

STRAIT TALK

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2009

VOL. 27 NO. 2



STRAIT TALK

George Strait ACM Special Airs May 27th ~ 2 Hour Special On CBS ~

by John Gerome, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS -- George Strait couldn't help feeling a little like he was being led out to pasture when the Academy of Country Music saluted him as their Artist of the Decade with an all-star concert.

'It's almost like this was a farewell deal, but I ain't ready to go yet,' the soft-spoken Texan told the audience Monday.

And then, perhaps to prove the point, the 56-year-old superstar closed the show by

leading a sing-along of his hit 'Troubadour,' with its chorus, 'I was a young troubadour when I rode in on a song, and I'll be an old troubadour when I'm gone.'

With the honor, joins the ACM's four other artists of the decade: Marty Robbins in the 1960s, Loretta Lynn in the '70s, Alabama in the '80s and Garth Brooks in the '90s.

As the reigning Artist of the Decade, Brooks presented the award. He said it was

ironic handing the award to the person largely responsible for him having it, and told a story about hearing Strait's first hit, 'Unwound,' in 1981.

'From that very second I knew what I wanted to be. It was so easy and it didn't seem that far away. I wanted to be George Strait,' Brooks recalled.

Later, Brooks said the secret of Strait's longevity -- he's had 57 No. 1 country singles, more than anyone else, and he's still going strong -- is that he doesn't pretend to be something he's not. 'He never has to act ... he's just being him,' Brooks said.

Most of the evening, Strait, wearing a dark jacket and cowboy hat, sat with his family in the MGM Grand Garden Arena as a parade of performers including Alan Jackson, Tim McGraw, Toby Keith, Brooks & Dunn, Taylor Swift, Jamie Foxx, Sugarland, Dierks Bentley, Miranda Lambert, Lee Ann Womack and Jamey Johnson spoke about the famously taciturn star's music and kindness, and then sang his songs.

'When I was 16 I went on my first tour, as opening act for George Strait,' began 19-year-old Swift, who sang Strait's ballad 'Run.' 'I'd never been on big stage before or sung in an arena. I asked him if he had advice about performing in the round.



(Continued of next page)

George Strait ACM Special Airs May 27th



sang Brooks' 'The Dance.' But it was clearly Strait's night.

Jamey Johnson and Lee Ann Womack sang 'Give It Away,' a song Johnson wrote and Strait took up the charts. After they finished, Johnson walked over and handed Strait his guitar to autograph. 'I just never been in a situation where I had the guitar and George at the same place at the same time,' Johnson explained afterward, still clutching the instrument.

Keith, who sang 'Unwound,' quipped: 'The



He said, 'Yes, I do,' Swift said, then paused a good while. 'I sensed that I needed to ask a follow-up question. So I said 'How do you do that?' He said, 'Just do it for 25 years and it will feel real natural.'

Eddie Montgomery of the duo Montgomery Gentry said that when he was playing clubs in Kentucky, 'everytime we'd go to work, the first thing the club owner would ask is, 'Do you know any George Strait?' And if you didn't, you didn't get the gig.'

The four other artists of the decade were also briefly saluted. Keith Urban did a medley of Robbins' songs, Faith Hill performed Lynn's 'You Ain't Woman Enough,' Montgomery Gentry did Alabama's 'Mountain Music' and Martina McBride

bad news is that because he's been so successful he has to sit here and listen to us butcher all of his songs.'

True to form, Strait kept his remarks brief, mostly thanking everyone and complimenting them on their performances. He joked with Foxx, who gave 'You Look So Good in Love' and R&B flavor. 'Jamie, I'm going to have to rethink the way I sing 'You Look So Good in Love' now,' he said.

But mostly Strait looked humbled. At the end, he performed one of his own songs before gathering everyone on stage with him to sing 'Troubadour.' "I've played in here quite a few times, and I've never been this nervous," he said. The program was taped the day after the ACM Awards for a special to air May 27th.

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Masters & Corkill Hit The Jackpot At The 27th Annual GSTRC

Spin to Win Magazine

On March 14, a 21-year-old kid from Nevada cashed the biggest paycheck ever made out to a team roper. It seems fitting then, that he earned it at arguably the wickedest team roping that's ever been. The 27th annual George Strait Team Roping Classic was the gunfight of all gunfights (a guy had to be four seconds on all three steers to win first or second), overshadowed only by the fact that one header and one heeler won four—count 'em, four—of the top six holes. The header in question is former world champion Chad Masters. He won first and fourth. The recipient of the world's largest team roping payday? Jade Corkill, who won first, second and sixth and is rapidly becoming known as the world's first human roping machine. At San Antonio's Rose Palace, Masters and Corkill averaged 4.81 seconds on five straight. What's more, both men roped all 15 steers just about that fast with their respective partners. The resulting windfall between the two of them was an incredible \$277,686 plus two Cavender Chevrolet duallies, Bruton trailers, Twister saddles, Gist buckles and much, much more.

