
STRAIT TALK

Steve Purcella And Kory Koontz Are The 2000 George Strait Team Roping Champions

With a payoff total of cash and prizes nearing \$300,000, and with one of the richest, if not the richest first play payoffs in the history of open team roping, the Eighteenth Annual George Strait Team Roping Classic, sponsored by Chevy Trucks and Bud Light, came to a close with a record number of contestants and a two day sellout crowd in the stands. In it's new home at the San Antonio Rose Palace in San Antonio, Texas, the roping attracted a field of 457 teams that roped a two round qualification on Friday that sent 50 teams to the Finals on Saturday morning.

Steve Purcella of Hereford, Texas and Kory Koontz of Canyon, Texas roped their way to this record setting payoff with a blazing total of 16.03 on three head. As part of their prize payoff, each of the ropers received a 2000 Chevrolet 3500 Silverado dually truck, totally equipped, and a Deluxe Three Horse slant load "Bruton Easy-Pull" Trailer along with their part of the teams \$35,640 first place earnings. This was the third win for each in the GSTRC. They previously joined forces to win in 1994. In addition, Koontz prevailed with Rube Woolsey in 1993 and Purcella won with Allen Bach in 1996.

Second place in the roping went to Charles Pogue of Ringling, Ok. and Clay O'Brien Cooper of Bandera, TX with a time of 16.70. Their payoff was \$22,570. Brady Wren of Kerrville, TX and Cuatro Hinds of Charlotte, TX, posting a total on three head of 17.05 to win \$15,444, took Third place. Other winning checks in the average places included Turtle Powell and Tyler Magnus



who took Fourth with a time of 17.30 worth \$13,068, Joe Beaver and Mike Beers with a 17.31 worth \$10,692 for Fifth, J.D. Yates and Brannon Bockius with an 18.04 for Sixth and \$8316, Matt Tyler and Clay O'Brien Cooper with 18.54 for Seventh and \$7128, and Joe Verastiqui and Cuatro Hinds with a 19.95 for Eights and \$5960.

First Go-round winner in the qualifications was the team of Frank Graves and Brad Culpepper with a time of 4.80 worth \$5940; Second was the team of Joe Verastiqui and Cuatro Hinds with a time of 5.08 for \$3564; and Third place was taken by Carey Foster and Michael Jones with a time of 5.09 for \$2376.

Vic Morrison and Shots Brannon posted the fastest time of the second qualification Go-round with a time of 4.99 worth \$7128. They were followed by Cody Cowden and

Dugan Kelly with a 5.29 worth \$5346.

Third went to Kyle Graham and Toby Sadler with a time of 5.34 for \$3564; and fourth was taken by Chance Kelton and John Paul Lucero with a 5.35 that earned them \$1782.

First call back team after two rounds was a 10.94 posted by Joe Verastiqui and Cuatro Hinds.

In the finals, each go-round winner received a check for \$1200. These were:

