

# STRAIT TALK

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*Photo by Art Streiber*

# STRAIT TALK

## Garrett Tonozzi and Dugan Kelly Win 2013 GSTRC

### *Garrett Tonozzi Becomes the Richest Single-Event Roper in History at The George Strait Team Roping Classic*

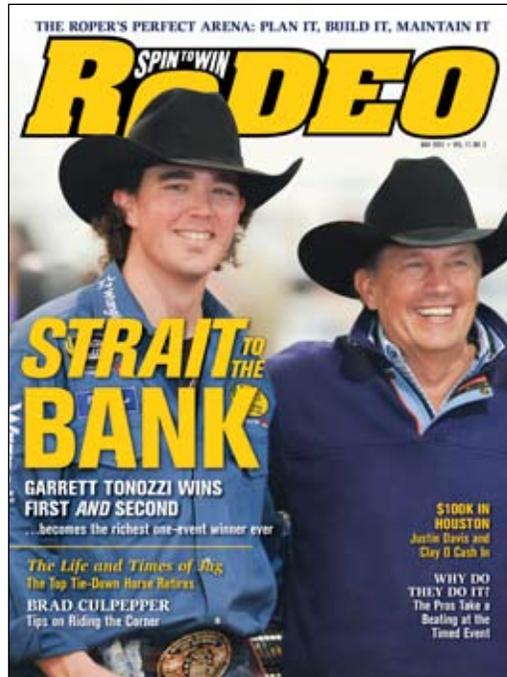
The 31st edition of the George Strait Team Roping Classic was the biggest in the event's history, with 685 teams plunking down \$500 per man for the chance to run at \$260,000 in cash plus two Chevy trucks and two Bruton trailers. Among the entrants were has-beens, never-weres and an inordinate amount of gonna-bes. But, as usual, it was household roping names coming out on top.

Garrett Tonozzi, in fact, came out not only on top, but in second place, too. Heading for Dugan Kelly, they roped three steers in 15.58 seconds to win \$131,060 each. Then, he and York Gill roped three in 16.41 to win \$52,425. That brought Tonozzi's total to a whopping \$183,485. Not to mention a brand new Chevy Truck, Bruton Trailer and all kinds of other plunder.

The GSTRC is a two-day event. On day one, teams are split into 10 rotations and the top five in each rotation on two head advance to the final-day with clean slates for a winner-take-all three-header. Ropers can enter three times and seven men made it out of the rotation on two: Nick Sartain, Clay Tryan, Justin Yost, Jade Corkill, Garrett Tonozzi, Paul Eaves, and Jake Long. Interestingly only two of those men ended up placing in the average once the dust settled.

On the final day, the San Antonio Rose Palace is packed to the rafters with team roping and George Strait fans. Strait himself did not rope, but his fans weren't disappointed as he rode in to the arena to introduce the

top 50 teams, welcome the fans and take a lap, handing out high fives to fans. As the roping unfolds, the first two rounds feel like



an opening act. For third go, the ropers are arranged by time and the drama rises until the top 20 teams when the building is buzzing with excitement. Ropers are perched on every fence rail and fans are literally on their feet.

After the first two steers on the final day,

things shaped up eerily similarly to the 2012 edition. That year, Clay Tryan and Patrick Smith were the fast back and Tonozzi and Kelly were second high team back. Back then, Kelly legged up (they still finished 7th) while Tryan and Smith won it all.

This year, Tonozzi had the sixth high call back with York Gill and the fifth with Kelly. Tryan and Smith were high team again.

Despite larger cattle on the first day (and predicted slower times) the roping was plenty fast and sped up considerably starting with the 15th high team back when Tyler Magnus and Mickey Gomez stopped the clock in 4.86 seconds. The next team, Aaron Tsinigine and Cesar de la Cruz went 4.61 and shot to the top of a tightly packed top 15. The next three teams went out of the average.

"Everybody was trying to be aggressive," Tonozzi said. "A lot of heelers were hazing quite a bit today because it got so fast." Some headers missed trying to be aggressive and some ran out of room on the left fence leaving heelers to slip legs.

The next clean, fast run came from Lance Brooks and Kyle Lockett, who stopped the clock in 5.25 and took over the lead in the average. After Dustin Bird and Paul Eaves turned in a no time, Levi Simpson and Matt Garza got a flag n 5.66 to move to second in the average. Next up was

*Continued on following page...*

# Garrett Tonozzi and Dugan Kelly Win 2013 GSTRC

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Tonozzi and Gill, who went 5.48 and took over the average lead.

The building was on edge with every clean run taking over the average lead, however, after Tonozzi's first run, fans had a chance to catch their breath as Tonozzi had to get his rope off the steer and ride up the arena for his next steer.

While prodded to explain his mindset as he made the trip back up the arena, in his view, it was simple: "It's a great feeling, because me and York were already winning it," he said. "It was just a blessing to have two call-backs that high. Actually, my main concern was my rope. I had left an extra rope with Spencer Mitchell and I was wondering if I should switch or not. I swung the one I used first a few times going up the arena and it didn't feel great at first, but by the time I got to the box it felt just as good as it had with York." So that's the rope he stuck with.

As Kelly waited in the box for his header, he considered his strategy.

"I needed to be able to put the pressure on them," he said.

Tonozzi got out and Kelly snared his steer to stop the clock in 4.87 and they shot to the lead by .83.

Then, all they had to do was wait. A combined 19 gold buckles, however, remained among the top four teams.