The sellout crowd at the annual GSTRC is usually there for glimpses of country music's undisputed king. But George gives them a real treat in the format of his two-day roping (two full qualifying rounds Friday and a clean slate Saturday for the top 50 to rope three full rounds). Fans know that every one of the 900-plus ropers has to sling nylon and poly in 5 seconds or faster every time. When your two high callbacks Saturday are nine on two and only 1.5 seconds separate the top 10 (as in this year), you've got practically the best show on dirt, with or without George sightings.

Mastering the roping, Chad Masters was coming off a sub-par NFR (for him) and admittedly hadn't roped well all winter—in fact his rodeo partnership had just

broken up. But Masters can master a slump like nobody else, and he, like Corkill, showed up Saturday to take names. The Chad-and-Jade show actually began on Friday, when they topped the two-head average. Then on Saturday, each of them nabbed three out of three of the fastest averages coming back for their third steer. Corkill was high call with Brandon Beers, second-high with Masters and seventh-high with Jake Cooper. Once the Strait hits faded away and the rock and roll cranked up, the guys on top didn't disappoint. In the toughest finals of GSTRC history, Masters took the average lead with a 15.26—which would have won every single other George Strait Classic. In fact, until last year's 15.63, Speed Williams had cornered the market on speed at the Strait, setting the record at 16.30 in 2002 (with Tyler Magnus) and smashing it himself with Strait victories in '05 (15.90 with Clay O'Brien Cooper) and '06 (15.82 with Brad Culpepper). Fast-forward back to 2009. Masters has already broken the record, but three teams remain. Brady Tryan and Matt Zancanella wow the crowd and steal the lead with a smoking 4.83 for a 15.20. Then Masters rides back into the box with Corkill, and nods for a good steer. The two of them, even playing it safe, put up a 4.96 for a 14.40 on three. It shatters the average record by more than a second. "I've never ran a steer that important," Masters will say afterward. "I've ran 10 that were that important. But not one for that kind of money." Meanwhile, Beers has been off his horse and standing apart, waiting for his only callback. His partner has already won the roping. As Corkill rides back up the arena, Beers is told he has to be 5.1 to win. Frustratingly, nobody knows anything about his steer, but he looks good so Beers scores him like he's good. Turns out he's a little strong, and their 5.43 gives them a 14.87. A short 17 seconds on three—which usually guarantees you about \$24,000—barely secured last place in this



"Masters and Corkill get congratulations from Strait and Kerry Bruton for winning the championship and the "Bruton Strait Xtreme Trailers."



"Masters & Corkill receive the keys to their new Cavender Chevrolet Silverado pickups from George Strait and Stuart Cavender."



"Chad Masters (left) and Jade Corkill (right) get congratulated by George Strait for winning the 27th Annual GSTRC."

roping. To put it in perspective, Turtle Powell and Kirt Jones won the Strait six years ago with an 18.

Nobody was as spectacular in the finals as round-winners Tanner Bryson and Matt Garza, who wrapped up the fast time of the

(Continued of next page)

Masters & Corkill Hit The Jackpot Continued

roping with a 4.15 on a red-wrapped steer to earn \$6,500 each. And there's a new Tryan in town—19-year-old Brady is the littlest brother of world champ Clay and defending George Strait Classic champ Travis, and he turned heads in San Antonio. The youngster broke out on a 4.69-second run for Matt Kasser to cost himself fifth for \$17,800 a man, but picked his head up and came back with Zancanella for that 4.83 that secured third in the average for \$24,475 a man.

Still, all the props deservedly go to Masters and Corkill, who started their weekend as the only team (perhaps ever) to place in both of the first two rounds Friday against 485 teams. The roping was up 56 teams from last year, despite a fees increase, which isn't surprising. After all, it's the only contest where you can put up \$500 a man and have a chance at the \$152,193 that Corkill pocketed, or even the \$125,493 that Masters rode away with. That said, they earned it. "To me, at the Strait, I think it's just as tough to make it back as it is to win the roping," said Mas-

ters, who ranks it right alongside winning the world, which he did in 2007. He and Corkill not only led the top 50 back, but in Saturday's second round posted the second-fastest time of the weekend with a 4.23 on a redwrapped steer. Anyone who draws the red wraps wants to win the round for that \$10,000 bonus (sponsored by Wayne Wright Lawyers), but why would a guy who's trying to be smooth on all three take the chance? "That just happened," Masters exclaimed. "I wasn't planning that!" It could be that when you're hot, you're hot. But Masters said it also had to do with "the best steers you've ever roped" at this year's "Strait." And, no doubt, it had to do with his black horse Stranger, who's "pretty forgiving" when a guy's got to reach and get left for two straight days. Stranger also allowed Masters to stick to his strategy. "All I really thought about all weekend was scoring," he said. "No matter what, I wanted to see my start, and just let the roping happen. The main thing I focused on was what I was going to see."

