
STRAIT MARK

Barnes and Lucero Outdeul Pogue and Bockius For George Strait Team Roping Classic Title

When the pressure is on, there is no one better on the front end of a steer than Jake Barnes. Barnes, a seven time World champion Header from Cave Creek, AZ and his healer, John Paul Lucero needed a .78 run with the last steer in the final go of the George Strait Team Roping Classic to win the title. With the anticipation running high on the final run of the day, Barnes and Lucero answered the call with time of 4.98 seconds to wrestle the crown away from Charles Pogue of Langling, OK and Britt Bockius of Claremont, OK. The title was worth more than \$50,000 in cash and prizes each to Barnes and Lucero. They walked away with \$8,605 each in cash plus 1999 Chevy min-cab duly trucks and 3 horse slant ruton trailers. Barnes and Lucero also added \$3,605 each to the earning by taking the second spot in Friday's first go. The winning time for the 3-head final round was a quick 15.56 seconds. Charles Pogue and Britt Bockius, fresh

from the recent win at the Bob Feist Invitational, earned \$7,010 each and beautiful George Strait Team Roping Classic saddles with their 3-head time of 16.36 seconds. Kyle Graham of Sims, TX and Todd Trammel of Milsap, TX earned \$5,965 each for their 3rd place time of 19.60 seconds. Fourth place money of \$4,910 each went to Joel Maker of Talaquah, OK and Todd Markham of Vanita, OK while Matt Tyler of Weatherford, TX and Bobby Harris of Gillette, WY won \$3,860 each for fifth place. Sixth place money of \$2,805 each went to Mark Simon of Socorro, NM and Martin Lucero of Villa Nueva, NM while seventh place earnings of \$1,755 each were paid out to Charles Pogue and Allen Back of Toltec, AZ. The eighth place award money of \$700 each went to Steve Purcella of Hereford, TX and Britt Bockius.

In the first go on Friday, July 9th, Glynn

Robinson and Ashley Swedenberg won \$4,360 for their time of 4.58 seconds. In addition to Barnes and Lucero, others earning money in the first go round were Mark Simon and Martin Lucero, \$2,860 each; Jason Tucker and Brad Culpepper, \$2,100 each; Joel Maker and Todd Markham, \$1,350 each and Nick Sartain and Andy Bolton, \$750 each.

Even with a new, deeper roping box and an 11 foot score, team ropers challenged the clock and stock before sold out audiences at both days' roping events that were held at the J.K. Northway Arena in Kingsville, TX. Three hundred and thirty four teams paid \$400 each to enter the Classic that ended up paying out more than \$200,000 in cash and prizes.

The weekend's activities culminated on Saturday night July 10th, as George Strait and his Ace In The Hole Band were joined by Asleep at the Wheel for a sold out concert before 5,200 rabid fans. 🎸

George Strait Will Have A New Christmas CD In September

MCA Records is scheduled to release George Strait's new Christmas CD in September. The album, recorded during April in Nashville, is expected to be available to record buyers on September 21st. The CD was co-produced by Tony Brown and George Strait.

The new project is "Merry Christmas Wherever You Are." It will include five additional Christmas songs and five new

titles. The traditional Christmas titles include "Jingle Bell Rock," "Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow," "The Christmas Song," "All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth" and "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer." The new Christmas titles will be "Merry Christmas (Wherever You Are)" by Jerry Laseter and Mack Vickery, "I Know What I Want For Christmas" by Dana Hunt and Charlie Black, "Santa's On

His Way" by David Anthony, "Old Time Christmas" by Aaron Barker and John Jarvis and "Noel Leon" by Mike Gieger, Woody Mullis and Ricky Ray Rector. Another cut that Strait Recorded, "Christmas Cookies" by Aaron Barker, will be on a special Christmas compilation package that will be sold only at Target stores during the Christmas season. 🎸

Strait To The Point: Country Music Fans Like George

Written by Hank Schaller, Oakland Press
Stetson hats such as the one that topped the head of John Chigas were out in force Saturday as 50,000 fans from Michigan, Ohio and Ontario descended on the Silverdome to pay homage to country music great George Strait. Chigas, a self-proclaimed cowboy from McKinney, said there's just something about Strait that convinced him to make the journey to Pontiac two years in a row. "He's got real catchy tunes," Chigas said. You may not like his music at first, but it grows on you. It grew on me enough that I was way up in the eighth row from the front a year ago."

