
STRAIT TALK

George Strait Takes His Country Music Festival Across America

It all kicked off with a full page advertisement in USA today on Monday, January 26th as George Strait decided to take his successful Country Music Festival to fans all across America.

The first festival date will be March 14th at the ASU stadium in Tempe, AZ. with tickets going on sale Monday, February 2nd. The all day event is called "The George Strait Chevy Trucks Country Music Festival" and will be presented by Nokia, the very successful manufacturer of cellular phones. There has been much speculation on the internet and in the press about the exact tour schedule, but at press time the complete schedule had not been determined and some cities were still changing. The second festival is currently scheduled to take place in Tampa, FL. on March 28th. Tickets for the Tampa show will probably go on sale Saturday, February 27th.

A list of confirmed tour dates will be included on the back of the newsletter, but all dates will not be confirmed at press time. The cities where the festival will probably play, other than those already mentioned, include Anaheim, Oakland,

Kansas City, Denver, Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Atlanta, Raleigh, Birmingham, New Orleans, Dallas, Houston and Columbus, Ohio. A list of final cities will be available on the website at www.georgestraitfans.com and Strait Line at 615-824-7176 when they are finally confirmed. The correct on sale dates and any special fan club seating information will also be available at those locations. Special Fan Club seating will be available at all shows.

At press time, Tim McGraw, John Michael Montgomery, Faith Hill, Lee Ann Womack, and Lila McCann were scheduled to join Strait for all his festivals with one more act to be added to the list.

In addition to the tremendous line-up of talent, the festival will also feature "Straitland", a fair like atmosphere outside the arena where fans can spend time before the show and during set changes. StraitLand will consist of exhibitors booths, games, food, and two stages that will feature new national country music acts. It is expected that all shows will begin at 1pm but times are subject to change.

Strait has previously had seven very successful festivals. Five of them have been in San Antonio, Texas, and two in Dallas. This will be the first time that he has taken the highly successful festival concept outside of his native Texas.



Mid April Is The Target Date For The New George Strait Studio Album

George Strait and his co-producer Tony Brown have finished putting the final touches on Strait's new studio album. The album, "One Step At A Time" will debut in record stores in mid-April. It includes new material from some of the songwriters that George has used before as well as one song that he has been looking at for some time.

Songs on the album include "Just Want To

Dance With You" by John Prine and Roger Cook; "One Step At A Time" by Earl Clark and Luke Reed; "True" by Jeff Stevens and Marv Green; "Remember The Alamo" by Gordon Kennedy and Wayne Kirkpatrick; "Maria" by Robert Earl Keen; "We Really Shouldn't Be Doing This" by Jim Lauderdale; "Why Not Now" by Steve Bogard and Jeff Stevens; "That's The Breaks" by Dean Dillon; "Neon

Row" by Donny Kees and Jimmy Jay and "You Haven't Left Me Yet" by Dana Hunt and Kent Robbins.

The tentative street date for the album is the week of April 13th with the first single from the album expected to arrive at radio about the same time.

S T R A I T T A L K

Fan Collectable Column

February / March 1998

Music City News - January 1998 - Page 34 - Picture on cover of 25th Anniversary Magazine. Page 49, 62 - Name mentioned. Page 52 - Name mentioned for Billboard Top 10 Country Albums for "Carrying Your Love With Me."

Country America - January 1998 - Pages 3, 11, 26, 27, 38. Page 28 - 3 pictures, 1 picture has a title above it and it is the same as my T-Shirt I designed for the T-shirt contest in San Antonio. I gave him one. 2nd picture is the cover of "Carrying Your Love With Me" and the 3rd one was at the CMA rehearsal. Page 39 - Full page ad for Justin boots.

Modern Screen's Country Music - March 1998 - Vol. 92 #4. Front cover - page 5 picture, page 8 mentioned, page 33 & 34 photo/lyrics, page 37 mentioned, page 42 & 43 centerfold, page 51 article and photo.

New Country Magazine - "Special Holiday Issue," pages 4-5 mentioned in Wrangler ad, page 13 mentioned/photo, page 40 photo, page 58 photo and mentioned.

Country Weekly Magazine - "80 Page Special Issue" - January 6, 1998. Photos, charts, stories throughout the issue.

San Antonio Express-News - January 1,

1998. "Entertainment Inside" mentioned, page 1.

