
STRAIT TALK

The George Strait Country Music Festival Ticket Sales Kick Off In A Big Way

The George Strait Country Music Festival for 2000 had a big opening weekend of ticket sales. On March 11th, fans lined up by the thousands and kept the phone lines and websites buzzing to get tickets to the first two shows of the festival tour in Charlotte, North Carolina and Nashville, Tennessee. Over 30,000 tickets were sold for the Charlotte show at the Lowe's Motor Speedway and 40,000 tickets were sold for the show at the Adelphia Coliseum in Nashville, Tennessee. Tickets will also be on sale for several other locations by the time Strait Talk is delivered.

The tour is officially titled "Nokia Presents The Chevy Truck Country Music Festival" and will visit ten cities this year. In addition to Charlotte and Nashville, the tour will visit Orlando and Jacksonville, Florida; Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio; Houston and Dallas, Texas; Landover, Maine and Buffalo, New York. Joining George on the tour will be Tim McGraw, Martina McBride, Kenny Chesney, Mark Chestnut, Lee Ann Womack and Asleep at the Wheel. All shows will begin at 1 p.m. and last until about 10:30 p.m. Associate sponsors on the tour will be Bud Light, Wrangler, Resistol, Pemmican, Justin Boots, Jack Daniels and Doral.

The tour will once again feature "Straitland," the fair styled area outside the arena that will include sponsor exhibits, radio stations, games, food and other entertainment beginning at 11 a.m. each day. The entertainers, including national recording acts Lace and Clay Davidson, will perform before the festival show begins and during all of the set changes until dusk. One other national

recording act will be added to the Straitland stage.

The tour will again feature it's own very active website this year. Fans can go to the George Strait website at www.georgestrait.com and click on the George Strait Country Music Festival logo to enter the site. The site will include our two Straitcams that will follow the action at each location from the building of the stage to the culmination of the shows. One Straitcam will show the inside of the venue, including the building of the stage and setting up of the equipment through the show itself while the other Straitcam will be set up in Straitland so fans can follow the action in that area. The Straitcams will take still photos that will be refreshed every 30 seconds. In addition to the Straitcams, we will have a roving photographer taking photos all day long with a

digital camera. The photos will be posted on the website as the day progresses.

The website will also include a contest for the 2000 tour that will give some lucky person the opportunity to win a trip for two to the final show in Houston, Texas. The Grand Prize winner will receive round-trip airfare for two to the show in Houston, Texas from anywhere in the continental United States, deluxe hotel accommodations (one room), 2 front row seats and the opportunity to meet George Strait. Ten first round winners will receive autographed copies of George Strait's new album "Latest, Greatest, Straitest Hits." Contest entrants must be at least 18 years old to win. Please read all of the rules before entering. The contest entry form can be found on the George Strait festival website at www.georgestrait.com. n

The George Strait Team Roping Classic Finds A New Home

The George Strait Team Roping Classic, one of America's premier Team Roping events, has found a new home at the San Antonio Rose Palace in San Antonio, Texas. After 17 years at the J.K. Northway Arena in Kingsville, Texas, the event has been moved. In a statement issued last month from his office in Nashville, George Strait thanked all of the people of Kleberg County and the surrounding area

for helping to make the event one of the most prestigious Team Roping events in the country. Strait said, "The folks in Kingsville have been very good to me and I really appreciate it. We are moving the roping to San Antonio because it is a much more centralized location, particularly for the ropers and fans who come from all over the country." In addition to the change in locations, Strait will no

Continued on following page

The George Strait Team Roping Classic Finds A New Home

(Continued from page 1)

longer perform his annual concert following the two-day competition. Strait added, "My brother, Buddy has co-produced the event with me for the last seventeen years, and we both feel it is time to focus 100% on the roping and to use all of our efforts to make it grow as much as possible. It is one of the most premier roping events and we would like to be able to have it stand on its own merits for many years to come."