Perhaps Sue Domin of Cleveland put it better. "I like the old true, bluesy roots type of country that he sings," said Domin, who was attending her fourth Strait concert after watching him perform a year ago in Columbus, Ohio. "He's not all rockabilly like a lot of bands are."

True-blue Strait fans such as Chigas, Domin and Michelle Greathouse, also of Cleveland, insist that not even fellow country music sensation Garth Brooks can hold a candle to their man.

"George is a Garth and a half," Greathouse said. "He's got a twang to his music that Garth just doesn't have."

That indescribable something Strait has is responsible for a box-office bonanza at the Silverdome two years in a row, said Greg Roberts, director of marketing at the stadium.

"We're going to have somewhere close to 50,000 fans here this year, and that's after attracting over 52,000 a year ago," he said. Besides coming to listen to down-home country music, Roberts said Strait fans so like to eat and drink.

"The average fan here today will spend between \$13 and \$14 each on food and beverages," he said. "That's nearly double what is spent at the typical Detroit Lions football game, which is \$7 or \$8 a head." At least part of that spending was going on in Straitland, out in the Silverdome parking lot, where fans were sipping Jack Daniels whiskey, gnawing on Pemmican beef Jerky and drinking Bud Light, all official products of the Nokia Presents the George Strait Country Music Festival.

John Itsell, marketing director for Cellar

Door Productions, the local promoter of the festival, believes the loyalty shown by Strait's fans is in large part due to the artist's loyalty to them.

"An artist like George Strait is very good to his fans," Itsell said. "Just look at this road show he put together. Everything he does is a first-class event."

Besides Strait, the other artists on the bill, which featured more than six hours of music, included Tim McGraw, Dixie Chicks, Jo Dee Messina, Kenny Chesney, Mark Wills and Asleep at the Wheel.

Pontiac Police Capt. Mark Barnett said police expected few problems from the massive crowd, based on last year.

"For an all-day event, this is a great one," Barnett said. "You put 50,000 people in one spot for nine or 10 hours, and you expect some trouble. But this is a pretty well-behaved bunch."

For longtime Strait fan Dan Ruzic, a retired letter carrier from Dearborn, the fact the crowd seemed to be having a good time was no surprise.

"George's music has got a good beat and it makes everyone feel good," Ruzic said. "Besides you can understand what he's singing. That's a big change from much of today's music."



At RFK, Giving Everything For Their Country

Forget about Garth and Shania. Five of the seven acts that performed at RFK Stadium Saturday currently have Top 10 albums on the country charts. But music wasn't the only reason the arena was packed with cheering and often screaming fans.

To judge by the number of women who spent much of the afternoon and night squealing their hearts out, attending the concert was akin to booking a room at the Hearthrob Hotel. Even Dixie Chicks lead singer Natalie Maines confessed that the best thing about being part of the tour was watching "George Strait and Tim McGraw walk away from you."

Following performances by Asleep at the Wheel and Mark Wills, the midafternoon performances kicked off with lively sets by Jo Dee Messina and Kenny Chesney. Chesney's show was a big crowd-pleaser, long on energy and short on emotion. A versatile singer, he performed his own hits, including a few custom tailored for the Washington audience, with the same ease that he brought to tunes associated with George Jones and Jimmy Buffett. Yet like a lot of country singers who lack a distinctive vocal personality, he was more apt to move your feet than stir your soul.

Messina was even more animated, moving across the stage like a redheaded tornado, constantly shifting direction and

packing plenty of vocal power. A lot of the songs she performed—the old ("Heads Carolina, Tails California") as well as the new ("Stand Beside Me")—were well suited to her spirited and sometimes defiant alto, and she punctuated the set by playing timbales on a crackling summertime arrangement of Paul Simon's "Late in the Evening."

In sharp contrast, Messina stilled the crowd by alluding to the student killings in Littleton, Colo., before singing the reflective ballad "Even God Must Get the Blues." Despite a few lulls created by mediocre tunes, Messina ended the set on a high note with her engaging hit "Bye, Bye."