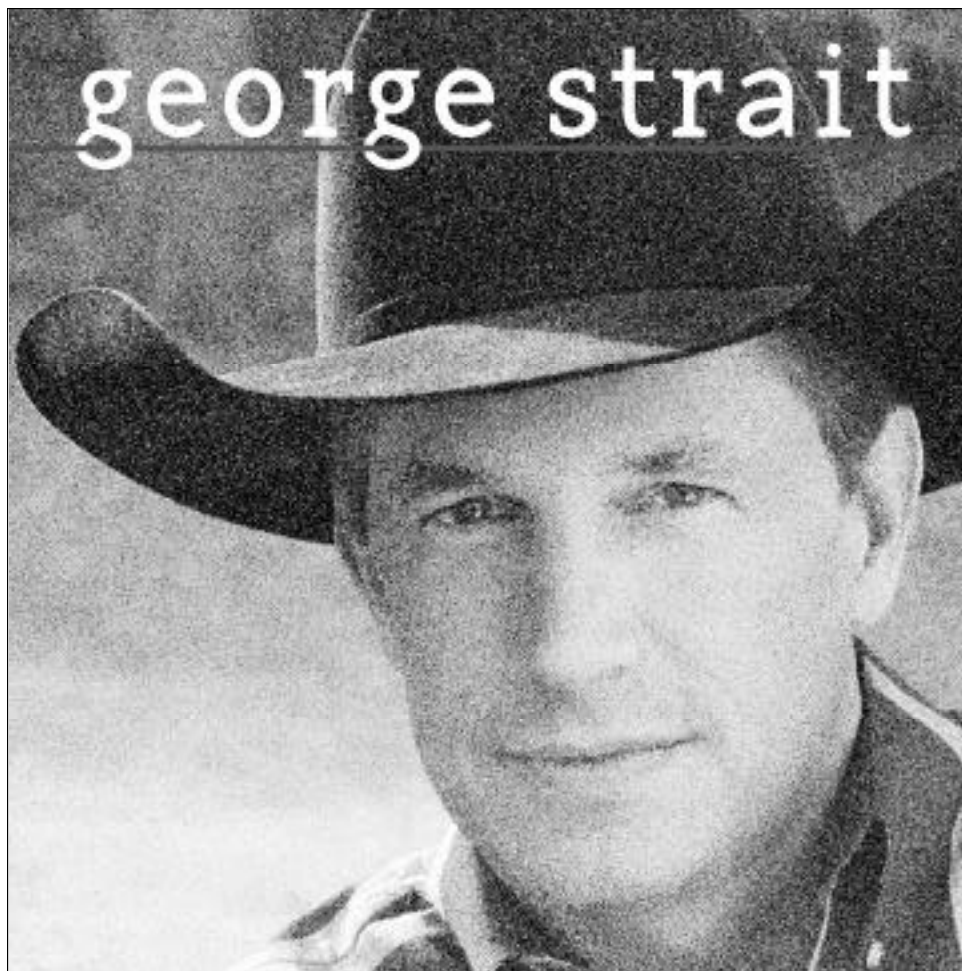
- 1st Go-Turtle Powell and Tyler Magnus - 5.43
- 2nd Go-Jake Barnes and Bobby Harris - 4.68
- 3rd Go-Junior Gonzales and Tommy Flenniken - 4.42. This was also the fastest time of the roping.

The dates for the 19th Annual George Strait Team Roping Classic are expected to be announced shortly. 🤠

George Strait - The CD In Stores September 19th

George Strait's latest studio album will finally be available for sale on the Fan Club website at www.georgestrait.com on September 19th and also at great record stores everywhere. George Strait and MCA President Tony Brown once again produced the CD. It is a compilation of ten great new songs by many of Country Music's most outstanding writers, many of who have written for Strait before. The songs on the album include "You're Stronger Than Me" written by Hank Cochran and Jimmy Key, "Home Improvement" by Dana Hunt, "Which Side of the Glass" by J. Fred Knobloch, "If You Can Do Anything Else" by Billy Livsey and Don Schlitz, "If It's Gonna Rain" by Dean Dillon, Donnie Kees and Scott Emerick, "Lookin Out My Window Through The Pain" by John Scheweers, "Don't Make Me Come Over & Love You" by Jim Lauderdale and Carter Wood, "The Night's Just Right For Love" by Rodney Crowell, and the first single from the CD "Go On" written by Tony Martin and Mark Nessler which is already on many radio stations.

George was once again joined on the album by some of Nashville most outstanding musicians including Steve



Gibson on Acoustic Guitar, Eddie Bayers on Drums, Brent Mason on Electric Guitar, Glenn Worf on Bass Guitar, Stuart

Duncan on Fiddle, Steve Nathan on Keyboards and Paul Franklin on Steel Guitar. 🎸

Strait Wins Five Top Awards At TNN Awards

Pensacola News Journal
Submitted by Lori Borman,
Pensacola, FL

Nashville, TN — An absent George Strait swept five categories at the TNN Awards for country music on Thursday night, with new-

comer Brad Paisley nipping at his heels with his popular song celebrating stepparents.

Strait won the top award of best entertainer, best male vocalist, best album for "Always Never The Same" and single for "Write This Down."