The 18th Annual George Strait Team Roping Classic will be held on July 7th and 8th. Tickets to the event are being made available by mail for \$16 each, including the \$4 for postage and handling, with a limit of eight (8) tickets per order. Tickets are limited and must be post-marked no sooner than May 1st and no later than May 21st to be eligible and

received no later than June 1st. Money Orders or Cashiers Checks must be made out to the G.S.T.R.C. and mailed to:

G.S.T.R.C.
24165 Boerne Stage Rd.
Suite 217, #628
San Antonio, TX 78257

A hot line for the Team Roping Classic with all the latest information has been set up at 210-698-9251. For more information on the area, call the Boerne Chamber of Commerce at 830-249-8000. Local motels offering special rates are:

Day's Inn	210-696-7922
Comfort Inn	210-696-7922
Hawthorn Suites	210-561-9660
Homestead Village	210-691-0121
Roadway Inn	210-698-3991
Super 8	210-696-6916

The George Strait Team Roping Classic annually features competition between the greatest team ropers in the country with several hundred teams competing for an estimated prize package of more than \$150,000. The winning team, in addition to their cash earnings, will drive away in new Chevy Truck twin cab pickups pulling new Bruton trailers. The second place team will receive saddles and cash while the third place team will get their cash and Team Roping Classic buckles. The entry fee for each team is again \$400 per team with each roper able to enter up to three times with different partners. Registration for the Team Roping Classic will be on June 26th and 27th from 5-10 p.m. at 210-698-9251. [n](#)

Special Fan Club Seating

Listed below are a list of tentative locations that will be available for fan club members to purchase their special fan club seats for each show. All locations have not yet been established but will be announced in plenty of time. Special fan club seating may only be purchased at the locations

listed below. They are not available by phone, mail, fax or at any other outlet. Each member may purchase two (2) special fan club seats only, while the supply lasts. Additional tickets are available but are not located in the fan club area. Members must bring their valid fan club

membership card with them to the box office along with a photo ID. Remember that all information is tentative. Please keep in touch with Strait Line at 615-824-7176 or check our website at www.georgestrait.com for any updated information.

Date of Show	City	Address
5/13	Orlando, FL	The Orlando Arena, 600 West Amelia Street, Orlando, FL 32801 East side of Arena facing 1-4 Hwy.
5/14	Jacksonville, FL	Veterans Memorial Coliseum (West Side of Alltell Stadium) 1145 East Adams Street, Jacksonville, FL
5/20	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland Browns Stadium, Ticket Office 1085 West 3rd St., Cleveland, OH 44114
5/21	Cincinnati, OH	Cinergy Field, West Ticket Pod, 201 East Pete Rose Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202
6/3	Buffalo, NY	Buffalo Bills Stadium, 1 Bills Drive, Orchard Park, NY 14127 East end of Stadium/Admin. Bldg.
6/4	Landover, MD	Fed X Stadium,
6/10	Dallas, TX	Texas Stadium, 2402 East Airport Freeway, Irving, TX 75062 Gate 1
6/11	Houston, TX	Enron Field, 501 Crawford St., Houston, TX 77002