The Dixie Chicks were never more appealing than when they briefly recalled their early association with the Birchmere in Alexandria with a rollicking string band version of "Roanoke." At this stage in the trio's quickly blossoming career, vocalist Maines, banjo-dobro player Emily Erwin and fiddler Martie Seidel are still performing an uneven collection of cover tunes, ranging from a forgettable version of Dobie Gray's "Loving Arms" to a feisty rendition of Bonnie Raitt's "Give It Up and Let It Go." Even so, several songs from the group's breakthrough album, "Wide Open Spaces," radiated plenty of

Continued on next page

A Great Country Fete With Strait

Written by Rebecca Stumpf, Pittsburgh Tribune Review

Submitted by Tina Dunkle, Butler, PA
As citified arts festival activities forged ahead just a short walk away, Three Rivers stadium was transformed Sunday into something a little bit country. Last on an 18-stop tour, the stadium was inverted into carnival grounds as the George Strait Country Music Festival overloaded the senses with food booths, photograph stands, souvenir shops, gimmicks to plug sponsors and, of course, music.

The show itself was a huge success, showcasing 10 hours' worth of pure country hits from some of the genre's hottest names.

But despite the sunshine, heat and overwhelming scent of suntan lotion, this event was no day at the beach. Traffic snarls, parking problems, huge lines and massive crowds made even the shortest trip an inconvenience.

Fans, however, good-naturedly endured the problems in order to witness Strait's first visit to Pittsburgh in 11 years.

Living up to his clean-cut image in a blue-striped shirt, his trademark cowboy hat, and the quintessential Texan-proved he's still the master of his domain, drawing raucous reactions with his signature classic country and honky-tonk sound on "Write This Down," "Check Yes or No" and "Blue Clear Sky."

One of the biggest names in country music with a career that has spanned more than 18 years, Strait commanded the show with a set packed with trademark tunes such as "Unwound," "Amarillo by Morning" and the Tex-Mex flavored "Maria."

In one of the day's most hilarious stunts, earththrob Tim McGraw got some unexpected help on "It's Your Love," when Asleep at the Wheel's Ray Benson danced onto the stage in drag, then led out McGraw's wife, country singer Faith Hill, who tried to overcome bouts of laughter to complete the duet.

Showing his true devotion, he sported a sleeveless shirt to show off his "Faith" tattoo.

McGraw, who has sold more than 13 million albums, pulled out all the stops, performing the hits "Refried Dreams," "I Like It, I Love It," and his current chart-topper, "Please Remember Me."

Multiple Grammy-winners the Dixie Chicks captivated the crowd with their 45-minute set, filled with flawless three-part harmony, clear country sound and saucy attitudes.

Between songs, lead Chick Natalie Maines, flanked by sisters Emily Erwin and Martie Seidel, cheekily discussed who on the tour had the better backside, McGraw or Strait.

The talented trio proved they are more than just Texan Spice Girls with a rousing sendup of the bluegrass instrumental "Roanoke," the emotional divorce ballad "You Were Mine" and "Wide Open Spaces," the evocative title cut from the

trio's major-label debut.

Kenny Chesney brought fans to their feet with the classic country sound of "She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy," complete with a bikini-clad woman riding out onto the stage on a John Deere.

His recent No. 1 hit, "How Forever Feels," and his cover of Jimmy Buffett's "Margaritaville" also were crowd pleasers.

Jo Dee Messina gave an energetic performance, featuring hits "You're Not in Kansas Anymore," "I'm Alright," breakup anthem "Lesson in Leavin'" and radio-friendly "Heads Carolina, Tails California."

Wedding favorite "I Do (Cherish You)" highlighted Mark Wills' 30-minute pop-country set, and Asleep at the Wheel entertained earlycomers with their Texas swing sound. 🎸

At REK, Giving Everything For Their Country (Continued)

spirit, fun and attitude.

The sets by McGraw and Strait were worth the long wait. Wearing his trademark black hat, fashionably shredded jeans and a tight T-shirt, McGraw generated one earsplitting ovation after another as he and his crack band casually moved through a hit list that included a quiet rendering of "Everywhere," a crowd-fed reprise of "Indian Outlaw" and a house-rocking "I Like It, I Love It."