He also got the Impact Award, given for getting country music exposure in advertisements, television and movies. Strait is a commercial spokesman for Wrangler jeans and other products. 🎸

All Stars, All Country, Is All Right In Stadium

Written by Chuck Yarborough,
The Plain Dealer - Cleveland, Ohio

Hats, hicks and yee-haws scored all the touchdowns last night as George Strait quarterbacked a country-music Pro Bowl roster to a victory for fun in a cold, windswept Cleveland Browns Stadium.

From the minute newcomer Clay Davidson tipped his black hat to a crowd huddling together for warmth around the Jack Daniel's Lynchburg Stage in the pre-noon chill outside the main stadium till the last strains of Strait's sweet baritone sank away into the damp night air, this was a win with a capital W. Hard not to be with people like Davidson, Jerry Kilgore, the Clark Family Experience, Asleep At The Wheel, Mark Chesnutt, Lee Ann Womack, Kenny Chesney, Martina McBride, Tim McGraw and the great Strait performing, an entire day and half of the night with some of the best country has to offer today.

Strait showed why the festival bears his name in a set that ran over an hour and included more than 25 songs, from his trademark "The Fireman" to "I Can Still Make Cheyenne." Hanging from rafters and bellowing trite phrases like, "Hello, Cleveland!" to get a response isn't necessary when you've got this kind of gift. You stand in front of the microphone, you

sing and people live, laugh, love and cry.

"Amarillo By Morning," "Blue Clear Sky," "Write This Down" and the wondrous "Does Fort Worth Cross Your Mind?" had a weather-weary stadium crowd trying to decide whether to live up or downwind of Foat Wuth's celebrated stockyards.

McGraw and McBride — appearing back-to-back in a sort of country Big Mc attack — were excellent scene-setters for country music's king. (Sorry, Garth.) McGraw himself has admitted he has not been blessed with the greatest of voices. What he has is stage presence and charisma, a star who comes across like your best friend.

But it was McBride who turned in the early set of the night. The singer who needs Sapphirevision, not Diamondvision, to do her eyes justice belted out most of the hits in her repertoire, hitting high notes and sustaining lyrics with a clarity and strength that made you think she is a 5-foot-tall lung crowned with a mop of fire-tinted chestnut hair. "Wild Angels" could've been heard by St. Peter without amplification. And "Broken Wing?"

Mark Chesnutt, who honed his musical chops in the honky-tonks of Southeast Texas, used a little C&W, seasoned with

Cajun cayenne pepper and a healthy dose of good old rock'n'roll in his set, which ran from his gimmicky — but fun — "Bubba Shot The Jukebox" to the version of Aerosmith's "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing" that bookended his rousing 40 minutes. Chesnutt is never going to make People's Ten Best Looking Stars list; his strength is music, not mousse.

Lee Ann Womack, whose new album "I Hope You Dance" hits stores on Tuesday, gives a good live performance, especially on the title tune of the new CD. "Ashes By Now," a cut off that album about a woman's oft-scarred heart, was a great chance for the Texas native to display some healthy pipes and her own set of baby-blues.

Kenny Chesney, whose show is as much fun as his "She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy," also worked up a sweat — and helped a chilly crowd do the same. His newest single, "What I Need to Do," about a man who realizes he started thinking long after he started talking, carried surprisingly well in a stadium, where the only thing usually amplified is some guy yelling "First down!"

Let's put it this way: "The Three Tenors," at Browns Stadium on June 25, have a tough act to follow. 🍷

Strait Puts Classic Finish On Jamboree

Written by Elmer Ploetz, News Reviewer
The Buffalo News - Buffalo, NY

Submitted by Diane Zymowski - Alden, NY
The old guy got the last word Saturday nights as George Strait Country Music Festival with a set of classic country.

Strait was following Tim McGraw, among the more adventurous of country's young hats, and he showed there was nothing wrong with the old-fashioned model by performing a string of his from his 20-year career.

There was little talking as Strait, with white T-shirt visible under his checked shirt, served up ballads such as "This Could Be the Best Day of My Life," "Amarillo By Morning" and "Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind."

Strait is all about roots, and he proved it not only with his choice of covers (Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" and the western swing standard "Take Me Back to Tulsa"), but also with his choice of his own material, singing about the death of modern country when Merle Haggard can't get on the radio.