Fan Collectable Column

April/May 2000

- Tractor Supply Catalog - 2/28/2000 - 4 photos w/short story, p. 2. Sequin, TX.
- Statesman Journal - 3/3/2000 - Front Page 1B Stand Up photo w/students. Pendleton, OR.
- Austin American-Statesman - 3/2/2000 - P. B8, mentioned in "Country acts join festival." Burnet, TX.
- Peninsula Daily News - 2/18/2000 - P. A2, mentioned in story w/photo under Up Front & Newsmakers. Bedford, TX.
- Oregonian - 3/5/2000 - Sundry Ads, p. 13 "Circuit City" insert for new cd. "Target" insert for new cd, p. 13. Hillsboro, OR.
- Country Weekly - 3/21/2000 - Full page ad of "Latest Greatest Straitest Hits" CD/Cassette, p. 9, 11, 13 mentioned. Nashville, TN.
- San Antonio Express News - 3/7/2000 - Both articles by John Goodspeed. 1st article "Strait duet notes 'death' of Country." Front page, section A and p. p. 4A. 2nd article "Strait scores another hit with 'Latest.'" section D, Front page (1) and page 10A. San Antonio, TX.
- The Rockdale Reporter - 3/2/2000 - P. 4A photo w/short story. Cedar Park, TX.
- Country Weekly - 3/7/2000 - Pgs. 12-13 Country Weekly/TNN Music Awards, pg. 8 Letters, pg. 26 Love Country Style with photo. Nashville, TN.
- Spokesman Review - 2/20/2000 - P. F2 People Etc. section, mentioned in story: "George heading north to S.A." Spokane, WA.
- Western Horseman - 3/2/2000 - P. 32 photo w/Roy Cooper with story "Rodeo Arena." Dallas, TX.
- San Antonio Express News - 2/27/2000. Section G - short story. San Antonio, TX.
- Missoulian - 2/18/2000 - P. B6 story "Strait moves rodeo home." Missoula, MT.
- Herald & News - 2/18/2000 - P. A2 story "Rodeo Show Heads Strait to San Antonio." Passaic County, N.J.
- American Cowboy - 2/2000 - P. 11 story and photo: "Strait Shows the Money." Dallas, TX.
- The Kansas City Star - 2/22/2000 - P. Sect. E-FYI - photo and story. Kansas City, KS.
- The Arizona Republic - 2/21/2000 - P. E2 - mentioned in story w/photo. Phoenix, AZ.
- Navajo Times - Sunny Side - 2/17/2000 - "The Profile of King George" w/photo, p. 3. Window Rock, AZ.
- Country Weekly - 3/1/2000 - P. 3 article w/photo. Nashville, TN.
- The Jamestown Sun - 2/18/2000 - P. 19 story "Strait taking Rodeo Elsewhere." Jamestown, N.D.
- The Fargo Forum - 2/18/2000 - P. 2 article "Strait Moving Family's Rodeo to San Antonio." Fargo, ND.
- The Detroit News - 2/18/2000 - P. 2A Article "George Strait Breaks Tradition." Detroit, MI.
- Texas Monthly - 3/2000 - Vol. 28 Issue #3, P. 12 photo and ad of G.S. - "Latest Greatest Straitest Hits." Dallas, TX.
- The Daily Freeman - 2/18/2000 - P. C-1 - People in the news section - "George Strait moves rodeo to San Antonio." Fleischmanns, N.Y.
- Daily Reporter-Herald - 2/18/2000 - P. 2 mentioned about Rodeo. Loveland, CO.
- Houston Chronicle - 2/20/2000 - P. 42A, mentioned in article. Houston, TX.
- San Antonio Express-News - 2/18/2000 - P. section B-1, photo w/article - "Strait roping contest moving to S.A." San Antonio, TX.
- Austin American-Statesman - 2/18/2000 - P. B9, article - "Strait moves famed rodeo to San Antonio." Austin, TX.
- Corpus Christi Caller-Times - 2/17/2000 - Front page - p. A7 Headline w/photo. "George Strait roping event leaves Kingsville." Corpus Christi, TX.
- Kingsport Times News - 2/18/2000 - P. 2A - article "Strait Away." Kingsport, TN.
- Pecos Enterprise - 2/17/2000 - P. 4 article "Strait Out of Town." Pecos, TX.
- The Salena Journal - 2/18/2000 - P. B4, article "Strait Moving Annual Rodeo." Salena, KS.

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!!!

Dotsie Lehr - New Braunfels, TX
 Darlene Glover - San Antonio, TX
 Pat Dine - Macon, GA
 Carmen Napier - Salena, KS
 Aggie Gabaldon - Pecos, TX
 Angel Herring - Channelview, TX
 Lyn Graham - San Antonio, TX
 Margaret Gilreath - Kingsport, TN
 Shirley J. Everett - Burnet, TX
 Nan Byczynski - Houston, TX
 Margaret Carmichael - Loveland, CO