Though he lacks a commanding voice and still seems a bit puzzled by all the adulation, McGraw knows exactly what he's doing onstage. He expertly paced the show and delivered even overly sentimental ballads with a simplicity and honesty that proved affecting. Capping his set, he picked up a cellular phone and sang his monster hit "It's Your Love" to his wife and duet partner, Faith Hill. The crowd ate it up, of course, though perhaps not as eagerly as one of the sponsors of the event: a cell phone manufacturer.

Strait performed the longest, smoothest and most impressive set, backed by his 11-

member Ace in the Hole band. Touring with an ensemble of this size has its price, however. The handsome and personable Texan was preceded onstage by a couple of thinly veiled commercials for phones and trucks. Still, the crowd cheered whenever his image flickered on the screens behind him.

When he finally appeared in the flesh, Strait seemed to personify the country gentleman, and his polished brand of Western swing only reinforced that image. With his great band providing colorful support, Strait surveyed much of his 20-year career in homespun but eloquent fashion. He alternated new songs (including the catchy hit "Write This Down") with terrific covers ("Milkcow Blues" and Robert Earl Keen's "Maria"), contrasted clever ditties ("Check Yes or No") with romantic ballads ("Carrying Your Love With Me"), and reserved plenty of time for his exceptional ensemble to conjure images of old fiddle and steel guitar bands swinging across the countryside. 🎸

Fan Collectable Column

August/September 1999

- Country Music Brasil - Um Festival De Arrepiar - June 1999, pp. 18-19. Photo and story by Marcel Gholmieh and Rodrigo Haddad - Brazil.
- Country Weekly - June 8, 1999, pg. 12, mentioned in article. P. 36, p. 38, mentioned. Nashville, TN.
- Des Moines Sunday Register - June 6, 1999, p. 3A photo and mentioned. Des Moines, Iowa.
- Country Weekly - June 15, 1999, pp. 14, 16, 26, 58, mentioned and photos. Nashville, TN.
- Detroit Freepress - June 4, 1999, pp. 1 & 12, mentioned in article. Detroit, MI.
- The Cleveland Plain Dealer - June 4, 1999, p. 3 mentioned. Cleveland, OH.
- Young Country - Vol. 5 #1, Summer 1999. Front cover photo, p. 4 article about George, p. 11 new CD. Pontiac, Mich.
- Modern Screen - Sept. 1999 Issue, p. 12, p. 15 & 40, mentioned and picture.
- Star Tribune - 6-15-99. Metro/State section, p. B4. G.S. is mentioned. Minneapolis, MN.
- Country Weekly - 6-22-99, pp. 30, 48, 46 & 49, mentioned and photo. Nashville, TN.
- USA Today - 6-14-99, p. 2D, mentioned.
- San Antonio Express-News - 6-16-99. "The Continental Divide" p. 10A mentioned/photo.
- DNR - (Daily News Record), June 11, 1999, p. 2 & 7 photo and mentioned. Los Angeles, CA.
- NY Daily News - 6-16-99, mentioned. Sports Section - mentioned. NY, NY.
- Cleveland-Ohio Plain Dealer, June 15th, p. 5B mentioned. Cleveland, OH.
- San Antonio Express - News, June 17, 1999, p. 12A Sports Section mentioned. (Spurs vs. Knicks). San Antonio, TX.
- Detroit Free Press - June 16, 1999, p. 6E, Names and Faces section - mentioned. Detroit, Mich.
- San Antonio Express - June 19, 1999, Sports Section - p. 15A, mentioned (Spurs vs. Knicks).
- The Tennessean - 6-20-99. Arts & Entertainment & Music Section, p. 10K. Words to "Write This Down."

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

And We Thank You!

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

Dotsie Lehr - New Braunfels, TX
Annette Schindler - North Royalton, OH
Lisa Pryzgoda - Yonkers, NY
Sylvia Norman - Los Angeles, CA
Shirley Smallwood - Kilgore, TX
Alexis Gaffney - Hillsboro, OR
Jean Hurt - Beech Grove, IN

Margaret Stangl - St. Louis Park, MN
Miss Florence Bieniek - Amsterdam, NY
Debbie Erickson - Taylor, MI
Beth Worlway - Des Moines, Iowa
Rodrigo Haddad - Brazil
Chuck and Lorna Stover - Valley Center, KS
Elaine Sledge - Bowling Green, KY