Masters, who'd drawn a hard runner with third callback partner Clay O'Brien Cooper, earned \$22,250 for fourth and \$103,243 total with Corkill. He planned to use some of his profit to pay off his place in Santo, Texas and possibly install new flooring. Having never won a truck or trailer, he's also decided to "put as many miles on that truck as has ever been put on a George Strait truck." In fact, Masters' only regret is that he didn't get to stick around. He had to jump on a plane that Steve Purcella had chartered to get them to the performance that night at RodeoHouston. "I only got to shake the hands of two of the sponsors, and was an hour late getting to the plane," he says. "I really wanted to say thank you. I hated not sticking around to visit with George and all the people that were part of the roping." Masters is extraordinarily grateful, and also gives a shout out to his full-time sponsors Cactus Ropes, Cactus Saddlery, Heel-O-Matic, Pro Equine, Ariat and Perfect Bit.

(Continued of next page)



L-R: John Silva, Kara Strait Silva with daughters Niessa and Kailey, Tamara Shipman, Bubba Strait, Norma Strait, George Strait, Denise Strait with Granddaughter Avery, Trey Strait, Walker Strait and Katie Rothlisberger.

Masters & Corkill Hit The Jackpot Continued

Cool as Ice George Strait always likes to see somebody he knows drive off in one of his prize rigs, and Corkill fit that bill after having buddied with Bubba Strait in the past. But Corkill had previously never won a dime at George's roping.

Usually the first of three very important callbacks can dictate how the rest will go, but Corkill said the first of his three with Jake Cooper was mentally the easiest. "I just try to think about what I'm doing, which is what I did all day," Corkill said. "Just try not to do anything stupid and rope how I rope—not try to win. I figured if I roped everything by two feet..." Don't let him make it sound so easy. That steer went left, was a little weak and didn't take Cooper's set very well. The way Corkill cleaned up the trash was nothing short of amazing. "I almost let go and it wasn't right, so I kicked through a couple jumps," he says matter-of-factly of the six-second run that placed them sixth in the average. Corkill averaged five seconds flat altogether on nine head with three partners. Part of his strategy, he said, was to push his steers a tad to the left so they didn't think they were getting away. "If I let them see me,

they'll slow up and give my headers a better shot," he explained. Corkill's unbelievable haul of \$152,193 came courtesy of the six figures with Masters, the \$35,600 he won for second with Beers and \$13,350 for sixth with Cooper. His first phone calls were to his mother (who was at a Nevada high school rodeo with Jade's sister) and to long-time girlfriend Shannon Jones, in college at San Luis Obispo. He said he may invest some dinero in another rental property to go with the one he purchased just after the NFR, and he might look into buying a place for himself around Lipan, Texas. As for the truck, luck would have it that he'd just bought a brand-new one, which will likely now be covered and saved for a while. But it's more than the new rig and the payday that make winning the Strait different to Corkill than anything else. "I've never been more thankful that it happened to me," he says. "George doesn't have to put on that roping. It's life-changing for somebody. Just because he wants to do it, he completely changed my life." In addition to nods to Cavender Chevrolet, Bruton trailers and all the other Strait donors, Corkill is grateful for support on the road from Wran-

gler, Rattler Ropes, Best Ever Pads, Day Money Roping Supplies, and Pacific Pride. And no matter where he ropes or what he wins, Corkill maintains that the difference is always the great horse. In his case, that's his little sorrel gelding Ice Cube. He got the 11-year-old unpapered horse six years ago from Wade Bunn of California, and they've "been through a lot together." Ice Cube climbs the trailer, tries to buck every time he's saddled and hates being by himself. But he can run and he will cow, and he flat works every time in every situation.

"I roped nine steers today and they were all rodeo runs," Corkill pointed out at the Rose Palace. "He does the same thing every time. Not once has he cost me a thing." Ice Cube has an uncanny ability to know exactly where to be on a steer no matter what happens, Corkill said. "Even on that steer with Jake, when I was going to throw but then decided not to, because it didn't feel right, he came right out of it," he said just minutes after the win. "He makes it so easy, it's unexplainable. It's just unexplainable."



King Country Rocks Hidalgo

By Amy Nichol Smith of *The Monitor*

It's safe to say George Strait won't be relinquishing his crown or title King of Country to anyone anytime soon. The man of the hour pleased a packed house at Dodge Arena in Hidalgo on Saturday night.

A masked Strait stepped on stage to an audience on their feet, cheering wildly. He stripped the medical mask from his face to reveal a wide grin, hinting that he was just joking. Then he waved a hello, strapped on his guitar and launched into 'Write This Down'. Whether it was the song or the legend before them, the crowd was crazy

with appreciation, applauding, yelling and yee-hawing as Strait slipped into the song 'I Just Want to Dance With You'.