Playing with an 11-member band didn't hurt, either, with the group moving from twin-fiddle swing to hard country to the edge of rock'n'roll with songs like "Heartland" and "Love Bug."

Strait was playing for a crowd that appeared to approach 50,000, which is considered the biggest one-day country event ever in the Buffalo area.

Until Strait hit the stage, McGraw was

the highlight of the show. With his faint goatee and 20-something good looks, he wouldn't necessarily look out of place in an alternative rock band — minus the cowboy hat, of course.

And he doesn't have the big deep voice of a George Jones or Waylon Jennings. With his reedy voice live, he sounds as if he could be singing for one of the alt-country bands.

And with a stream of hits, he involved the crowd in his show, a mix that ranged from the gentleness of a song like "Don't Take the Girl" to the redneck rowdiness of "Indian Outlaw," which started with a bit of funk guitar, of all things.

The lineup was big enough that Lee Ann

Continued on following page

Day of Country Music Pleases Crowd

Written by Nic Spinelli, *The Time Union* - Jacksonville, FL

Submitted by Julie Campbell - Orange Park, FL

If you doubt the size and scope of the 3-year-old George Strait Chevy Truck Country Music Festival that rolled into Alltel Stadium yesterday, then here are a few figures that you might find interesting.

There are 10 cities, including Jacksonville, hosting the 2000 tour and its top name performers. It takes the 80-member stage crew five days in each city to set up the festival, which boasts 2.5 millions pounds of equipment and 350,000 watts of power running through the sound system.

And all of that is nothing compared to the crowd-drawing capacity of the musicians.

The festival ran for 11 hours — from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Shows began at 1 in the afternoon and ran throughout the day. Before and in between shows, audience members kept themselves entertained in “Straitland,” where they could buy souvenirs and snacks from concession booths and watch performances by country crooners Jerry Kilgore, Clay Davidson and Lace.

First up on the main stage was Asleep at the Wheel, a country-swing band composed of Ray Benson, Jason Roberts, Cindy Cashdollar, Michael Francis, John Whitby and guest vocalist Bill Gilman. The seven-Grammy-winning, 30-year-old group kicked off the festival just as it has for the past three years. The early afternoon crowds were small but lively as they danced to the upbeat tunes of a legendary band.

Next came Lee Ann Womack. The Grammy-nominated singer, who has released two albums since 1998 and has a third due out May 23, went on stage at 2 p.m. and performed for a half-hour as the heat rose and the crowds began to swell.

At 3 p.m., Mark Chesnutt took the stage. The intense heat reached its peak as the high-energy performer worked the crowd into a frenzy. His moving rendition of Aerosmith’s “Don’t Want To Miss A Thing” displayed the heart and talent that have earned Chesnutt a fabulous 10-year

career and eight best-selling albums.

Chesnutt finished his set by throwing his hat to the audience and encouraging them to drink lots of fluids as there was still “plenty of show left to see.”

It was during Kenny Chesney’s performance that the heat finally broke. At 4:15 p.m., a light shower began to fall as the singer gave up a mellow rendition of Jimmy Buffett’s “Margaritaville.”

The shower quickly dissipated, but the sky remained overcast and the crowds cheered at the occasional flash of lightning and rumble of thunder. Suddenly, a cloud of smoke filled the stage and out stepped Martina McBride. The now-crowded stadium erupted into a roar.

Drizzles of rain came and went as McBride tore through an incredible set of songs ranging from slow, emotional ballads like “Valentine” and “There You Are” to rollicking, fast-paced songs like “You Know It’s The Truth.”

At one point, she even led the audience in a sing-along on “I Can See Clearly Now.”

As if waiting for her to finish, the rain really began to come down as soon as McBride left the stage. A show manager came out and encouraged the audience to seek shelter between performances, but the audience didn’t seem to care much about

the adverse weather. In fact, many seemed to welcome the relief from the day’s scorching heat.

When Tim McGraw came out, the crowd went insane. One rabid fan rushed the stage with a camera, but was quickly detained by security. Every lyric to every song sent the crowd into screaming fits. McGraw just smiled and went through his set with ease.