STRAIT LINES

LINES FROM GEORGE'S SONGS

By Jeanie Spears, Blue Springs, Missouri

1. Stick it on your refrigerator door. _____
2. Can I drink you a buy. _____
3. What a rotten day this turned out to be. _____
4. Here beside you is really where it's at. _____
5. I caught you looking at me when I looked at you. _____
6. Opry Music on a Saturday night. _____
7. Our love is unconditional. We knew it from the start. _____
8. There's something about angels you need to know. _____
9. Like rain on a desert sand. _____
0. I don't believe in chasin' crazy dreams. _____
1. Call me mesmerized, somewhat hypnotized. _____
2. Please, please, please don't save me tonight. _____
3. On a lonely highway stuck out in the rain. _____
4. I like you and baby you like me. _____
5. I took her smilin' face down off my wall. _____
6. Don't even think about a farewell kiss. _____
7. Twenty years together she still gets to me. _____
8. Top flight hold me tight get you there by daylight. _____
9. She thinks I'm perfect and I love her cat. _____
0. Like the Colorado skies. _____
1. Everything that I got is just what I got on. _____
2. Life is a gamble a game we all play. _____
3. You wouldn't treat a dog the way you treated me. _____
4. Give me a bottle of your very best. _____
5. She sparkles, she dazzles. _____
6. Makin' my rounds all over town. _____
7. Had all the chicks to myself. _____
8. Like a stranger I ain't never met. _____
9. That's why I hang my hat in Tennessee. _____
0. From my front porch you can see the sea. _____
1. Goodbye, farewell, so long. _____
2. It ain't suave or debonair to let you know I care. _____
3. He talks to angels and the stars start to spin. _____
4. Had a good time was the last thing I heard her say. _____
5. My heart is sinking like a setting sun. _____

TITLES:
 Ace In The Hole
 All My Ex's Live In Texas
 Always Never The Same
 Amarillo By Morning
 Baby Blue
 Baby's Gotten Good At Goodbye
 The Big One
 Blue Clear Sky
 Carried Away
 Carrying Your Love With Me
 The Chair
 Check Yes or No
 Cowboy Rides Away
 Easy Come, Easy Go
 The Fireman
 Gone As A Girl Can Get
 Heartland
 I Cross My Heart
 I Just Want To Dance With You
 I've Come To Expect It From You
 It Ain't Cool To Be Crazy About You
 The King Of Broken Hearts
 Love Bug
 Marina Del Rey
 Meanwhile
 Ocean Front Property
 One Night At A Time
 One Step At A Time
 Overnite Male
 Round About Way
 Unwound
 We Really Shouldn't Be Doing This
 What Do You Say To That
 Write This Down
 You Know Me Better Than That

CONGRATULATIONS! We have
 three GSFC Winners from the
 June/July 1999 Issue:
 They are:
1st Place (Jacket):
Vicki Deal - Vicksburg, MI
2nd Place (Sweatshirt):
Dotsie Lehr - New Braunfels, TX
3rd Place (T-Shirt):
Karen Campbell - Anaheim, CA

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Telephone: _____

Packet Size: _____

All entries must be received by September 10, 1999. **One Entry Only!!!**

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Team Roping Cap

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From The Mailbox

Dear George,
Thanks a million for your new album -
's AWESOME and FUN from beginning
to end! You have the most incredible
voice, and I love your selection of songs.
As much as I love to listen to you sing, I
always have to end up singing along, smiling
all the way through.
Thanks also for the beautiful show in
Phoenix! We respect and appreciate your
hard work.

Always a Strait Fan,
Ruth Ann Collins
Peoria, Illinois

Dear GSFC,
It was our 50th Wedding Anniversary
and we spend it at Kansas City, Missouri.
Watching George Strait concert, we had
wonderful seats at Arrowhead Stadium,
4th row, 12th and 13th seat. Everyone was
really good but George was just awesome
again this year, yes we were there last year
and plan to be there again next year.
Really got some great pictures. Thanks
George for a wonderful weekend and our
50th Anniversary.

Thanks Again,
Jean Barber
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Strait,
Thank you for a wonderful show on June
10th in Pittsburgh, PA. We saw you when
you came to Pittsburgh in the 80's.
You're the Best."
I thought that you were very nice with
the crowd at the end of your show, when
you were signing all their hats.
Thanks for coming back to PA. We loved
the fireworks display!