Speed Williams, as the fourth high call, waved it off for Travis Graves. Then a couple of young-guns: Clay Smith and Will Woodfin took every penalty on a run that would have sent them to the top of the leader board. Second high call, Keven Daniel, missed for Rich Skelton. The high team back, Clay Tryan and Patrick Smith, needed to stop the clock in 5.54 or faster for the win. Instead, Smith slipped a leg and their 4.91 turned into a 9.91. Their time—even with the leg—let them finish 7th in the average and basically flipped the script from a year ago when Kelly legged and Tryan and Smith won.

Tonozzi's first- and second-place finish was historic in one way: \$183,485 being the most money a team roper has

won at one roping ever, but not unprecedented. In 2008, Travis Tryan finished first and second to net \$134,785. The very next year, Jade Corkill finished first, second and sixth to earn \$152,193. The header he won it with, Chad Masters, finished first and fourth.

"This is a life-changer for me," Tonozzi said in the midst of back slaps and congratulatory texts and calls. "I've never had any kind of money like this. I'm just really excited for the rest of the year. I'm still kind of in shock."

Kelly was just as overwhelmed. It was just last year that he returned the rodeo trail after a seven-year hiatus. Ironically, many of the waypoints on his return to professional rodeo revolve around the GSTRC and his horse Circle Back. After roping at the Strait in 2009 on a promising young sorrel, he headed home, where he was building pens and an arena. He turned the horse, Circle Back, out. The horse showed a lot of promise, and at the time being fully dedicated to his rodeo retirement, Kelly was planning to get the horse just a little further along and sell him.

While working on a welder to fix a piece of sucker rod sticking out in Circle Back's pen, he heard a loud bang that would eventually change all his plans. Circle Back had run that very piece of sucker rod five feet into his chest. The full story of his recovery is in the April 2012 SWR, but after fighting infection and basically re-teaching the horse to walk, Kelly was finally able to saddle him up for his return to ProRodeo last year. By then, he was too invested in the horse to ever sell him, and knew this could be the horse to help him realize unfulfilled roping dreams. The return began in earnest at the Strait in 2012 and he went on to qualify for his first NFR in eight years.

"I took 7 years off and the horse I won on today was the reason I wanted to rodeo," Kelly said. "I didn't get a chance to ride him a whole lot last year because he was sore in and out. I got to ride him these last couple weeks, and it sure was nice."

As he explained, the hardships of three years bubbled to the surface and Kelly choked up trying to describe the meaning of the win.

"It sure takes the pressure off. I've been under the gun the last year and a half," Kelly said. "This helps. This thing changes your life. It's changing mine right now. I never got to meet George Strait, so this is a great way to meet him. We thank him for that. It gives us an opportunity and one or two teams have a chance to really get ahead and make a living doing what they love."

The day, however, belonged to Tonozzi. Officially, he becomes the team roper to have won of the most money at a single event in the history of the sport.

"I've thought about it," he said a week after the roping. "That's the highest paying roping we've ever had, so I guess I've got to just say thanks to George for letting us rope at that kind of money. I never thought I could rope at that much at one roping. To actually win that much doing what I love is an amazing feeling."



# King George Rides Away From The Houston Rodeo

*Houston Chronicle*

RodeoHouston isn't the reason George Strait is a superstar. He can thank his aw-shucks demeanor, pure country voice and sturdy catalog for that. But the annual event certainly helped put him on a legendary path.

Strait made his 21st appearance Sunday night to close out RodeoHouston with a concert-only appearance. No bulls. No barrel racing. No mutton bustin'. Just Strait country. It's part of his

farewell The Cowboy Rides Away Tour.

"Seems like yesterday it was 1983 over there in the old Astrodome. Lucky for me, Eddie Rabbit got sick," Strait quipped.

That auspicious '83 debut helped establish Strait as a musical force. His 2002 performance closed out RodeoHouston in the Astrodome and holds the venue attendance record. He's one of five entertainers to have performed in front of more than 1 million RodeoHouston fans, and Sunday's

show drew a whopping 80,020 folks, including Pat Green and Kings of Leon bassist Jared Followill. That breaks both the Reliant Stadium and RodeoHouston paid attendance records. (This year's Go Tejano Day show, featuring Julion Alvarez and Los Invasores de Nuevo Leon, still holds the No. 1 one spot at 75,305 for a performance including rodeo action.)

Earlier in the day, Strait was honored with a r  
(Continued on page 6)

# George Strait Goes Out on a High Note at the New Orleans Arena

By Keith Spera, *NOLA.com  
The Times-Picayune*

George Strait should retire more often. An adoring capacity crowd at a sold-out New Orleans Arena on Saturday welcomed the King of Country for the second-to-last stop on the 2013 leg of his Cowboy Rides Away farewell tour. At age 60, having won every major award in country music, amassed nearly 60 No. 1 hits, and headlined arenas and stadiums for nearly 30 years, he has announced his retirement from touring.

Strait is the AC/DC of country music: He does essentially one thing, but does it very well. When you know you'll be doing that same thing, in the same arenas, next year, maybe you play one kind of show. But when you know you won't, maybe you work just little harder, and savor the moments a little more intensely.

That seemed to be Strait's status on Saturday. The blueprint of the show was similar to his previous visit to the arena three years ago. He wore the same stage uniform – black cowboy hat, button-down shirt, Wranglers, boots, belt buckle – as always. He once again performed in the round, ambling from one corner of the stage to the next after every couple songs. He once again brought along a potent female singer as his special guest; last time, it was Reba McEntire, this time, Martina McBride.

But Strait on Saturday was more animated

and engaged, by far, than any of the other half-dozen times I've seen him over the past 25 years. "Animated," when referring to Strait, is relative. For him, wagging a finger to illustrate a lyric is the equivalent of stage-diving. He also told stories, tapped his heart in gratitude, flapped his arms to encourage an already thunderous ovation, and growled, grimaced and grinned through a powerhouse "Milk Cow Blues." It was a hoot to see him having so much fun.

