes and Birthday cards for George and Bubba. They have been forwarded to them.

Strait Shooters JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2007

(Fans that submit photos that are used in the newsletter)

TERRY CALONGE DAVE JENNINGS DARCI O'BRIAN ANITA O'BRIAN DOTTIE OELHAFEN

A big congrats to Fan Club member Debbie Erickson of Taylor, MI. She submitted items for this issue of Strait Talk. You also can be a winner, just read about it in the Fan Collectable Column section. Debbie, your prize is on its way.

In closing, we wish you all a safe and healthy summer. Please continue to pray of our Armed Forces men and women stations all over the world and their families. We wish you all a safe return home.

From the George Strait Fan Club staff to you, please enjoy the summer and make sure you play a little Strait music while you do.

Pen Pals JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2007

Diane K. Petranovich P.O. Box 162 New Richmond, WI 54017

HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30 A.M.-3:00 P.M. (CENTRAL TIME) FAN CLUB #: 1-615-824-7176 > ORDER DESK #: 1-800-338-4732 > FAX #: 1-615-826-7052

GEORGE STRAIT ITINERARY

George Strait has completed his tour for 2007. Please check the George Strait website @ <u>www.georgestrait.com</u> for the updated calendar. Also check Strait Line for any TV appearances, (615) 824-7176 (press 2).