He weaved through a steady blend of some of his own hits like “Don’t Take The Girl” and classic covers like Steve Miller Band’s “The Joker.” Unfortunately, rumors that McGraw’s wife, Faith Hill, would join him on stage proved to be false.

Finally, the big moment arrived. George Strait made his way out onto center stage, and the crowd reaction was indescribable.

Strait tipped his hat, to the intense delight of the audience and began his set. Unlike his predecessors, Strait didn’t move around a lot during his performance.

Instead, he chose to stand with his guitar and lightly tap his foot as he played. Off to the side, a young couple danced as Strait played “Lovesick Blues” and “I Get Carried Away.”

He soared through the songs without a single miss. Finally, with one last tip of his hat, Strait left the stage to a standing ovation. 🎵

Strait Puts Classic Finish On Jamboree

(Continued)

Womack, currently the hottest act in country radio, was only second on the bill, playing a short and sassy set highlighted by hits like “I’ll Think of a Reason Later” and her current biggie, “I Hope You Dance.”

Mark Chesnutt, who followed her, hasn’t been as big lately, but his showmanship could rouse the crowd even more than Womack’s hits. He played his hits, too, songs like “Bubba Shot the Jukebox,” but took a few more liberties with the crowd. At one point, he teased the crowd with an “I only play this for special people” spiel before roaring through a version of Louis Prima’s “Jump, Jive and Wail.”

Kenny Chesney, a more current country heartthrob, played a more ballad-heavy set that went for the easy cheers with clips from his videos playing on the big screens around the stage.

After entering amid billowing smoke as the stage risers opened, Martina McBride let her voice carry the show, and she had the voice to do it. The reigning country music vocalist of the year probably could have given Broadway legends like Ethel Merman a run for their money. By the time she got to “Independence Day,” her anthem, the crowd had gradually fallen more and more under her spell. 🎵

Fan Collectable Column

August/September 2000

- Calgary AB Sun - 6/16/00 - P. 21 photo and story. Calgary, Canada.
- The News Tribune - 6/15/00 - P. SL7 mentioned. Tacoma, WA.
- Santa Barbara News - Press - 6/15/00 - P. B-2 story. Santa Barbara, CA.
- Zone Magazine - June 2000 - Photo w/mention, p. 24, "The Sounds of Summer" section. Houston, TX.
- The Daily Gazette - June 16, 2000 - Article, p. A10. Amsterdam, NY.
- Houston Chronicle - 6/16/00 - Article, p. 2A. Houston, TX.
- Asheville Citizen Times - 6/17/00 - Section E, p. E2, article. Asheville, N.C.
- Amarillo Globe News - 6/10/00 - Mentioned, p. 1. Amarillo, TX.
- The Mercury - 6/17/00, p. B8, Entertainment section, mentioned in article. Limerick, PA.
- Country Weekly - 7/11/00 - Mentioned, pg. 2, pg. 5, pg. 8, pg. 61 and pg. 70. Nashville, TN.
- Dallas Morning News - "Cool Country" - 6/11/00. Metropolitan Section, pg. 41A, article. Dallas, TX.
- Country Music - June/July 2000. Mentioned p. 56, p. 58, p. 64, p. 84 Review, p. 85 photo and tour.
- The Paris News - 6/23/00 - Front Page story with photo. Paris, TX.
- New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung "Quest" - 6/30/00 - Vol. 1, Issue 1, mentioned p. 1. New Braunfels, TX.
- Country Weekly - June 27, 2000. G.S. photo insert on Front Cover, p. 8 Letter, p. 35 Photo with C.W./TNN Nominees, p. 38, 40 photo, 42 mentioned, p. 48-49 photo with story George/Derby Day, p. 57 Crossword, p. 58 mentioned, p. 78 chart, p. 80 short story. Nashville, TN.
- Star Tribune-Minneapolis, MN - 6/15/00. Variety Section p. E12 mentioned.
- Herald-Zeitung Newspaper - 6/16/00 - P. 12 A mentioned.
- The Washington Times - "Metropolitan" - 6/5/00. Section C P. 2 mentioned. Mt. Vernon, VA.
- San Antonio Express-News (S.A. Life Section) - G, 6/7/00, p. 1 mentioned. San Antonio, TX.
- Houston Chronicle - Preview - Entertainment Guide - 6/8/00. P. 4G mentioned. Houston, TX.
- San Antonio Express-News (New Music Reviews Section), P. 17H - 6/9/00 mentioned. Houston, TX.
- Longview News-Journal - 6/2/00. P. 5B, photo w/mention. Longview, TX.
- North Channel Sun - 6/8/00 - P. 4 "Boot Town Western Wear" ad. Channelview, TX.
- Hudson Valley Newspaper - Register Star - 6/4/00. P. c-4 story. Hudson, NY.
- Country Weekly - 6/13/00. Mentioned on p. 33, 36-37 and p. 6 mentioned, p. 8 letters. Nashville, TN.
- Free Lance Star - 6/5/00. Mentioned p. D1 & 2. Fredericksburg, VA.
- The Victoria Advocate - 6/4/00. Story with photo p. 10, section D. Victoria, TX.
- The Sounds of Summer - June 1, 2000. Preview Magazine - Cover Story - Houston Chronicle, p. 5G. Houston, TX.
- Entertainment Weekly - June 2, 2000. Photo front page. Story w/photo, p. 8.
- Dallas Morning News Guide - 6/2/00 - P. 59 photo with mentioning June 10th Show. Dallas, TX.
- Country Music Today (CMT) Magazine - June/July 2000. P. 78 comments, p. 72 CD review. Nashville, TN.
- Herald Democrat - 6/5/00 - P. B6 mentioned with photo. Denison/Sherman, TX.
- The Dallas Morning News - 6/3/00. Section A, p. 2A People.