Over a generous two hours and 20 minutes, Strait sang around 30 songs. He crisscrossed his entire career, from "Blame It On Mexico" and other favorites from his 1981 debut album, to his new single, "Give It All We Got Tonight."

The nine musicians and two singers of his Ace In the Hole band dressed them up or dialed them down, from the dual fiddles in "80 Proof Bottle of Tear Stopper" to the lyrical pedal steel in "All My Ex's Live in Texas." They could swing and stomp.

Strait, within his limited range, is an incredibly expressive vocalist, evoking distinct places and moments. He delivered "Marina del Rey" with all its requisite nuance. So, too, "The Chair." He convincingly sold the story of a rodeo rider as a quintessentially American-by-way-of-Texas tale in "Amarillo by Morning." He is a proud Texan who, in keeping with his reserved nature, prefers to sing, rather than shout, about the place.

He kicked up his boot heels – again, relatively speaking – for a big "Heartland," from the soundtrack of his 1992 film "Pure Country." He and the band were similarly invigorated on "River of Love" and a sassy "Love's Gonna Make It Alright."

In a nod to tradition, McBride – whose own set concluded with an enormous ovation -- returned to join Strait on a duet of not only the Johnny and June Carter Cash standard "Jackson," but the George Jones and Tammy Wynette favorite "Golden Ring." He wrapped the regular set with "Troubadour," from 2008, and "Unwound," another first-album favorite.

In the encore, the band revved up "Same Kind of Crazy," from his 2009 release "Twang," before waltzing 'round the dance-hall dance floor one more time with "All My Ex's Live in Texas." The band rendered Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" as a relay race, with soloists handing off to one another.

The final song, "The Cowboy Rides Away," provided this ostensibly farewell tour with its title. But Strait also left himself a little wiggle room. More than once, he said something along the lines of, "Since this is our last time in New Orleans...maybe."

When the ride is going so smoothly, it's hard to ride away.

# Strait Gave Emotionally Charged Farewell to Fans at Bi-Lo Center

By Dan Armonaitis *Spartanburg Journal-Herald Escape*

GREENVILLE — If only all goodbyes were as uplifting as the one George Strait shared with thousands of country music fans last Friday night.

During what is expected to be his final Upstate concert, Strait — who recently announced that his *The Cowboy Rides Away* tour will be the last major outing of his legendary career — gave an emotionally-charged performance at the Bi-Lo Center that was more of a rousing celebration than a tearful farewell.

Of course, that's not to say the proceedings were completely void of nostalgia and sentimentality. Indeed, some of the best moments were when the Texas native pulled up a stool and reminisced about his early days in Nashville and spoke appreciatively of the help he got from such songwriters as Dean Dillon and Darryl Staedler, whose songs he often recorded.

It was during this stretch of the concert that Strait sandwiched early 1980s hits such as "Marina Del Rey" and "A Fire I Can't Put Out" with an assortment of deep album cuts from the same period, including "Blame It On Mexico," "Her Goodbye Hit Me in the Heart," "80 Proof Bottle of Tear Stopper" and "Honky Tonky Crazy."

Not one song seemed too obscure for most of those in attendance, as they gleefully sang along with hits and non-hits alike.

Performing "in the round" on a stage set up in the middle of the arena, Strait delivered a couple of tunes, on a rotating basis, from each of four vantage points throughout the night.

After making his way on stage amid thunderous applause, Strait acknowledged his admirers with a few head nods and smiles before going into "Here for a Good Time," a No. 1 hit from 2011, and following it with "Oceanfront Property," a classic chart-topper from 1986.

Selections ranged from the playful ("Check Yes or No" and "How 'Bout Them Cow-

girls") to the plaintive ("I Saw God Today" and "Drinkin' Man").

Decked out in a contemporary western shirt and tight-fitting Wrangler jeans while also wearing a black cowboy hat and boots, Strait was his usual no-frills self on stage. Unlike most modern country acts, whose arena shows are filled with rock-like strobe lights and pyrotechnics, Strait and his 11-piece *Ace in the Hole Band* let their music serve as the primary source of entertainment.

For nearly two hours, Strait and company delighted the audience with a wide-ranging assortment of honky-tonk and neo-traditionalist favorites.

About halfway through the show, Strait brought up the name of former *Due West* resident Jim Lauderdale, who wrote some of Strait's biggest hits in the 1990s and 2000s.

Strait's voice was particularly impressive during "The King of Broken Hearts," which he followed with the hi-octane "Where the Sidewalk Ends." Both songs were penned by Lauderdale and included in the film, "Pure Country," in which Strait starred as a fictional country singer named Dusty Chandler.

A little later, Strait and a representative for the Military Warriors Support Foundation presented an Iraq War veteran and his wife with a ceremonial key to a new house donated via the Homes 4 Wounded Heroes program, at which point chants of "U.S.A.! U.S.A.!" echoed through the rafters.

Strait then slyly launched into his 2006 No. 1 hit, "Give It Away," which he followed with a sparkling rendition of a Jerry Lee Lewis chestnut, "Middle Age Crazy," and his own iconic 1983 hit "Amarillo by Morning."

After performing his latest chart-climbing hit, "Give It All We Got Tonight," Strait offered a career-reflective ode to his fans called "I'll Always Remember You" and wrapped things up with his 2008 hit, "Troubadour," and his first hit single from 1981, "Unwound."

Having exited the stage to near-deafening applause from the crowd, Strait and his band mates returned moments later for four more

songs. "Some Kind of Crazy" was followed by his Western swing classic "All My Ex's Live in Texas" and a rollicking rendition of Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues."