Janice Upton - Ira, TX
 Sandra Roberts - Heischmanns, NY
 Barb Kelly - Park City, MT
 Carol Wunderlich - Troy, MI
 Juanita Thomas - Edgerton, KS
 Susanne Rieger - Fargo, ND
 Judy Hoyt - Jamestown, ND
 Teresea Tamblyn - Jackson, MI
 Julie Brewer - Phoenix, AZ
 Lois Ratcliff - Spring Hill, KS
 Beverly Ledom - Ottawa, KS

Christine Bartman - Clifton, N.J.
 Jean Hurt - Beech Grove, IN
 Margaret Filippi - Noxon, MT
 Agnes Olson - Axson, GA
 Debbie Erickson - Taylor, MI
 Vickie Burnside - Bedford, TX
 Kathi Bryan - Salem, OR
 Gary Randow - Kingsbury, TX
 Alexis Gaffney - Hillsboro, OR
 Lyn Graham - San Antonio, TX
 Irene R. Diver - Cedar Park, TX

LATEST GREATEST STRAITEST WORD FIND

Created by Renee Burden - Anderson, SC

1. BEST DAY
2. MURDER ON MUSIC ROW
3. CARRYING YOUR LOVE WITH ME
4. ADALIDA
5. LEAD ON
6. CARRIED AWAY
7. BLUE CLEAR SKY
8. WE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS
9. I CAN STILL MAKE CHEYENNE
10. TRUE
11. KING OF THE MOUNTAIN
12. ROUND ABOUT WAY
13. YOU CAN'T MAKE A HEART LOVE
SOMEBODY
14. ONE NIGHT AT A TIME
15. TODAY MY WORLD SLIPPED AWAY

R W B T S G E A C W T R U E O M E K F Z B W
 Y E J X T H L O N E N I G H T A T A T I M E
 D S A D R A L I Z R V U O T R A V M J B C T
 O I D E A V B L U E C L E A R S K Y O K A O
 B K A I I C M A P A N V L I M V Y E E J Y D
 E O L A T C L O D L P Z K C S E C H Y O A A
 M U I G E A P N A L A U R A Y R A J R L W Y
 O T D U P R E A L Y L S H N O L R N T O T M
 S J A D A R L I D S A H E S Z P R X R M U Y
 E K T H E I R E E H L O V T E E Y C A O O W
 V A R R E E Q L P O V Z H I A F I O N X B O
 O C A R R D Y I N U G W I L P S N M E U A R
 L K I L E A D O N L K I N L U E G R O N D L
 T W I T H W Y U O D R R I M J C Y H O K N D
 R Z S O M A M E R N B A N A B Y O E I G U S
 A S A N D Y R E W T B O U K R D U E N I O L
 E C A D O N S P E B R N C E R M R A R K R I
 H B D P E F O K H E O S E C S C L U X E O P
 A U A E N A T U D D C O W H T A O L K U U P
 E R L L O S D R C O S M A E R K V D W A N E
 K K I A W O U Y B I K U P Y A N E G X Y G D
 A X M O Z M K O Y N Y R O E T I W E C O M A
 M E R U O U P U O G B D V N O G I O F B Q W
 T K T T H E B E S T D A Y N B M T R E C K A
 N L H W G T E R F H L E C E F R H G C A I Y
 A E E N E H S B A I U O B G I O M E S L G C
 C A B C O R M P N S E N L E L E E A T I O O
 U V S L R O Z A S C A Y O M U S I M I V F R
 O M D S K I N G O F T H E M O U N T A I N I
 Y N A O Z C J A E E M W S K I A G P L Z O D

CONGRATULATIONS! We have three GSFC

Winners from the Feb/March Issue:

They are:

1st Place (Jacket):

Peggy Waltman - Homer, LA

2nd Place (Sweatshirt):

Dot Thomason - Winter Haven, FL

3rd Place (T-Shirt):

Shannon Smoot-Wheeler - Keller, TX

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Jacket Size: _____

* All entries must be received by May 12, 2000. **One Entry Only!!!**

NEW MERCHANDISE



#4310 - Spaghetti Tank



#3200 - Embroidered Cap
(Gray cap with Red trim)