A young girl sat front and center on her knees below Strait, rocking back and forth, singing along and wiping the tears away. The country crooner played many of his newer songs (from the past five years), but hit high notes with the fans when he played favorites like 'Ocean Front Property', 'The Chair' and 'Amarillo, By Morning'. The latter actually was the most dramatic of his set, with the spotlight focused on the fiddler in the 9-piece band as he ended the song, then

all the lights went down.

For the most part, the lighting in Strait's show was strictly to light the stage and set the mood - other than that, the show was almost void of any effect (sure, there was fog on stage).

Strait is known for putting on stripped down concerts. Just the man himself, his band and his guitar. There's a beauty in that simplicity that thousands appreciated that night, while standing and applauding the King of Country.

Fan Collectable Column

- Oregonian - 4-13-09. Page 4, section B "Pure Country" movie on Broadway. George Strait name mentioned in article. Gales Creek, OR.
- Globe Magazine - 4-20-09. Pages 16-17. Photos and story. New York, NY.
- The Lawton Constitution - 4-6-09. Page 4B ACM story with winners. Lawton, OK.
- Santa Barbara News-Press. Life Section. Entertainment & The Arts. 4-8-09. Page 1 photo w/article "Stars Salute Strait As Artist Of Decade." Santa Barbara, CA.
- The News Virginian - 4/6/09. Page B4 "Strait and Swift Shore Diversity of Country at ACMs" article w/photo. Waynesboro, VA
- San Antonio Express News - 4/5/09. Page 1, 3G S.A. Life and Cultures Section. "Strait Through The Decards" article w/ photo. San Antonio, TX.
- Texas Hot Country Magazine. April Issue. Front page photo (full page) and page 5 photo with mention. Houston, TX.
- Spin-to-Win Rodeo Magazine. May 2009. Front cover: Photo of George and mentioned on page 4, photo page 8 mentioned under "Dear Roper section." Pages 34-40 photos of George Strait, page 41 mentioned, page 67 mentioned.

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

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☆☆☆	3245	BLACK BANDANA (2009 Black Bandana with "George Strait" Logo in Brown and Crème)..... NEW	\$19.95	
	3605	LADIES LIGHT BLUE "TROUBADOUR" JERSEY KNIT TEE (Ladies Light Blue "Troubadour" Short Sleeve 100% Cotton NEW	\$5.95	
		Super Soft Ring Spun Jersey Knit Tee, Junior Fit, Comfortably Conforms To Your Body, A Subtle and Attractive G.S. "Troubadour" Screen Print Design Adorns The Front of this Lovely Casual-Wear Tee).....		
☆☆☆	3610	3610 LADIES G.S. BLACK SHORT SLEEVE TEE (Ladies Black Cap Sleeve 100% Cotton Check Size: M _ L _ XL	\$19.95	
		Super Soft Ring-Spun Jersey Knit Tee, Double Needle Stitching Throughout, Side Seamed For a Slim Silhouette, Brown G.S. Design On Center Chest, Sizes Run Small).....		
☆☆☆	3615	LADIES SOFT PINK SHORT SLEEVE HEART TEE (Ladies Soft Pink 100% Ring-Spun Cotton Super NEW	\$18.95	
		Soft Baby Jersey Knit Tee with Contoured Side Seams and Double Needle Stitching in Neck, Sleeves and Baby Bottom Hem, G.S. "Troubadour" Heart Design on Center Chest).....		
☆☆☆	3620	LADIES HEATHER GREY/BLACK RAGLAN SHORT SLEEVE TEE (Ladies Contrasting Heather Grey and Black NEW	\$18.95	
		Raglan Short Sleeve Tee, 100% Ring-Spun Cotton Jersey Knit, Side Seamed for a Slim Silhouette, Bound on Self Trim Neck and Sleeves, Great Looking G.S. Wraparound Silhouette Dot Design).....		
☆☆☆	3625	LADIES LIME WEDGE BABY RIB CAP SLEEVE TEE (Ladies Lime Wedge 100% Ring-Spun NEW	\$18.95	
		Cotton Super Soft Baby Rib Cap Sleeve Tee, Side Seamed with Custom Contoured Fit that Clings to the Body, Vintage "Troubadour" Rose design in Pink and Green on Front Chest).....		
☆☆☆	3630	LADIES ATHLETIC HEATHER VERTICAL PRINT TEE (Ladies Athletic Heather 100% Ring-Spun Cotton Check Size: M _ L _ XL	\$18.95	
		Super Soft Baby Jersey Knit Tee with Contoured Side Seams and Double Needle Stitching in Neck, Sleeves and Baby Bottom Hem, Beautiful G.S. "Troubadour" Vertical Print Script Logo on Front).....		
☆☆☆	3635	LADIES BLACK RIB TANK WITH METALLIC SILVER STITCHING (Ladies Black Tank with 100% Combed Ring-Spun NEW	\$18.95	
		Cotton Rib, Double Needle Ribbed Binding On Neck and Arm Holes with Contrasting Silver Metallic Stitching, A Sensational Layering Piece, HOT G.S. Silhouette Design in Silver Chrystalline and Hot Pink).....		
☆☆☆	3645	LADIES FOOTBALL JERSEY (Ladies V-neck White Fashion Football Jersey, A Fun Retro Look, Machine Washable 100% NEW	\$18.95	
		Nylon Diamond Back Mesh, 100% Premier Polyester Dazzle Yoke, Sleeves and Inserts, Features Pink and White Screen Printed "09" Numbers on Chest and Back, "George Strait" Signature Logo on Front Chest and "STRAIT" Lettering Across Back Yoke, Decorated with matching Pink Stars on Sleeves).....		
☆☆☆	3650	LADIES GREY GRUNGE TEE (Ladies Grey Short Sleeve Crew Neck Tee, Feels Silky Soft And Wears Remarkably Check Size: M _ L _ XL	\$39.95	
		Well, Made of 100% Ring Spun Combed Cotton, Grunge Style "George Strait" Rose Logo In Pink, Purple, And Blue On Front Chest).....		
☆☆☆	3655	CHOCOLATE BROWN EAGLE GUITAR TEE (Ladies Chocolate Brown Short Sleeve Silky Smooth Cotton Check Size: M _ L _ XL	\$18.95	
		Classic Tee With Vintage G.S. Eagle and Guitar Design On Front Chest).....		
			NEW	\$18.95