Then, the night ended appropriately with Strait's 1985 hit, "The Cowboy Rides Away."

Martina McBride was scheduled as the opening act, but as concertgoers entered the venue, they were informed that the country music superstar had fallen ill and would not perform.

So, it was a bit of surprise to see McBride take the stage. She immediately let the crowd know that she would only perform for a short while and promised to make it up to them at another time.

Even though she sounded better than most vocalists do at their peak, it was obvious that McBride was struggling to get through the four songs she sang. At various points, starting with her opening selection, "Wild Angels," McBride held her microphone out to the audience and asked for their help.

After finishing "The Way That I Am," she seemed genuinely apologetic about the unforeseen circumstance. "This has only happened once before in my whole career," McBride said of not being able to perform her entire set.

But, to her credit, she soldiered on for two more songs, even playing harmonica on "Love's the Only House" before closing with "This One's for the Girls."

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# George Strait's Record Setting Goodbye

By Ryan Snyder ....Yes Weekly...  
Greensboro, NC

It had been precisely five years and a week since attendance at a Greensboro Coliseum concert had cracked 20,000 when Bon Jovi and Daughtry brought in a Top 5 audience, but then a cowboy rode into town.

A crowd of 20,910 came out to see what might be George Strait's last visit to Greensboro during his supposed farewell tour *A Cowboy Rides Away* on Saturday night. His two-hour, 29-song performance edged out a smoky set by Jimmy Buffett & the Coral Reefer Band on April 20, 2002, and fell just short of the Dixie Chicks' peak-Bush hysteria attendance in May 2003. The tour is not entirely a retirement, per se. Strait says he will continue to record, with his next album due in May, along with the occasional one-off. There will be no more long runs after this one, he insists, but if anything, the strength of his performance suggested that Strait might be hanging up his spurs a little too soon.

Supported on this final run by Martina McBride, whose voice remains as crystalline as his is oaky, Strait announced his intentions immediately with "Here for a Good Time." Unlike his stoic stop here in 2010, Strait's warm smile was as much a part of his ensemble and his dark felt Stetson. His choice of an in-the-round

stage setup supported the record-setting crowd (Bieber would have likely shattered this number if not for his proscenium configuration), but what it wasn't its most significant quality. The stage's only adornment was his 11-piece *Ace In the Hole* Band and four microphones, one facing each side of the coliseum that received clock-work visits, a modest aesthetic that's essentially gone from arena-sized country shows and likely will be entirely once Strait is off the road.

His fondness of traditionalism isn't only reflected in production values; Strait always acknowledges his masters. In 2010, he showed it through a cover of Merle Haggard's "Seashores of Old Mexico" and on Saturday, he tipped his hat to Johnny Cash through a duet with McBride on "Jackson" and an encore of "Folsom Prison Blues." They were islands in a sea of hits though, and it's hard to fathom the scope until you look at what he didn't play. His luminary status was acknowledged by the pre-show video exaltations recorded by the likes of Blake Shelton, Reba McEntire, Alan Jackson, Taylor Swift, Jamey Johnson and at least dozen others.

Other than one rather momentous pause, continuity was a hallmark of Strait's performance, though he did come armed with stories of his coming up, including one about Billy Bob's Texas, which was name-checked in his opener. He

welcomed some unexpected guests after "River of Love," namely a retired lieutenant general with a belt buckle as big as Texas itself and the demeanor of a game-show host, who then introduced Triad Army veteran Ryan Hamilton and his wife, Cherie, who were bestowed with the keys to a new home and other amenities as a part of the Homes 4 Wounded Heroes that Strait's tour is supporting.

It was a beautiful and touching gesture, even if the presentation felt somewhat like a framing exercise. The general, Leroy Cisco, told of Hamilton's experience in an IED blast, followed vociferously by, "But he's okay!" Cosmetically, maybe. There were no evident injuries, but his bio spoke of a traumatic brain injury, progressive nerve damage, complex regional pain syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder — not exactly in line with the civilian definition of "okay," but nothing a new house, a flat-screen TV from WalMart, groceries for a year, and 20,000-plus people chanting "USA!" can't fix.

Certainly, the scene was followed by Strait's biggest hit, "Give It Away," because the old cowboy doesn't bother with deep subtlety. He's the embodiment of the idiom, "What you see is what you get," so maybe when he closed his show with "The Cowboy Rides Away," he might just mean it.

## Strait Releases 40th Album *On Longstanding Label Home MCA Records - Nashville*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — George Strait has released *Love Is Everything*, his 40th album on MCA Records Nashville and is available at all physical and digital retailers. *Love Is Everything* features Strait's current hit "Give It All We Got Tonight" written by Mark Bright, Tim James and Phil O'Donnell. The song is poised to be the country patriarch's 60th career No. 1, an accomplishment no artist except the 60-year old Strait has come closing to achieving.

For *Love Is Everything*, Strait again joined forces with longtime friend and producer Tony Brown. Providing a more personal feel, this album holds four songs written or co-written by Strait with son Bubba and legendary songwriter Dean Dillon.

"I'm not sure they'll learn anything about me they don't already know," Strait says with a laugh. "I've been doing this a long time and 40 is a lot of records!" He continues, "This is one of my best in a long time and I hope they like

it."

In addition, the album features songs penned by Al Anderson, Casey Beathard, L. Russell Brown, Roger Creager, Tom Douglas, Wyatt Earp, Keith Gattis, Monty Holmes, Kyle Jacobs, Donny Kees, Bill Kenner, Pat McLaughlin, Randy Montana, Jeff Silvey and Chris Stapleton.

After over 30 years in the business, Strait still looks forward to going in the studio and enjoys it more than ever. Many of the players on the album have been working with Strait in the studio throughout much of his career.