#4312 - Lime Tank



#3400 - Embroidered Cap
(Black Ladies Cap)



#4306 - Violet Baby Tee



#6515 - Nightshirt



#4301 - Ringer Tee



#4305 - Pink Baby Tee



#1051 - Thermal Mug



#3300 - Embroidered Cap
(Khaki Crown w/Blue Bill)



#5007 - Blue Dusk T-Shirt



#3500 - Embroidered Cap
(Khaki Ladies Cap)



#5008 - Chestnut Brown T-Shirt

George Strait Captures #1 With “Latest Greatest Straitest” Hits

Nashville, Tennessee, March 15, 2000 - Country music superstar George Strait has nailed the number one spot on Billboard’s Top Country Albums chart with the debut of his greatest hits collection, “Latest Greatest Straitest Hits.” The album landed at the number two spot on the Billboard 200 album charts.

According to the Soundscan, “Latest Greatest Straitest Hits” is Strait’s second highest debut and selling week ever and the fourth highest selling week and second highest debut ever in the history of MCA Nashville.

Bruce Hinton, Chairman MCA Nashville, commented, “This amazing debut speaks to the integrity and longevity George possesses. Country music fans

have confirmed what we have believed all along, George is an icon, a living legend, and I am extremely proud of George and the MCA Nashville team that helped to make this impressive debut.”

Strait is currently at number 2* on Billboard’s Hot Country Singles chart with his latest, “The Best Day,” one of two new Tony Brown/George Strait produced tracks found on the greatest hits collection. The other track is the Strait/ Alan Jackson duet, “Murder on Music Row.”

Strait kicks off the *Nokia Presents the George Strait Chevy Truck Country Music Festival* on April 29 in Charlotte, NC. Other dates include: April 30, Nashville, TN; May 13, Orlando, FL; May 14,

Jacksonville, FL; May 20, Cleveland, OH; May 21, Cincinnati, OH; June 3, Buffalo, NY; June 4, Landover, MD; June 10, Dallas, TX; and June 11, Houston, TX. ⁿ

Happy Birthday!

George
(May 18th)

&
George, Jr.
(May 14th)



Pen Pals

APRIL-MAY 2000

(Fans that exchange letter through mail)

StacySmith
1208 Doubles Drive #812
Arlington, TX 76017

Jo Ann Lively
3016 Pasteur Apt. C
St. Louis, MO 63114

2ND GEORGE STRAIT STAND UP - NOW AVAILABLE!

The George Strait Fan Club is happy to present the 2nd full life-size stand up of George Strait.

The stand up was designed by MCA Records and will be seen across the country in many music shops.

The cardboard stand up measures 6 feet tall and the base is 3'4". George is featured wearing a black Resistol hat, green long sleeve shirt, Wrangler jeans and Justin boots. The guitar that George leans on is a Guild.

To order this gorgeous stand up please fill out the order blank below and mail in with payment or fax (615) 822-2527 with MasterCard/Visa information. We do have a 800# for ordering (1-800-338-4732). You may also order the stand up on the internet by clicking on the photo at www.georges-trait.com. The item number is #250.



#250 - George Strait Stand Up



#250 - George Strait Stand Up (Close Up)

SPECIAL ORDER FORM

QTY.	ITEM	COST	TOTAL
250	George Strait Stand Up	\$59.95	

Shipping and Handling
\$8.50 per Stand Up

Shipping Charges \$8.50 per Stand Up \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____ CUSTOMER #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

Z I P : _____

PHONE: (____) _____

Method of Payment: Check _____ Money Order _____ Cashier Check _____ Credit Card _____

(If paying with Credit Card, please fill out below)

MASTERCARD/VISA NO.: _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

SIGNATURE ON CARD: _____

MASTERCARD/VISA ORDERS CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-338-GSFC

Anita's Notes:

Welcome to the spring issue of Strait Talk. As I review past issues, when writing this column, George has always had at least one or two shows under his belt and the tour was well underway. This year it's three or four weeks later and we feel a little out of sync. Ticket sales in the first week for the two shows in Charlotte and Nashville were outstanding with almost 75,000 tickets accounted for initially. We thank all of you for coming out and supporting the tour. Tickets for Jacksonville and Orlando will probably be on sale by the time you get this newsletter and we are expecting big things in each of those cities. We have heard from many fans who are thrilled that George is bringing his festival to their cities as it has been many years since we have played most of them. Please remember to send in the reviews and your photos for the newsletter. We are also planning on featuring some of the better photos on our web site at www.georgestrait.com. Speaking of the web site, don't forget that the new tour portion of the site is already up and you get there by clicking on the tour logo on the home page. Keep checking for the Straitcams at each show that will allow everyone to keep up with the action from building the stage on through the shows. You can also register at the site for a chance to win a trip to see the last show of the tour in Houston, Texas. Check out the site for details.

George has a full spring ahead of him. He has already filmed new commercials for Tractor Supply Co. as well as a new video that will be shown for Chevy Trucks at all of his festival dates. He has had his 2nd Annual Quarter Horse Production Sale and "The Latest Greatest Straitest Hits" CD has been released to excellent reviews and tremendous sales. The album debuted at #1 on the Billboard Country Chart. George will also be in Nashville in early April to begin recording his next studio album that will probably be released late this year. George has also committed to performing on the ACM Awards show

to be broadcast on CBS at 7 p.m. Central Time on May 3rd. George and Alan Jackson will perform their duet recording of "Murder on Music Row" on the show. In addition to the performance, George is nominated for "Top Male Vocalist" and "Single Record of the Year" for "Write This Down."

While we are on the subject of awards, George has received several nominations for the Country Weekly/TNN Music Awards show that is fan voted. Fans can vote by calling 900 numbers set up for the awards. The numbers were not available at press time. Please remember that there is a charge associated with the calls. Fans can also vote by mail using the entry form in the latest issue of Country Weekly. George has been nominated as a finalist in the following categories:

- **Entertainer of the Year**
- **Male Artist of the Year**
- **Album of the Year**
(Always, Never The Same)
- **Song of the Year (Write This Down)**
- **Single of the Year**
(Write This Down)
- **Impact Award**

We thank all of the fans for their votes and hopefully, George will bring home some awards this year.

The 29th International Country Music Fan Fair in Nashville, Tennessee has been scheduled for June 12th-15th. We regret that the George Strait Fan Club will not have a booth at this year's event for the first time in 16 years. We have had many wonderful experiences over the years and wish all of the fans and fan clubs a wonderful time. The company that we have used for our booth for 15 years has closed. The time needed was not available for locating a new company and designing and building a new booth that we felt would be right for us. We will miss seeing many of our old friends and making new ones but we anxiously look forward to the future and maybe to Fan Fair 2001.

Big changes have been taking place elsewhere as George and Buddy Strait have moved the 18th Annual George Strait

Team Roping Classic to San Antonio from Kingsville, Texas. The event had been held in Kingsville from its inception. In addition to moving the roping, there will be no concert this year as well. Please read the story on the front page for all of the details. We have made many friends in the Kingsville area and will miss them but do invite them to join us in San Antonio for a bigger and better event.

Please check the George Strait web site at www.georgestrait.com for any changes in ticket on-sale dates or other show information. Everything is currently firm but everything is always subject to change. Please double check with us before you travel a long way to stand in line to buy tickets.

Here is the User Name and Password for the Members only portion of the web site at www.georgestrait.com. The User Name and Password will allow you to check on fan club seating as well as read the most current issue of Strait Talk.

User Name: Chevy
Password: Trucks

We will close here and wish you a wonderful time at George's festival dates this year. We will be at the show in Nashville and the George Strait Team Roping Classic. We hope to see you there. Thanks for helping us keep the country STRAIT.



Strait Shooters

APRIL-MAY 2000

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

ELLEN JOHNSON - HEALDSBURG, CA
TERRY CALONGE - GOODLETTSVILLE, TN