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!!!

Carol Crossman - Limerick, PA	Linda Moreno - Houston, TX	Pat Shireman - Cedar Hill, TX
Valda Callison - Gun Barrel City, TX	Aggie Gabaldon - Pecos, TX	Pat Skoruppa - Victoria, TX
June Foxx - Sylva, N.C.	Louanne Steph - Katy, TX	Florence Bieniek - Amsterdam, NY
Francene L. Measley - Santa Barbara, CA	Betty Bruner - Victoria, TX	Dawn M. DeLaney - Hudson, NY
Geraldine Larson - Tacoma, WA	Mary Tillman - Alamo, TN	Angel Herring - Channelview, TX
Barb Gillingwater - Calgary, AB, Canada	Frankie S. Block - Cuero, TX	Shirley Smallwood - Kilgore, TX
Shirley J. Everett - Burnet, TX	Vickie Kulp - Fredericksburg, VA	Dotsie Lehr - New Braunfels, TX
Shelia Calhoun - Houston, TX	Lynda Green - Carrollton, TX	Ann L. Brownson - Mount Vernon, VA
Linda Christy Hill - Flower Mound, TX	Debbie Erickson - Taylor, MI	Irene Duecy - Parson, KS
Tammy Huffman - Paris, TX	Mrs. Kay Lewis - Pottsboro, TX	Margaret Stangl - St. Louis Park, MN
	Ms. Leona DeJoseph - Howard Beach, NY	



From The Mailbox:

Dear Anita,

It has been a while since I spoke with you, so I thought I'd drop a line or two. First of all, let me congratulate George for all of his accomplishments during the first half of 2000. He's the KING!!! Second of all, I'd like to point out that the week of July 8, 2000 will be a special one for George: it will mark 1000 weeks since George made his debut on the Billboard chart (on 5/16/81 "Unwound" entered at #74). Nineteen+ years later, 36 #1 hits and 15 #1 albums later, he's still going strong. Congratulations to Mr. Strait!!!

A. Kleynerman
Brooklyn, NY

Dear George, The Ace In The Hole Band & Staff,

Your Country Music Festival in Buffalo was a wonderful experience, you are tremendous! I hope I have the pleasure of attending another year, please come back to Buffalo or Syracuse, New York, we love you up here too.

A Strait Fan Forever,
Bonnie Sullivan

P.S. Congratulations on having the most #1 Hits in Country Music history.