Strait kicked off 2013 in high gear for the first leg of his *The Cowboy Rides Away* Tour. The tour has set attendance records in a number of the 20 markets thus far with only the June 1 tour stop remaining in San Antonio's Alamodome. Known as the "House they built for George," the Alamodome sold out within an astounding six minutes of going on sale. Dates

for the second leg of the tour will be announced later this year.

For more information on Strait, *Love Is Everything*, *The Cowboy Rides Away* Tour and more, visit [www.GeorgeStrait.com](http://www.GeorgeStrait.com). A photo of the new CD is on page 11 with Anita's Notes.

### Love Is Everything Track listing:

1. I Got A Car
2. Give It All We Got Tonight
3. Blue Melodies
4. I Just Can't Go On Dying Like This
5. I Thought I Heard My Heart Sing
6. That's What Breaking Hearts Do
7. When Love Comes Around Again
8. The Night Is Young
9. Sittin' On The Fence
10. I Believe
11. Love Is Everything
12. You Don't Know What You're Missing
13. When The Credits Roll

# The Cowboy Rides Away

## King of Country George Strait Bids Farewell

By Shondiin Silversmith.. Navajo Times...

Fans of George Strait left the Pit with heavy hearts as the King of Country, who captured the hearts of many Navajos, bid farewell on April 5 in Albuquerque.

This was the fifth to the last show of the "George Strait: The Cowboy Rides Away" tour for 2013.

"It felt like a memorial," said Mary Cheresposy, a long-time fan. "It's sad because it feels like he's going away forever."

It did seem like such as giant screens on stage showed highlights of Strait's career since 1981, with some of the big names in country music providing commentary.

"I'm so sad I want to cry," Cheresposy said

adding that she's been to seven of his shows.

When asked what she would miss the most about him she smiled before saying, "his face and voice."

As the King of Country stepped onto the stage in a pair of cowboy boots, Cowboy Cut Wranglers, a black cowboy hat and plaid shirt, fans rose to their feet as their cheers roared throughout the University of New Mexico arena.

A total of 13,630 tickets were sold for Strait's final stop in Albuquerque, according to Associate Athletic Director for UNM Scott Dotson.

Strait greeted fans with a smile and opened his show with, "Here for a Good Time," also the title of his 2011 album. Fans rose to their feet as he sang and strummed through his first song.

They let out loud screams that echoed throughout the arena, which prompted Strait to respond: "Now I remember why I like Albuquerque."

"They don't call him King George for nothing," said Crownpoint, N.M. native Andrea Jo Martin. "He played a lot of his old songs, that was just George right there."

In Strait's music career, which spans across three decades, he has racked up the most No. 1 singles of any artist in history. He has 59 No. 1 hits to date inclusive of all charts. He has sold nearly 69 million records in his career, earned 33 different platinum or multi-platinum albums, and ranks third in all genres behind The Beatles and Elvis Presley. He was also inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2006.

# King George Rides Away

## From Houston Rodeo

*Continued from page 3...*

dedication ceremony on the Star Trail of Fame and elevated him to a platinum honoree. The George Strait Scholarship was also announced.

Onstage, all he needed was a black cowboy hat, a guitar and that million-dollar smile. Seats surrounded the "lazy man's" rotating stage, and couples waltzed across the floor and in the aisles.

A trio of tunes — "Here for a Good Time," "Ocean Front Property," "Check Yes or No. — set the toe-tapping mood. Strait, as most folks know, isn't a flashy performer. But he was chatty between songs and had a twinkle in his eye.

"Drinkin' Man" was a somber highlight, and the feel-good "Love's Gonna Make it Alright" quickly brought things back up. Opener Martina McBride joined Strait classic-country duets "Jackson" and "Golden Ring," and they exuded a nice chemistry.

Strait spent a good portion of the show taking fans chronologically through his discography, a master class in country music. He went all the way back to 1981 debut album "Strait Country" for "Blame It On Mexico" and "Her Goodbye Hit Me in the Heart."

The setlist cycled through "80 Proof Bottle of Tear Stopper," "Honky Tonk Crazy," Marina Del Rey" and "A Fire I Can't Put Out." Strait moved

effortlessly from fiery to laid-back cool. No one does it quite like him.

The cheers grew louder as the evening progressed, and the energy surged through the stadium as he tore through "The King of Broken Hearts" and "Where the Sidewalk Ends." By the time he mosed on up to "The Chair" much of the crowd was on its feet (and stayed there).

Recent chart-topper "Give It Away" made the most of Strait's commanding vocals, and some of the loudest cheers greeted "Amarillo By Morning." Even current single "Give It All We Got Tonight" was greeted like a classic.

His last run of pre-encore tunes, including "I'll Always Remember You" and "Troubadour," set a properly nostalgic tone. After a brief exit, Strait kicked up considerable dirt with "Same Kind Of Crazy," "All My Ex's Live in Texas" and a jangly cover of "Folsom Prison Blues."

"The last goodbye's the hardest one to say/ And this is where the cowboy rides away," Strait sang before he took his final bows. He was still flashing that smile but likely set more than a few cowgirls, and cowboys, weeping.

McBride opened with an abbreviated version of the set she's been peddling for several years. She opened with "When God Fearin' Women Get the Blues," closed with "Independence Day" and hit

glorious high notes in between.

"I'm the luckiest girl in the world. You know why? 'Cause I get to tour with George freakin' Strait," she said. "It does not suck."

Her clear, powerful voice echoed, literally, through the stadium on "Teenage Daughters," breast-cancer anthem "I'm Gonna Love You Through It" and power ballad "Anyway."