Christi & Scott Landfried
Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Fan Club,
Thank you, thank you, thank you... once
again we had great seats for the Country
Music Festival on June 5, 1999 in Detroit,
Michigan. And, of course, once again
George was terrific! He is, as Garth
Brooks said, *the* man. And to make this
concert even more memorable I won one

of his guitars - auto graphed!!! Now, prior
to this I had never won a thing in my life
so what a special win it was. I'm sure that
it must be very difficult for celebrities to
find private time with so many people
wanting so much from them, so please
thank Mr. Strait for me. I truly appreciate
it. The guitar is sure to be quite the con-
versation piece around our house for many
years.

Sincerely,
Deborah L. Robinson
Almont, MI

I have waited years for a chance to see
the best there has been, is, or will be. On
May 30th, I got the chance in Louisville,
KY. Never will there be another show like
it. The only way it could have been better
is if I had front row seats and backstage
passes!!! What a show!!! What a beautiful
voice!!! Thanks, George, for the best night
of my 25 years! (well, except my wedding
night of course!)

You best fan and fellow rancher,
Leilani Findley
New Albany, IN

Hi Anita,

I just wanted to comment on George's
final concert in Pittsburgh, PA. Of course,
it was FANTASTIC! Every artist on the
show was great. But George was phenom-
enal! He only gets better with time, if
that's possible. I must admit, I miss the
good ole days when you could really get
close to the show, but that is really my
only complaint. I realize that George had
to go this way to accommodate all the fans
that want to see him. I can hardly wait for
next year! Maybe he'll even perform in
New York (my home state). And thanks
again George for the best concert I have
ever attended!

Diane Dann
New York

Dear Fan Club,

My husband, daughter and I went to the
festival in Foxboro, MA. We are from NJ.
It was fantastic! The best part of the con-
cert is when I got to see George perform.

George, you were great. I hope that you
will come to NJ next year. There were so
many fans from the NY-NJ area. You
would definitely fill the Meadowlands. I
hear so many people on Y107.1, NJ and
NY's country station calling in to say what
a great time that they had at the concert.
George, you are the greatest country music
artist and I loved you in Pure Country.

TELLTHEOTHERS (e-mail)

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The
show at Three Rivers Stadium was
absolutely fabulous. The sunburn I have is
well worth it! Please come back this way
soon!

RNCLAF (e-mail)

Just a note of thanks for a great concert. I
have never been to one of your concerts
before and this one was very enjoyable.
There was an older lady behind me just
about to bust at the seams with happiness.
I had to move several times just so she
could take some pictures. Had great seats,
4th row right in the middle.

Hope to see you next year.

Sincerely, Rebecaca

Hi,

My husband and I got to go to George's
concert in Louisville, KY on May 30th.
He was so great, the whole concert was
super.

We are hoping he will come to
Cincinnati next year. All of his fans will
be waiting! We enjoy the fan club news.

Thanks,
Nita Swarts
Florence, KY

George,

Thanks for a great concert here in
Washington, DC.

My niece, my kids and myself enjoyed
walking around Straitland and all the per-
formances throughout the day.

As always you put on a wonderful per-
formance. Loved your selection of new
and old songs. One of my favorites is
when you sing "Milk Cow Blues." You're
the best!

Thanks,
Jenny Norquist

From The Mailbox Continued:

Dear George,

My friend and I had the pleasure of having front row seats at your Washington DC concert. WHAT A DAY! I thought this wouldn't really be true, but it was! All the rows were really good - unbelievable, but you were the most unbelievable. I was amazed that you acknowledged everyone that had a banner or sign. You seem to address every one that you could and I really loved the eye contact and smiles. You also made it very special for the couple that was sitting next to us. You seemed to notice how much they were in love with each other and you sang "I Cross My Heart" looking right at them. Brought tears to her eyes and chills up my back! That happened to be one of their wedding songs. They are getting married the end of the month. May 15th is a day they will never forget and one that I will never forget either! THANK YOU and HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! You're #1!