QTY.	MODEL	ITEM DESCRIPTION	COST	AMOUNT
	☆☆☆ 3660	CHARCOAL GREY PINK PICTURE TEE (Ladies Charcoal Grey Super Soft 100% Cotton Light Weight Tee, Ideal For Summer Days Or For Layering When The Temperature Cools, Styled In A Flattering Slim Fit, Longer Length, Great Looking BIG Pink Picture Of G.S. With Guitar On Full Front Chest Embellished With Silver Foil "George Strait" Logo).....Check Size: M _ L _ XL _ NEW	\$18.95	
	☆☆☆ 3665	LADIES TEAL TEE (Ladies Teal Short Sleeve Tee Styled in a Flattering Slim Fit with the Silky Smoothness of 100% Ring-Spun Combed Cotton, Beautiful Vintage Western Swirl Silver G.S. design on Front Chest and Matching Smaller Design on Back).....Check Size: M _ L _ XL _ NEW	\$19.95	
	3705	ADULT CHESTNUT BROWN SHORT SLEEVE "TROUBADOUR" PHOTO T-SHIRT (Chestnut Brown Unisex 100% Preshrunk Cotton Short Sleeve T-shirt with Vintage "Troubadour" Screen Print Design On Left Front Chest, Great Looking Vintage Full Size G.S. "Troubadour" Photo Design on Back of Shirt).....Check Size: M _ L _ XL _	\$17.95	
	3710	ADULT CRANBERRY SHORT SLEEVE PHOTO T-SHIRT (Cranberry Color Unisex 100% Preshrunk Cotton Short Sleeve T-shirt. Great looking full size GS photo and logo design on front.....Check Size: M _ L _ XL _	\$17.95	
	☆☆☆ 3715	ADULT CHARCOAL GREY SILHOUETTE SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT (Adult Charcoal Grey Unisex Short Sleeve T-Shirt, Great Looking G.S. Silhouette with Vertical Print on Front Chest).....Check Size: M _ L _ XL _ NEW	\$15.95	
	☆☆☆ 3725	ADULT TAN VINTAGE "TROUBADOUR" T-SHIRT (Tan Color Adult Unisex 100% Preshrunk Cotton Short Sleeve T-shirt With a Vintage "Troubadour" Guitar and Hat Design With Flag Background On Front Chest).....Check Size: M _ L _ XL _ NEW	\$19.95	
	☆☆☆ 3730	ADULT CHOCOLATE BROWN TOUR T-SHIRT (Chocolate Brown Adult Unisex 100% Preshrunk Cotton Short Sleeve T-shirt With G.S. Photo and Western Scroll Star Design On Front Chest and 2009 Tour Cities Listed On Back Of Shirt).....Check Size: M _ L _ XL _ NEW	\$19.95	
	☆☆☆ 3735	PISTACHIO 57 #1'S T-SHIRT (Pistachio Adult Unisex 100% Preshrunk Cotton Short Sleeve T-shirt Adorned With Song Titles To Each Of George Strait's 57 #1's With G.S. Signature Logo On Left Front Chest).....Check Size: M _ L _ XL _ NEW	\$19.95	
	☆☆☆ 3740	ADULT CARDINAL RED STAR T-SHIRT (Cardinal Red Adult Unisex 100% Preshrunk Cotton Short Sleeve T-shirt With Grunge Style "George Strait" Star And Hat Design On Front And G.S. Logo On Back).....Check Size: M _ L _ XL _ NEW	\$19.95	
	☆☆☆ 4320	PINK NIGHTSHIRT (Ladies Frost Pink Short Sleeve Scoop Neck Nightshirt, Great As A Beach Cover-up, Cozy with the silky smoothness of 100% Ring Spun Cotton Jersey, HANDSOME Photo Of George And His Guitar Embellished With Crystalline Glitter And A Swirl Design (One Size Fits Most)..... NEW	\$24.95	