McBride has a tendency to go sentimental on record, but she's able to send a jolt of electricity through most any song onstage. She closed with "A Broken Wing," and much of the crowd was singing along.

The Strait show caps a season that hit record-breaking highs (Blake Shelton, Luke Bryan); boasted pop dazzle (Bruno Mars, Pitbull); and sometimes landed with a thud (Toby Keith, Brantley Gilbert).

There are carps, complaints and criticisms every year. (Who's he? Why her? More classic country! Bring back Tejano music!) But assembling a three-week run that appeals to so many demographics is no easy task. And lots of folks apparently still enjoy it. Total attendance this year was 2.5 million, another all-time record.

And everyone, Texan or otherwise, can agree on King George.





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|------|----------|---|--------------|--------|
|      | 120      | <b>FAN CLUB MEMBERSHIP</b> (Newsletter Sent Via E-Mail) - 1 YEAR<br>(All Fan Club Documents are emailed immediately ..... U.S.<br>following payment authorization)..... CANADA  | \$15<br>\$15 |        |
|      | 160      | <b>FAN CLUB RENEWAL</b> (Newsletter Sent Via E-Mail) - 1 YEAR ..... U.S.<br>(All Fan Club Documents are emailed immediately following payment authorization)..... CANADA  | \$15<br>\$15 |        |
|      | 210      | <b>"HRE 4 A GD TME" BUMPER STICKER</b> (Black, Red and White 8.75" x 4" Bumper Sticker featuring a license plate graphic design with large "HRE 4 A GD TME" lettering).....   | \$1.95       |        |
|      | 257      | <b>PHOTO MAGNET</b> (2"x2" Square Photo Magnet Featuring Cover Photo from George Strait's Album, "Here For A Good Time").....   | \$2.95       |        |
|      | 340      | <b>BELT BUCKLE</b> (Solid bronze buckle w/sterling silver and gold electroplated classic western design w/G.S. highlighted over a team roping scene. Each buckle will be NUMBERED and gift boxed. Size 4" x 3-1/2".).....   | \$119.95     |        |
|      | ☆☆☆ 543  | <b>PHOTO KEYCHAIN</b> (Double Sided Photo Keychain Features Amazing photos from George Strait's LP "Love Is Everything")..... <b>NEW</b>  | \$4.95       |        |
|      | 544      | <b>PHOTO KEYCHAIN</b> (Double Sided Photo Keychain Features George Strait's 2013-2014 "The Cowboy Rides Away" Tour Logo on one side with an Amazing G.S. Photo on the other side).....  | \$4.95       |        |
|      | ☆☆☆ 564  | <b>LICENSE TAG</b> (Manufactured with a process that allows photorealistic detail, our custom License Tag features a gorgeous photo of George Strait from his NEW LP "Love Is Everything." This plate is made from aluminum which makes it lightweight, durable and completely weatherproof. With pre-drilled holes for easy mounting, this plate measures approximately 6 inches by 12 inches and fits most standard license plate frames and holders)..... <b>NEW</b> | \$19.95      |        |
|      | ☆☆☆ 640  | <b>CALENDAR</b> (5 Page, 15 Month Calendar (April 2013-June 2014) with great looking full color photos of George Strait. It opens to an amazing 14" wide x 21" high, closed calendar dimensions are 14" x 10.5" - wonderful gift idea for every George Strait fan!)..... <b>NEW</b>   | \$12.95      |        |
|      | 650      | <b>SONGBOOK</b> (The Best of George Strait 2nd Edition, includes 34 of George's Greatest Hits for Piano, Vocal and Guitar).....   | \$17.95      |        |
|      | 663      | <b>THE BEST OF GEORGE STRAIT</b> (Songbook).....  | \$14.95      |        |
|      | 970DVD   | <b>30TH ANNUAL GEORGE STRAIT TEAM ROPING DVD</b> (2012).....  | \$29.95      |        |
|      | 8888DVD  | <b>'FOR THE LAST TIME' - LIVE FROM THE ASTRODOME DVD</b> (Recorded at the closing night of the Houston Livestock show and Rodeo on March 3, 2002 - Available in DVD only).....  | \$29.95      |        |
|      | 1012     | <b>SHOT GLASS</b> (1.75 oz. Tapered Shot Glass, Features a SHARP Black Logo Celebrating George Strait's 2013-2014 "The Cowboy Rides Away" Tour, part of our GS Barware Collection, specially designed to complement our Wine Glass (1014) and Old Fashioned Glass (1013)).....  | \$8.95       |        |
|      | 1013     | <b>OLD FASHIONED GLASS</b> (11 oz. Glass, Features a SHARP Black Logo Celebrating George Strait's 2013-2014 "The Cowboy Rides Away" Tour, part of our GS Barware Collection, specially designed to complement our Wine Glass (1014) and Shot Glass (1012)).....   | \$9.95       |        |
|      | 1014     | <b>WINE GLASS</b> (10 oz. Goblet, Classic Wine Shape Crafted with Pulled Stem and Fire-polished Rim, Features a SHARP Black Logo Celebrating George Strait's 2013-2014 "The Cowboy Rides Away" Tour, part of our GS Barware Collection, specially designed to complement our Shot Glass (1012) and Old Fashioned Glass (1013)).....   | \$9.95       |        |
|      | 1052     | <b>TUMBLER (DOUBLE WALL ACRYLIC)</b> (Our Blue, 16 oz. Acrylic Tumbler with "George Strait King Of Country" logo is perfect for your favorite hot or cold drinks. It has insulated double wall construction which helps prevent sweating and is made with durable BPA-Free plastic material. It has a screw-on cap which prevents unnecessary spills and a reusable matching straw is included. Top rack dishwasher safe).....  | \$13.95      |        |
|      | ☆☆☆ 1053 | <b>STADIUM CUP</b> (2013 Tour) (Black Matte Finish Stadium Cup with HUGE 32 oz. capacity, beautiful photo design with three great concert photos and George on horseback across front of cup, back of cup has large "The Cowboy Rides Away" tour logo, made with durable BPA-FREE plastic material, top rack dishwasher safe)..... <b>NEW</b>   | \$5.00       |        |
|      | 1085     | <b>TOTE BAG</b> (Our 10 oz. 100% Cotton Canvas Tote Bag With 22" Red Webbing Handles Features A Large Tone-On-Tone G.S. Signature Logo In Red And White. Perfect For Travel, Shopping, Beach, School Or Knitting! Dimensions: 15" x 14.5" x 3" Gusset Bottom).....  | \$10.95      |        |
|      | 1142     | <b>LATTE MUG</b> (Simple, Oversized Styling For Those Luscious Lattes, Comfortable To Hold With A 16 oz. Capacity, Features A SHARP Black Logo Celebrating George Strait's 2013-2014 "The Cowboy Rides Away" Tour On Both Sides Of The Mug. A Dye Sublimation Manufacturing Process Ensures That The Double-sided Image Stays Brilliant For The Life Of The Mug. Perfect For Gift Giving!).....   | \$11.95      |        |
|      | ☆☆☆ 1145 | <b>WHITE PHOTO COFFEE MUG</b> (This Gorgeous 11 oz. White Ceramic Coffee Mug features a wonderful photo of George Strait and logo from his New LP "Love Is Everything." A dye sublimation manufacturing process ensures that the double-sided image stays brilliant and colorful for the life of the mug. Perfect for gift giving!)..... <b>NEW</b>   | \$12.95      |        |