Hi All,

Enclosed is a picture that I took of George at the FedEx Field, Landover, Md. Concert on June 4, 2000.

The show was the best one I have seen of all the Country Music Festivals. And of course, George was the best. He looked better than ever and sounded just GREAT!! I loved all the lightning on the stage. At the end of the show, he took his hat off, autographed it and threw it out into the crowd. I looked up and I couldn't believe what I was seeing... it was coming down right to me, and it was in my fingertips, but the males around me rushed over and grabbed the hat and they were tussling over it on the ground, and I of course, just stood there and watched, knowing it was "My Hat" and I lost it. I

am a grandmother in my 60's and therefore, I couldn't fight them for it and so I just have the memory that the hat could have been mine, in fact, I know it was mine. Friends eight rows back of me saw it coming and they thought it was mine also. I have the memory of that wonderful day and George's songs to listen to. I want to thank him for the wonderful show, and being the Wonderful, Gracious Man that he is. He is "THE MAN" and will always be #1 in my book.

Keep it up, George, you are "The King of Country!" No one will ever take your place in country music. I hope you come back again next year, and maybe one day, I will get lucky and win backstage passes to meet you and get your autograph and even a picture taken with you. Thank you for all the wonderful memories I have!

Nell
Virginia



Dear George,

Congratulations on winning the five awards on the TNN Country Music Award Show. You are truly the "King of Country Music."

My two daughters, grandson and I drove to the Fed Ex Field in Landover, Md. for your concert tour there and enjoyed it very much, as we did the other two that we attended in the past 2 years.

Nellie Leo
Middletown, NY

Dear George,

I have attended your concerts at the Houston Rodeo and at your Team Roping Classic in Kingsville for years, but the concert at Enron Field was by far your best, in my opinion.

I'm so very glad I was able to get tickets since it sold out in one hour (to no one's surprise!).

Again, you and the ones with you did a fantastic job. I look forward to next year. I'm also a fan club member - a true George Strait fan! I loved your Greatest CD.

Thanks,
Louanne Steph

To the Strait Family and Fan Club,

Congratulations to your numerous TNN wins. Thanks for keeping country in our music. You are a great singer, and family man. You are well respected by your fans and friends. I'm still enjoying your movie "Pure Country" and all your music. I also have several rodeo videos I like to watch.

God Bless you and your family.

A Fan,
Virginia Williams
and Family

Hi,

Just wanted to say that I went to the George Strait Country Music Festival in Landover, Md. on June 4th.

This was the second year that I went and I must say it was the best concert I've been to by far. I've been a fan of Mr. Strait for a long time. I admire his devotion to his family. This is something too many people forget.

Pam
Maryland

Dear George,

Congratulations on your 5 awards on last night's TNN Country Weekly Awards. You are definitely the best singer in country music today. I also went to two of your concerts this year and had a great time at both. I truly enjoy listening to your music.

Debbie Kier
Rochester, NY



From The Mailbox Continued

Dear Anita,

I wanted to share with the "George" fans the wonderful shot I got of George at the Dallas "Country Music Festival" on Saturday, June 10, 2000.

A friend of mine that now lives in Rockwall, Texas and I have as of this year been going together to see George for 10 years in a row - we had both seen him separately before that time, but when she and her husband moved to my hometown - we found out that we were both George Strait fans and since that time we have been the best of friends.

June 9th is my birthday and my husband paid for my ticket and expenses to get there - but getting this shot with a new camera turned out to be a really wonderful birthday gift!!!

Hope you can print this shot in our next newsletter and hope everyone enjoys it!

Gail Albritton
El Dorado, Arkansas



Dear GSFC,

I just wanted to say that my husband and I saw George in Cincinnati, Ohio on May 21st. As always, he was wonderful! The festival is great fun and all the acts before George do a great job.

Even though I wasn't on the field, my seat was great anyway.

Christie L. Slaughter
Goodman, Missouri

Hi,

I was able to attend the George Strait Country Music Festival on June 3, 2000 at Buffalo, NY. It was great. The weather even cooperated.

Sincerely,
James Moselle

Dear Anita,

I met him (George!!) following the concert - he was wonderful - I was speechless!! It was a moment I'll never forget. What a true gentleman.