- Music City News - February 1998. Page 19 - Country Music Survey mentioned, pages 42-43 Music City Awards Nominations - Semi-final ballot (7 Nominations).
- Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal - January 2, 1998. Page 2C mentioned, "2 of the Year's Top 5 Singles and No. 2 overall artist for the Year and No. 1 overall artist for last year" for Fulton, MS.
- New Country - January 1998. Photo and mentioned p. 11, p. 12 mentioned. Page 43 article/mentioned, p. 55 photo, pp. 56-57 Collector's Issues & CDs/Cassettes.
- Star Tribune - January 6, 1998 - Minneapolis, MN. Page E3 - Variety section mentioned.
- American Cowboy - January/February 1998. Page 18 mentioned.
- Western Horseman - January 1998 issue, page 22 mentioned.
- Country Weekly - January 13, 1998. Pages 36, 42 - name mentioned. Page 54 - name mentioned for top 40 single "Today My World Slipped Away" and top 40 albums "Carrying Your Love with Me" ending December 27, 1997.

- Country Weekly - January 20, 1998. Cover - small picture. Pages 3, 18, 19, 25, 31 - name mentioned. Page 19 - picture.
- Houston Chronicle - Entertainment Section - January 7, 1998. Page 6 - Name mentioned for Grammy nominations for Male Vocalist and Country Album for "Carrying Your Love With Me."
- The Commercial Appeal - Memphis, TN - January 4, 1998. Section G4 - mentioned.
- Star Tribune Newspaper - Minneapolis, MN - January 7, 1998. Page B4 - Metro/State Section mentioned.
- San Antonio Express-News - San Antonio, TX - January 7, 1998. Pages G1-2 story.
- Herald-Zietung News - New Braunfels, TX - January 7, 1998. Page 8A mentioned.
- Portland Oregonian Paper - Gales Creek, OR - January 7, 1998. Page C4 - Entertainment Section mentioned.
- New York Post - New York, N.Y. - January 7, 1998. Page 38 mentioned.
- New York Newsday - Queens, N.Y. - January 5, 1998. Page A10 mentioned.
- The Tennessean - Nashville, TN - January 3, 1998. Section D, page 1 mentioned.

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!

Ellen Goerlich - Texas City, TX
Dee Walker - Tuscaloosa, AL
Jean Hurt - Beech Grove, IN
Lou Dallman - Oshkosh, WI
Celeste Pakebusch - Alice, TX
Sharron Cox - Houston, TX
Louise Gardner Temple - Irving, TX
Alexis Gaffney - Gales Creek, OR
Carolyn Evans - Harrisburg, MO

Kristi Easterling - Fulton, MS
Dotsie Lehr - New Braunfels, TX
Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Jackson, Jr. - Charles Town, W.Va.
Susan Rambie - Schulenburg, TX
Margaret Stangl - St. Louis Park, MN
Janet Schanbacher - Udall, KS
Leona De Joseph - Howard Beach, NY
Christine Bartman - Clifton, N.J.
Linda Shahan - Granite City, IL

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME - GEORGE STRAIT

Created by: Jeanie Spears - Blue Springs, MO

FIND 5 MORE WORDS IN GEORGE STRAIT'S NAME

We have only 2 rules for this contest.

- (1) The words must be no less than 3 letters.
- (2) Must be in English.

Good Luck!

AERO	GATOR(s)	RETIRE(s)	STAGE	TIE(s)
AGE	GEAR(s)	RETREAT(s)	STAGGER	TIGER(s)
AGREE	GEORGIA	RITE(s)	STAIR	TIRE(s)
AIR	GET(s)	ROAR(s)	STAR	TOAST
ARES	GIG(s)	ROAST	STARE	TOASTER
ARIES	GOAT(s)	ROT(s)	START	TOE(s)
ARISE	GOES	ROTATE(s)	STEAR	TOGA(s)
ARREST	GORE	SAG(s)	STEER	TORE
ART(s)	GORGE(s)	SAGE	STEREO	TOTE(s)
ARTIST(s)	GOT	SAT	STORAGE	TRAIT(s)
ATE	GRATE(s)	SATIRE	STORE	TRAITOR(s)
ATTIRE	GREASE	SEA	TAG(s)	TREAT(s)
BAGER(s)	GREAT(s)	SEAT	TAR	TREE(s)
BAR(s)	GREATER	SEE	TARGET(s)	TRIES
BASE	GREATEST	SEGA	TAROT	TRIO(s)
BASIER	GREET(s)	SEIGE	TART(s)	TRIGGER(s)
BAST	GRIT(s)	SET	TASTE	TROT(s)
BASTER	IRATE	SIR	TEA(s)	1. _____
BAT	OAR(s)	SIT	TEASE	2. _____
BGG(s)	OAT(s)	SITAR	TEASER	3. _____
BGO	ORE	SITE	TEAR(s)	4. _____
BRA	OSAGE	SOAR	TEE(s)	5. _____
BRASE	OTTER	SORE	TEST	
BRASER(s)	RAG(s)	STAG	TESTER	
BRIE	RAGE(s)			
BRR	RIASE(s)			
BSTATE	RARE			
BAG	RA(s)			
BAGE(s)	RATE(s)			
BAIT	RATIO(s)			
BARTER	REAR			
BAS	REGGAE			
BASES	REST(s)			
BATE(s)	RESTORE			

CONGRATULATIONS!