| QTY.  | MODEL    | ITEM DESCRIPTION   | COST         | AMOUNT |
|-------|----------|--|--------------|--------|
| _____ | ☆☆☆ 2750 | <b>BROWN CAMOUFLAGE CAP</b> (Brown Rip Stop and Realtree Max-1 HD Camouflage Cap, custom embroidered with round GS logo on front and "Cowboy Ride Away" on back, self fabric back strap with slide buckle, ONE SIZE FITS MOST)..... <b>NEW</b>   | \$18.95      | _____  |
| _____ | ☆☆☆ 2760 | <b>COPPER/BROWN MESH CAP</b> (The Classic Look of Mesh is Back! The simple retro styling of a mesh back and a cotton twill front combine for the best of both old and new, copper crown and bill with contrasting brown mesh back, custom embroidered G.S. star logo on crown, "COWBOY RIDES AWAY" embroidered patch across back, self fabric back strap with slide buckle, ONE SIZE FITS MOST)..... <b>NEW</b>  | \$18.95      | _____  |
| _____ | ☆☆☆ 2765 | <b>LADIES PINK CAMOUFLAGE PATCH CAP</b> (Ladies "Go Camo" in our pink and camouflage cap, custom embroidered round patch with "GS" logo on front and "Cowboy Rides Away" on back, self fabric back strap with slide buckle, ONE SIZE FITS MOST)..... <b>NEW</b>  | \$18.95      | _____  |
| _____ | ☆☆☆ 2770 | <b>LADIES PAINTER'S CAP</b> (Lightweight, stylish, and Oh-So-80's is our NEW grey cotton denim ladies painter's cap, custom puff embroidered pink "Strait Girl" logo on front with "Cowboy Rides Away" on back, contrast white double needle stitching, fabric velcro backstrap, ONE SIZE FITS MOST)..... <b>NEW</b>   | \$18.95      | _____  |
| _____ | ☆☆☆ 4335 | <b>NIGHTSHIRT</b> (Hot Pink) (Ladies Hot Pink Short Sleeve V-Neck Nightshirt, cozy with the silky smoothness of 100% combed ring spun cotton jersey knit. Features the "Love Is Everything" shimmer logo on front and "GEORGE STRAIT" across the back)..... ONE SIZE FITS MOST <b>NEW</b>  | \$29.95      | _____  |
| _____ | ☆☆☆ 4350 | <b>TEXAS CREST T-SHIRT</b> (Charcoal Adult UNISEX 100% Preshrunk Cotton Short Sleeve T-Shirt, features a GS Texas Crest Heritage graphic photo guitar design on front chest, back of shirt celebrates George Strait's 2013 "The Cowboy Rides Away" Tour with an amazing vintage G.S. silhouette horseback design and Tour Cities logo)..... Check Size: M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ <b>NEW</b>  | \$18.95      | _____  |
| _____ | ☆☆☆ 4355 | <b>STARBURST PHOTO T-SHIRT</b> (Chocolate Brown Adult UNISEX 100% Preshrunk Cotton Short Sleeve T-Shirt, features a handsome GS concert photo starburst design with "The Cowboy Rides Away" logo on front chest, back of shirt celebrates George Strait's 2013 "The Cowboy Rides Away" Tour with a starburst Tour Cities logo)..... Check Size: M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ <b>NEW</b>  | \$18.95      | _____  |
| _____ | ☆☆☆ 4360 | <b>TRUCK T-SHIRT</b> (Brown Adult UNISEX 100% Preshrunk Cotton Short Sleeve T-Shirt, features a GS Heritage graphic "The Cowboy Rides Away" design on front chest, back of shirt celebrates George Strait's 2013 "The Cowboy Rides Away" Tour with a Vintage G.S. truck design and Tour Cities logo)..... Check Size: M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ <b>NEW</b>  | \$18.95      | _____  |
| _____ | ☆☆☆ 8940 | <b>LADIES CHARCOAL ZIP-UP HOODED SWEATSHIRT</b> (This Stylish and Comfortable Hoodie is Perfect for All Day Wear, 100% California fleece cotton, combed for softness and comfort, Raglan sleeves, stretchy comfortably fitted double-stitched cuffs and waistband with a kangaroo pocket, custom applique pink G.S. felt signature on full chest with a pink "The Cowboy Rides Away" logo down left sleeve)..... Check Size: M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ <b>NEW</b> | \$49.95      | _____  |
| _____ | ☆☆☆ 8945 | <b>SADDLE BROWN HOODIE</b> (Saddle Brown UNISEX Hooded Sweatshirt, cozy heavy blend fabric that's as soft and comfy as it is durable and good-looking, cut to fit both men and women, jersey lined hood with matching drawstring front kangaroo pocket, ribbed cuffs and waistband, large round G.S. applique logo on front chest and "Cowboy Rides Away" imprint down left sleeve)..... Check Size: M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ <b>NEW</b>                         | \$49.95      | _____  |
| _____ |          | <b>GEORGE STRAIT CDs</b>   | <b>PRICE</b> |        |
| _____ | 937      | TROUBADOUR .....   | \$16.....    | _____  |