	☆☆☆ 5210	BABY BIB (Extra Soft, 100% White Terry Cotton Bib with Black Piping that Features the George Strait "Troubadour" Lyric, "i was a young troubadour when i rode in on a song", the Lyric sits below a Little Cowboy, Riding his Pony and Strumming his Guitar - A Matching Baby Shirt #5220 is also available - Precious for any new George Strait Fan who longs to be a Legend, too!)..... NEW	\$12.95	
	☆☆☆ 5220	BABY T-SHIRT (Extra Soft, 100% Cotton White Shirt that Features the George Strait "Troubadour" Lyric, "i was a young troubadour when i rode in on a song", the Lyric sits below a Little Cowboy, Riding his Pony and Strumming his Guitar - A Matching Baby Bib #5210 is also available - Precious for any new George Strait Fan who longs to be a Legend, too!).....Check Size: 12 month _ 2T _ NEW	\$12.95	
	7060	RASPBERRY SUPER PLUSH BLANKET (Stay Snug and Cozy whether reading at home or cheering in the stands, our lightweight raspberry fleece blanket has a dreamy super soft plush finish embossed with a HUGE George Strait silhouette design. Get one for the couch and one for the car; also makes a great gift for almost any occasion, easy to carry with a heavyweight nylon stadium carrying strap. Whiptstitched edges fold double needle, 50" x 60", 100% polyester. Machine wash and dry.).....	\$59.95	
	9720	HALF ZIP POLAR FLEECE JACKET (Chocolate Brown Super Soft Anti-Pill 100% Polyester Polar Fleece Wraps Your Body in Warmth, Sturdy Half Zipper, Convertible Collar, Nylon Reinforced Full Size Hand Warmer Pockets and Elasticized Cuffs, Sharp George Strait Star Logo.....Check Size: M _ L _ XL _	\$59.95	
		Embroidered on Left Front Chest.....Check Size: XXL _	\$64.95	
		GEORGE STRAIT CDs		
	901	STRAIT COUNTRY.....	\$14	
	902	STRAIT FROM THE HEART.....	\$14	
	903	RIGHT OR WRONG.....	\$14	
	905	GREATEST HITS.....	\$14	
	906	SOMETHING SPECIAL.....	\$14	
	907	#7.....	\$14	
	909	OCEAN FRONT PROPERTY.....	\$14	
	910	GREATEST HITS #2.....	\$14	
	911	IF YOU AIN'T LOVIN' YOU AIN'T LIVIN.....	\$14	
	912	BEYOND THE BLUE NEON.....	\$15	
	913	LIVIN' IT UP.....	\$15	
	914	CHILL OF AN EARLY FALL.....	\$15	
	916	HOLDING MY OWN.....	\$16	
	917	PURE COUNTRY (Original motion picture soundtrack).....	\$16	
	919	LEAD ON.....	\$16	
	920	STRAIT OUT OF THE BOX (Boxed set comprised of 72 tracks and accompanying booklet featuring Strait's comments on each record, plus dozens of photographs, a biographical essay, and complete recording session information.).....	\$49.95	
	921	BLUE CLEAR SKY.....	\$16	
	922	CARRYING YOUR LOVE WITH ME.....	\$16	
	923	ONE STEP AT A TIME.....	\$16	
	924	ALWAYS NEVER THE SAME.....	\$16	
	925	MERRY CHRISTMAS WHEREVER YOU ARE.....	\$16	
	926	LATEST GREATEST STRAITTEST HITS.....	\$16	
	928	THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED.....	\$16	
	929	THE BEST OF GEORGE STRAIT (20th Century Masters, The Millenium Collection).....	\$16	
	930	FOR THE LAST TIME - LIVE FROM THE ASTRODOME.....	\$19	
	931	HONKYTONKVILLE.....	\$19	
	932	50 NUMBER ONES (Double CD Set).....	\$25	
	933	SOMEWHERE DOWN IN TEXAS.....	\$19	
	934	IT JUST COMES NATURAL.....	\$19	
	935	LIVE AT TEXAS STADIUM.....	\$19	
	936	GEORGE STRAIT 22 MORE HITS.....	\$17	
	☆☆☆ 937	TROUBADOUR - NEW CD	\$18	