A Fan For Life,
Cheryl L. Sheatler
Watson, PA

Dear Fan Club,

I was never really a fan of country music until I watched George Strait's movie, "Pure Country." That man is the quintessential romantic hero! With the teasing gleam of mischief alight in his eyes, and that cocky grin, he is the perfect combination of earthy cowboy and Southern gentleman. A pure mixture of just the right touch of arrogance and humility. His voice is as soothing and sensual as a warm embrace from the man you love most in the world. When he sang "Cross My Heart," in "Pure Country," Harley Tucker wasn't the only one crying! His voice is sheer magic, captivating his audience with a charisma that far exceeds any we've heard in a long time. Even my Mom thinks he sounds like Elvis! Thank you, George Strait, for restoring my faith in the true romantic hero. You are my inspiration to pick up my pen and finish the once forgotten novel tucked away in the bottom drawer of my desk. I'm looking forward to any new CD's and/or movies with that same rich, alluring voice that I've so enjoyed this past month.

Love & Laughter,
Barbara G. Lichwick

GSFC,

I attended the George Strait Music Festival at Foxboro Stadium.

What can I say, it was wonderful, fabulous, amazing, immense, tremendous! And the other acts were pretty good too.

At the end of the show I thought I heard him say "see you next year." I certainly hope that is true because I'm already looking forward to his return.

Best regards,
Elaine Carreira
Acushnet, MA

Dear Anita,

I just wanted to share my experience at the recent George Strait Country Music Festival that was held in Pittsburgh, PA. I have waited an extremely long time for this visit from "King George," but the wait was well worth it! GEORGE WAS GREAT! Needless to say, he brought a pack of great performers with him. The fan club seating provided some very good seats which were excellent for picture taking. Six weeks ago, I stood in line for more than 3 hours waiting for the tickets. For some this may seem long, but it provided a wonderful opportunity to get to know several fan club members so that I could meet them again at the show and we are able to enjoy the concert together.

This festival was my second opportunity to see George Strait perform. The other concert was when he performed at Frontier Days in Cheyenne, WY. I am counting the days to when I can once more have the opportunity to see the "Best of the Best" of country singers, George Strait.

Sincerely,
Ron Herrigan
West Mifflin, PA

Just got my fan club membership package and have poured over the wealth of information it contains. Thanks so much for the exceptional effort to make this one of the best packages a fan could have, but then the performer is EXCEPTIONAL, so that makes it easier. Looking forward with baited breath for the next issue of Strait Talk!

Keep up the Good Work,
Diana Fowler
Lawrence, IN

Hi There!

It has taken me a little while to getting around to do this, however here I am!

I just wanted to take a moment to say "HEY!" and tell you about my experience in attending the "George Strait Country Music Festival" that took place on May 30th at Papa Johns Stadium in Louisville, Kentucky!

I can sum up my experience with one word! "WOW!" We had a terrific time at the festival. For me, personally, it just awestruck me! I did not think prior to that day... but "WOW!" His is truly blessed with a talent that could bring it home to his fans like me. THANKS!!

If I could meet one person in this world today it would have to be Mr. Strait.

Thanks for a great show and for sharing an awesome talent.

Sincerely,
A Fan In Indy,
Lisa

n

Pen Pals AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1999

(Fans that exchange letter through mail)

Mary Davis (62)
P.O. Box 216
Akron, MI 48701-0216

Yvonne Dianne Cruff
860 Abrahamson Drive
Brownsville, TX 78526

Pam Schiavane (44)
16 Ralston, Apt. 2
Kenmore, NY 14217

Ms. Gayle Harrison (51)
5613 Magee Blvd.
Austin, TX 78749

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Anita's Notes

Here we are into the eighth month of the year and we still have so much to report. 1999 has been a great year so far for George. He continues to climb the charts, win awards, break concert records, record inspirational new music and still make time for family and friends. Between roping, touring, selecting and recording new material, golfing, fishing and ranching, George continues to be himself. With his strong upbringing and true values to family, George continues to receive appreciation from his fans and friends.

The last show for the 1999 George Strait Country Music Festival Tour was presented in Pittsburgh, Pa. at Three Rivers Stadium. I attended the show knowing it could be wonderful, but I believe the word "wonderful" does not do it justice. From the time I arrived in Pittsburgh to my departure back to Nashville, the people and surroundings were amazing. Everyone was happy and very upbeat. Maybe because it was the last show for the tour but I don't think so. When the upbeat fans surround you it really wears off on you. It was very exhilarating. Pittsburgh is a beautiful and exciting city. Visit there if you get a chance.