We have three GSFC Winners from the December/January issue of Strait Talk. They are:

- 1st Place (Jacket): Audrey Schmitz - Manitowoc, WI**
2nd Place (Sweatshirt): Laura Caldwell - Lake Havasu City, AZ
3rd Place (T-shirt): Brenda Budden - Wamego, KS

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Packet Size _____

All entries must be received by March 13, 1998. **One Entry Only!**

Anita's Notes

With the chill in the air and the gloomy skies across the country, George Strait starts the year with bright and exciting news. Great Britain has honored George with their 1997 British Country Music Award for International Male Vocalist of the Year. In addition, George was nominated for the People's Choice Award and the American Music Awards. He did not win at the People's Choice Award but will be attending the American Music Awards telecast on January 26th. At press time we had high hopes that he would walk away a winner with at least one of the two awards he was nominated for during that nationally televised show. In addition, George was also nominated for the Grammy Awards as well. Hopefully we will have many things to talk about during the next issue of Strait Talk as all of this is taking place between the time that we go to press and the time you receive the newsletter. We hope that the next newsletter will have a lot of award winning smiles and stories. Keep your eyes and ears out for the results on radio and television as well as our website at www.georgestraitfans.com.

The 32nd Annual TNN Music City News Awards nominees have been announced and George has many nominations. Those awards will be presented on June 5th from Nashville, TN. We will remind you again about the proceedings and give you the voting numbers in the next issue of Strait Talk. Good luck to George and all the award shows.

We have been deluged with calls about George's 1998 tour schedule. Many people have been reading and hearing about what he is doing and where he is going to be touring. Some of the information may turn out to be right but much of it is wrong. As of this writing, the tour schedule is not complete as the many negotiations are still taking place in order to make everything happen the way it needs to be. A front page story in this issue of the newsletter will give you everything that we or anyone else knows at the moment. The details are changing daily and we do not want to give you information that is not correct. We suggest that you keep up with information on the website or on Strait Line.

We hope that you will share all of your Strait stories, photos and adventures with us as the year unfolds. The information you send us is very helpful in keeping everyone up-to-date as possible.

George will have a new studio album on the streets the week of April 13th. We have heard it and it is outstanding. It is called "One Step At A Time" and keeps up the great tradition of incredible George Strait albums. We will agree that when George sings a country song, he does it with a golden touch. Best of luck to George on your new CD. April will be here quickly and you, the fan, will be the judge. Let us know what you think.

For those of you who are visitors to our website at www.georgestraitfans.com, here is our new user name and password for February and March.

User Name: festival
Password: tour

All fan club members must utilize the User Name and Password when getting into the members only section of the Fan Club. It will enable you to look at all the tour information when it becomes available and will allow you to read your new newsletter as soon as they become available instead of waiting until yours arrives by bulk mail. It will also open up the back issues of the newsletters for members to read.

If you have any suggestions about the website, please e-mail us or if you have any questions, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will be more than happy to respond. If you are the kind of fan that likes to call and ask questions, you can reach us Monday-Friday from 9am until 5pm CST. Here are some important numbers to keep close to you.

Website: www.georgestraitfans.com
Office: 615-824-7176
Strait Line: 615-824-7176
Order Desk: 800-338-4732
Fax: 615-822-2527
e-mail: gsfc@concentric.net

Last year, the Academy of Country Music Awards announced to Country Music fans that they were making it possible to purchase the Souvenir program for the Awards Show through the George Strait Fan Club. We are happy to announce that 1998 ACM Program will once again be made available to George's fans only through the mail. A separate order form elsewhere in the newsletter will allow you to order one if you choose. Remember that you must use the special order form in the newsletter if you want one. The show will take place at the Universal Amphitheater in Hollywood, CA. on April 22. If you want to have your program books in time for the show, please order yours early. All orders received by April 1st at Entertainment Media Corp., the suppliers of the program books, will be mailed on April 18th and should be received by the broadcast date. All orders received after April 1st will be mailed out after the television broadcast.

Before we close, we would like to welcome aboard Cheryl Erwin, our new data entry assistant. In addition we do have correction to make to our staff name list at the Nashville office in our last issue. It should have read Casey Robertson instead of Casey Richardson. OOPS!

Thanks for the letters and we hope you all continue to write and share your stories with us. Remember to send in photos and reviews so you can earn that extra Strait Cash.