☆☆☆ NEW ITEMS ☆☆ PLEASE MARK SIZES WHERE APPROPRIATE

**** PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY CUSTOMER #: _____

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST.: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: (____) _____

PAYMENT MADE BY: CHECK: ___ MONEY ORDER: ___

MASTERCARD: ___ VISA: ___ If paying by MasterCard or Visa, please fill out below:

MASTERCARD/VISA NO.: _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____

NAME ON CARD: (Please Print) _____

SIGNATURE ON CARD: _____

Please Check One SUB TOTAL _____

YES This is a new address. TENNESSEE SALES TAX(9.25%) _____

NO This is not a new address. (All Tennessee Customers must add 9.25%)

SHIPPING & HANDLING CHARGES SHIPPING & HANDLING CHARGES _____

DO NOT APPLY TO MEMBERSHIPS! DEDUCT STRAIT CASH HERE - _____

Shipping & Handling Charges apply to only one address. Split shipments to separate addresses require a separate shipping & handling charge for each address. TOTAL AMOUNT _____

Double Shipping & Handling Charges for Foreign Deliveries.

FOR ALL ORDERS OVER \$300.00: PLEASE ADD AN ADD'L \$8.00 PER \$100.00 INCREASE.

.00 - 20.00 = \$10.00	50.01 - 60.00 = \$14.00
20.01 - 30.00 = \$10.75	60.01 - 80.00 = \$15.25
30.01 - 40.00 = \$11.75	80.01 - 100.00 = \$16.25
40.01 - 50.00 = \$12.75	101.00 & Up = \$17.25

*** NOTE: ALL ORDERS MUST BE PAID IN U.S. CURRENCY OR THE EQUIVALENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES. FOREIGN ORDERS PAID FOR IN ANY OTHER MANNER WILL BE RETURNED. FOREIGN ORDERS MUST DOUBLE THE NORMAL SHIPPING CHARGE FOR AIR DELIVERY. ** Phone Number must accompany Credit Card orders. We reserve the right to substitute new colors or designs for discontinued items.

GSFC • P.O. BOX 2119 • HENDERSONVILLE, TN 37077
STRAIT LINE: (615) 824-7176

ALLOW 2 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY • <http://www.georgestrait.com>

ORDERS FOR A FAN CLUB MEMBERSHIP WILL NOT BE SHIPPED BY OVERNIGHT SERVICES AND ARE NOT REFUNDABLE. EXCHANGES 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.

GEORGE STRAIT: ACM ARTIST OF THE DECADE ALL STAR CONCERT WORD SEARCH

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically, and diagonally. Have fun and good luck!

ALAN JACKSON	R B V D W L Y D X N A B R U H T I E K G
BROOKS & DUNN	T T K L T Q P K B G Q Q Y N W K N L R W
MIRANDA LAMBERT	I G A R T H B R O O K S N J T Y W N W N
MONTGOMERY GENTRY	M K T C H P T D Q L V U N L X N L B J B
LEANN RIMES	M T O L T M I R A N D A L A M B E R T L
BLAKE SHELTON	C F B L E N N M Z & R I J Y N N G Q Y A
LEE ANN WOMACK	G I Y D M A N F S M H O J N O T J T E K
JOHN RICH	R W K L M H N K N H H A L S S T X L L E
TOBY KEITH	A S E V Z L O N T N C T N L K K X L T S
TIM MCGRAW	W R I T B O B I R K Y H Z C C R O B N H
KEITH URBAN	N O T Y R B A I I I O Y K N A N F W E E
SUGARLAND	K L H B R F C N V J M D M B J C E M B L
TAYLOR SWIFT	W Y Y B J H G G Y K R E N L N W I C S T
JAMEY JOHNSON	C A Y B H R C E Y N G X S A A V M M K O
JAMIE FOXX	Y T Q L A J M T D M H X X W L Y A C R N
FAITH HILL	D L Q M V A V R Z D P Q B D A R J W E R
JACK INGRAM	Q T P G J M G P Z P N R L G T L A F I M
MARTINA MCBRIDE	Y V T J L E E A N N W O M A C K R G D B
GARTH BROOKS	E D I R B C M A N I T R A M K G M R U J
DIERKS BENTLEY	K Y R T N E G Y R E M O G T N O M L M S

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Telephone: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Jacket Size: _____

Sweatshirt Size: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

* All entries must be received by August 8, 2009. **One Entry Only!!! Thank you.**



George Strait, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill,
Lee Ann Womack and Martina McBride



Norma Strait, George Strait
and Lee Ann Womack



Ronnie Dunn, George Strait, Lee Ann Womack
and Kix Brooks



ACM Artist of the Decade All-Star Concert



Norma Strait, Bubba Strait,
Tamara Shipman and George Strait



George Strait
and Taylor Swift

Anita's Notes

Welcome to the summer issue of Strait Talk. George has had a very busy first half of the year. He was nominated for and won a Grammy Award for his "Troubadour Album", was nominated for 6 Academy of Country Music Awards and was named "Artist of the Decade" by that organization. In addition, he was nominated for a Dove award for "I Saw God Today".