Carri Bostian
Ft. Wright, KY

Hi Anita,

How lucky can a girl get? I consider myself so fortunate in being at the George Strait Festival in Pittsburgh last year and this year to be in Cleveland. It has been the thrill of a lifetime!

George was phenomenal, pure magic. The audience especially loved it when he made comments to them and their response was thunderous. Everyone around us (we had great seats) from pre-teens to senior citizens could not keep still when George came on. We all were either dancing, swaying, clapping, toe-tapping or using our binoculars.

Sincerely,
Millie Porter
Poland, Ohio



Pen Pals

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2000

(Fans that exchange letter through mail)

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Anita's Notes:

Welcome to the August/September issue of Strait Talk. I'm a very outdoor person and enjoy the blue clear sky, a little breeze, and sunshine. Here lately with our summer months, all we are seeing is HOT-HOT-HOT. Hope you all keep cool and in the shade. From the looks of George, he is HOT-HOT-HOT. We thank all the fan club members and fans world wide for voting for George in the recent Country Weekly TNN Awards. George won 5 awards including Entertainer of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year, Album of the Year, Single of the Year and Impact Artist of the Year. What a wonderful surprise! George has not won a TNN Award in several years. Again, Strait from the Heart, Thank you for your continuous support.

The 2000 George Strait Festival tour has come to a close and what a tour it was. Even though it was only ten shows, the tour played before almost a half-a-million fans. The last show of the year in Houston, TX was particularly nice as it was the first show at the new Enron Field, the home of the Houston Astros. The roof was kept closed all day because of the threat of rain but was opened just before George came on stage. According to fans that were there it was amazing. The management company is hard at work tying up the loose ends from this year's tour and beginning to take a look at next year. We haven't heard any rumors about next year yet but we do know that there have

been a number of planning meetings already. We will keep you posted. Please keep in touch with the latest news on the web site at www.georgestrait.com.

The 18th Annual George Strait Team Roping Classic in San Antonio, TX on July 7th & 8th was a huge success. Four Hundred and fifty seven teams roped in the two day event with the total for cash and prizes exceeding \$250,000 for the first time. Kory Koontz and Steve Purcella are the Classic champions for 2000. A complete story on the event is available elsewhere in the newsletters as well as on the website. George did not make the finals this year as he missed it by a slim one-tenth of a second.

On September 19th, MCA Records will release George Strait's newest album. It will simply be titled "George Strait". The first single from the album will be "Go On" and you should be hearing it on great country radio stations by the time you receive your newsletter. The new album is spectacular. In our opinion it could very well be the greatest album that he has ever recorded. We have a story on the new album elsewhere in the newsletter.

In the October/November issue of Strait Talk, we will have a new Christmas Sweatshirt and Christmas Ornament. We hope to have photos of the new items as well as other new merchandise on our website at www.georgestrait.com before the next newsletter get here. Keep an eye out for these items. Remember to use those Strait Bonus Bucks that you have accumulated. They can all be used at one

time.

When you are placing an order by mail, please be sure that the order form is filled out completely and your payment is enclosed. If you are ordering on the 800 number or on the website, please review your order to make sure that all of the information is correct. This will speed up the processing of your order. We have a few new items in the catalog and if you get a chance, please review the photos in the General Store of the website at www.georgestrait.com.

We are very appreciative of the effort that fan club members made in keeping us informed about the stops on this years tours. The reviews, photos, letters and comments were very useful. Remember, if we use your item and print it, you earn Strait Cash. It's so easy. Also, keep in mind that we do not return any of the items we as they become the property of the fan club and are saved for possible future use.

The new User Name and Password to activate members only areas of the website at www.georgestrait.com are:

User Name: Rose

Password: Palace

We will close here and wish you all a safe and cooler summer. Check your local record store for George's new album on September 19th. Let us know what you think about it. Lastly, a very special "Thank You" to all of you who voted in the Country Weekly TNN Awards. It is very much appreciated.

VISIT THE OFFICIAL GEORGE STRAIT WEBSITE - www.georgestrait.com

user name: Rose ▶ password: Palace