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

\*\*\*\* PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY      CUSTOMER #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

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| 20.01 - 30.00 = \$12.75 | 75.00 - 100.00 = \$19.00 |
| 30.01 - 50.00 = \$15.00 | Over 101.01 = \$22.50    |

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We will credit your original payment method less shipping and handling charges. There is a 30 day return policy on all merchandise.

# Anita's Notes

Welcome to the Summer issue of Strait Talk. This is the time of year when George and his Ace in the Hold Band wrap up their tour. George has been very busy during the first half of the year with his "Cowboy Rides Away Tour", working on his new CD, running the George Strait Team Roping Classic and other projects he has an interest in. The 2013 tour has one show remaining at the sold-out Alamodome in San Antonio, TX on June 1st. For those of you who have a Lucky Ticket, enjoy the show. We know you will have an amazing time. We hope to have photos for you in the next issue of Strait Talk.

As you can tell by the photos in the newsletter, this is our issue that reports on the 2013 George Strait Team Roping Classic. There are also many more photos available on the website at [www.georgestrait.com](http://www.georgestrait.com). Just click on the Photo/Video Gallery and then click on Photo Gallery to see them all. If you haven't been to the roping before you can get a great feel of what it is like. We hope you enjoy them. It is so nice to see GSFC members year after year. We notice that many members return with their children and grandchildren. What a wonderful tradition. Thanks to everyone who works so hard putting on the event. Thanks to all of our sponsors and vendors who make the event very special. We also would thank the great ropers from across the country for putting on such a great show.

By now you will have noticed that George's new CD "Love Is Everything" was released on May 14th and the reviews have been outstanding. George's first single from the new CD "Give It All We Got Tonight" is Top 10 at the writing of the newsletter and we hope it goes all the way to #1.

Did you watch the ACM Awards in April from the MGM Grand in Las Vegas? George was not up for any awards this year but the tribute to Dick Clark by George and Garth Brooks was a show stopper. George also performed his hit single on the show.

Have you attended a concert this year and

wish you would have bought some of the concert merchandise? If you weren't able to purchase it at the time you can find most of it in the George Strait General Store on our website. You will also find some items that are not carried on the tour. When ordering on-line, be sure to use your physical address as we ship by UPS and they cannot deliver to P. O. Boxes. We do ship to Canada, but recently have found a limited number of places that UPS does not deliver. Sorry for the inconvenience, but we cannot ship to those places. Also, please note that we no longer ship to overseas locations.

Have you noticed that your GSFC membership is about to expire or has? Please remember that we only have email memberships and renewals. Once your postal membership expires that is it. The only way to view Strait Talk will be online after your Printed membership expires. Please check with us and let us know if you have changed your email address. You can contact us at [customerservice@georgestraitfans.com](mailto:customerservice@georgestraitfans.com). Make sure that you also have your correct Username and Password and current email address. Tickets for the 2014 tour will go on sale later this year and we want to make sure you don't miss out on the announcements and ticket on-sale notifications. We suggest you get your Username and Password and put them in a safe place so you will know where they are when you need them. Fan Club members are sent an email announcement whenever tickets are about to go on sale telling you how and when you can order tickets. In most cases, Fan Club members receive an opportunity to purchase up to 4 tickets in advance of tickets sold to the general public.

We have also noticed that new members are expecting a fan club packet when they join. We do not send packets with our email memberships. All documents, including membership cards, photos, bio, and fact sheets are available for download when you order. Check the email you receive after joining or renew-

ing for the links to download those items. We are more than happy to resend documents that were not downloaded. Please send us an email to [customerservice@georgestraitfans.com](mailto:customerservice@georgestraitfans.com) if you have a problem.

Congratulations to Nancy Piechota of Golden, Colorado. She is the latest puzzle winner from the last issue of Strait Talk. Nancy, your package of goodies is on the way.

Thank you all for the gifts, cards and letters to George, Norma, Bubba and Family. You made their birthday very special.

Thanks to the folks at Spin to Win magazine for allowing us to reprint their story on the George Strait Team Roping Classic. We appreciate it. If you would like to subscribe to Spin to Win, you can do so at <https://secure.palm-coastd.com/pcd/eSv?iMagId=003BW&i4Ky=INW1>.

In closing the summer issue of Strait Talk, we thank you for your support of George Strait. May you and your family have a safe and enjoyable summer, play a little Strait music from his new CD and enjoy everything you have! We give thanks for all of our blessing and we also thank the Men and Women of the Armed Forces for their service to Our Country.

See You next time!



## ARE YOU MOVING?



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