It is the tradition on many tours, the final show was filled with humor as all the acts played pranks on each other. A girl dressed in a bikini and riding a John Deere lawn tractor drove across the stage while Kenny Chesney was performing. When someone put grease on Jo Dee Messina's guitar picks and a drumstick so she couldn't pick them up. Mark Wills, Kenny Chesney and the drummer for Sleep At The Wheel, dressed up in drag as Dixie Chicks impersonators and appeared on stage to sing with the girls while Ray Benson of "Asleep At The Wheel", dressed up in drag and tried to impersonate Faith Hill and surprised Tim McGraw while he was on stage. The entire group of artists, accompanied by Norma Strait, all appeared on stage carrying pillows while George Strait sang "Linda On My Mind". While the crowd thought that a pillow fight was about to take place, all of them laid down on the stage with their pillows and acted like a group of star struck Annabes while he performed. All in all it was a very entertaining day.

Work is already underway on the tour for the 2000 version of the George Strait

Country Music Festival Tour. The dates, cities and acts have not yet been determined.

Fan Fair 1999 in Nashville was a lot of fun. George did not attend but the fan club booth was set up and running by the staff and decorated with George Strait paraphernalia. Many fan club members visited during the week and it was enjoyable putting the names and faces together. We would like to thank the staff, friends and family who helped us set the booth up again this year. Thanks to Pam, Judy, Katie, Cheryl, Darci, Darrin, Wade and Ryan. This year the booth was set up on Saturday and fan fair attendance was Monday through Thursday. There were no fan fair booths open on Friday. We liked the change. We hope Fan Fair continues in Nashville but, from what we hear, there will be some changes made for next year.

George and our staff would like to Thank You for your votes in the TNN Music City News Awards. George did win the "Album of the Year" Award. Congratulations George!!

The 17th Annual George Strait Team Roping Classic in Kingsville, Tx. on July 9th & 10th was once again a huge success. You can read the complete story on the event on the front page of the newsletter. We hope all that attended enjoyed themselves.

Before you know it the Christmas Holidays will be upon us and George Strait's new Christmas Album, "Merry Christmas Wherever You Are", will be in record stores. It's a great new Christmas Album and we hope you enjoy listening to it as much as we already have. The release date is September 21st. George will be back in Nashville in August to record two new songs for his next album, which will be a Greatest Hits package. That album is expected to be released in early spring.

Remember, it is not too early to begin your Christmas shopping. When have a large selection of George Strait items in the newsletter catalog. You can see the photos on the website at www.georgestrait.com. When filling out your order forms, please print and please do not forget to enclose your payment. Please make sure to enclose your phone number and e-mail address, if you have one, so we can contact you if we have any questions about your order. Also, don't forget to use that George Strait Cash you may have laying around. You have several ways to shop. You can use the catalog in the newsletter

and mail in your order, call the toll free number at 1-800-338-GSFC to place an order using a credit card or order on-line at the George Strait website order using a credit card or order on-line at the George Strait website www.georgestraitfans.com. Happy Shopping!!!

If you are moving, please don't forget to send your new address to us as soon as possible. You can send it to us at P.O. Box 2119, Hendersonville, Tn. 37077 or call it in to the office at 615-324-7176 Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm Central time. Do you have photos you would like to share? Would you like to earn Strait Cash? Please send them to us. If we use them you will receive Strait Cash. Please remember that photos will not be returned and become property of the George Strait Fan Club.

The new User name and Password for the website is:

User Name: daylight
Password: night

Please use small letters when you are entering your User Name and Password on the website.

A very special "Thanks" to all of you who sent cards and letters for George Strait, Jr. (Bubba) on his recent graduation. He really appreciated them.

Thank you for your support and encouragement. We hope you have a safe and happy time until we meet again in October.



MOVING?????

**DROP US YOUR NEW ADDRESS
BY MAIL OR CALL!**

**GSFC
P.O. BOX 2119
HENDERSONVILLE, TN 37077
(615) 824-7176**

(Monday - Friday 9a.m. - 5p.m. Central Time)