The 27th Annual George Strait Team Roping Classic was held in San Antonio, Texas at the San Antonio Rose Palace during near frigid weather. The sold out arena was filled with many brave fans that came out to witness two days of the best team roping ever. Congratulations to Chad Masters and Jade Corkill for winning the event. Check out the story elsewhere in the newsletter for all the details.

After two weeks of thawing out, we headed to sunny Las Vegas for the ACM Awards show and the "Artist of the Decade" taping. The special, which was aired on CBS May 27th, was so much fun to watch live. It's amazing to see it done live and then watch the finished product on TV. We were fortunate enough to be able to see it before it aired in a special private viewing given to us by the Academy Staff. We sincerely appreciate it.

Check out the updated itinerary on the back of the newsletter. You will see that a Houston, Texas date at Reliant Stadium has been added. It will be a great show with Sugarland, Blake Shelton and Julianne Hough joining George on August 8th. We are really looking forward to that one. We are hearing rumblings that there may be one more show added this year but we don't have any details on it yet. Make sure that your memberships are current because you may miss out on fan club seating if they are not.

We have the winners for the 2009 George

Strait Tour word search and they are:

1st Place

**Joanne D. Neal
Lake Charles, LA**

2nd Place

**Lillian Free
Dubuque, IA**

3rd Place

**Peggy Jarboe
Louisville, KY**

Your prizes are on the way.

Enjoy!!!

Congratulations to Olive Boone of Deer Park, TX. She submitted a newspaper article for this issue of Strait Talk. Each and every fan club member can be a winner. Read all the details in the Fan Collectable Column Section. Olive, your prize is also on its way.

Have you checked out the new merchandise catalog? We are carrying many of the tour merchandise items plus a few other items in case you miss picking some up at the shows. There are some great new items so be sure and check out the merchandise tables at the show or the website at www.georgestrait.com for color images. Please read the descriptions carefully. A few of the ladies t-shirts run small. You may order merchandise on-line

through the store or by mail, fax or telephone. If you would like to talk to a live person about any of the items, you can call the office at 615-824-7176. We are open from 8:30am-3:00pm Central time, Monday-Friday. We are closed on holidays. Orders that are placed on the web usually ship within 48 hours, except on week-ends. When placing check orders by mail, please allow two weeks. We hope you enjoy the new merchandise and if you have any suggestions for future items, please drop us a note at GSFC, P. O. Box 2119, Hendersonville, TN. 37077.

Are you getting your Strait Talk? Are you getting your renewal notices? Have you missed your latest e-mail blast? If so, please check and make sure that we have your current mailing and e-mail address. We have been sending out weekly specials and announcements and if you haven't received correspondence from us, call us or email customer service.

Thank you for all the birthday cards for George and Bubba that were sent. They have all been forwarded to them and are greatly appreciated.

Enjoy the summer months ahead with a little Strait music at one of our summer shows. We hope to see you at some of them.

As always, we ask that you please take time out of your busy day and thank all of our military men and women who do a marvelous job in their efforts to keep us safe. We sincerely appreciate them and wish them all a safe return.

In closing, we would like to say how saddened we are at the sudden death of George's brother, John "Buddy" Strait, Jr. We offer our deepest condolences, not only to George, but to Buddy's wife Denise, their children Trey, Walker, and Kara and grandchildren as well as his father and step-mother, John and Anna Strait.

*In Loving Memory
of
John "Buddy" Strait, Jr.*

1950-2009



GEORGE STRAIT ITINERARY

Date	City & State	Venue	On-Sale	Ticket Info
5/29	Holdmdel, NJ	PNC Bank Arts Center	On Sale	877-598-8694
5/30	Boston, MA	Comcast Center	On Sale	877-598-8689
6/6	Dallas, TX	New Cowboy Stadium	On Sale	800-653-8000
6/12	Virginia Beach, VA	Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre	On Sale	877-598-8698
6/13	Washington, DC	Nissan Pavillion	On Sale	877-598-8696
6/28	Cadott, WI	Country Fest 2009	On Sale	800-326-FEST
6/29	Milwaukee, WI	Marcus Amphitheatre-Summerfest	On Sale	414-273-2680
7/11	Calgary, AB	Calgary Stampede	On Sale	800-661-1767
7/12	Craven, SK	Craven Country Jamboree	On Sale	866-388-0007
7/17	Salt Lake City, UT	USANA Amphitheatre	On Sale	800-888-8489
7/18	Cheyenne, WY	Cheyenne Frontier Days	On Sale	800-22-RODEO
7/24	Indianapolis, IN	Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre	On Sale	877-598-8703
7/25	Pittsburgh, PA	Post Gazette Pavillion	On Sale	877-598-8703
8/8	Houston, TX	Reliant Stadium	On Sale	713-629-3700

**All On-sale dates are subject to change.