Till we meet again, stay safe and warm during these chilly months and just think Strait ahead as spring is on its way.



Strait Shooters

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1998

PHILAND LINDA JOHNSON - PENFIELD, IL
RANDI HURTT - LEBANON, OHIO
CYNTHIA HADDAD - SAO PAULO-BRAZIL
ROBERT McVEIGH - GERMANTOWN, TN
LORAMILLER - TEXAS CITY, TX
HEATHER COLLOM - HOHENWALD, TN
JOHN WOMACK - KINGSVILLE, TX
EVON OLIVER - HOHENWALD, TN

Pen Pals

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1998

(Fans that exchange letters through mail)

Jill McNally (49)
3802 SW 3rd Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50315

Deborah Fradelis (15)
4938 Park Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Leandra Bradley (22)
Rt. 1 Box 94-A
Luverne, AL 36049

Mary Watkins
951 Goode Road
Ballston SPA, N.Y. 12020

Pamela Schiavone
16 Ralston, Apt. 2
Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

Diana Maloy
254 Smithridge park
Reno, NV 89502

Kimberly Holt (16)
P.O. Box 233
Bulls Gap, TN 37711

Rebecca Meldrum (16)
492 E. 200 South
Provo, Utah 84606

Laura Eddins (12)
P.O. Box 373
Vaiden, MS 39176

Kristal Porter (22)
8805 Hillview Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73150

Lucille Johnson
403 N. Griffin Street
Danville, IL 61832

Mike Schultz
3106 21st Street
North Chicago, IL 60064

Heather Maples (15)
P.O. Box 1384
Panhandle, TX 79068

Stephen Makarowski (47)
7238 Jarnecke Ave.
Hammond, IN 46324-2436

J. R. Swagel (16)
4820 Blvd. Lane
N. Chas., S.C. 29405

Jessica Hopkins (16)
213 Royalty Drive
Lancaster, KY 40444

Melissa Schulz
510 W. Braun
Edgerton, KS 66021

Marcus Smith
2G The Maples
Winsford
Cheshire
CW7-3BF England

Liberty Dow
P.O. Box 78
Sherman Mills, ME 04776

Ethel Peters (43)
19698 Highway C
Lebanon, MO 65536



From The Mailbox

Dear GSFC,

I have really enjoyed getting the newsletter t the web site. That way when mine is late n the snail mail, I can go up there to read it. Thank you very much for making it possible o do that. Also, love seeing so many pictures of the items for sale in the country store. Thank you for all the work you put into the ewsletter, web site and the help when call- ing the club with a question. Just wanted yevone to know that their help and work re greatly appreciated.

JoLynn Picard
Lake Charles, LA

GSFC,

Congratulate George for me on all his wards for '97. We are proud of him. He ould have won more, (we the fans know he s the best).

I also want to tell all the staff what a good ob you do. You're the best too.

I couldn't believe how fast I got my concert ideo, and I have really enjoyed it. Play it very day, it's the next thing to going to his oncert. Wish they'd do more videos for the ans who live too far to go.

I hope you all and George have another wonderful year.

Sincerely,
Mary Tillman
Alamo, TN

Dear Anita and GSFC staff,

I would like to congratulate George on other terrific year.

Congratulations also for another fantastic lbum. We are three generations of George itrait fans. Our grandchildren from three to welve, all love George. We are very proud of our fellow Texan!

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Virginia Kainer
Schulenburg, TX

George,

Congratulations on two CMA Awards.

You must be feeling TEN FEET TALL and SMILE WIDE!

Your songs and music are great and enjoyed y many. Keep up the good work.

A Long Time Fan,
Margaret Gilreath
Kingsport, TN

Dear Anita,

A big thank you for the chance to get the ive video of George's from a few years ago. an never hear his voice enough, he is such

a treasure. Doesn't matter how often your hear him sing a song, it's a thrill to hear it again. Love his video, "Carrying Your Love With Me." I don't know how anyone that has always been the best can still keep going on to better things. One in a million isn't good enough for him.

Loved all the great pictures in the Nov./Oct. issue of Strait Talk. George should have an 8x10 picture taken with his new dog, Bin. I know I would love to have a couple of them.

Everyone take care.

Love to all,
Alice Gravy
Burlington, IA

Hi George, Anita and GSFC,

Just a note to let you know that my sister, Konnie, and I were fortunate enough to get rehearsal passes this year for the CMA Awards in Nashville. We were able to watch George rehearse on Tuesday (he didn't look like he needed any rehearsing to me!) and then watch him again during "dress rehearsal" on Wednesday afternoon before the show. We even attempted to take pictures in front of his bus in the pouring down rain! He must have thought we were crazy. It was a great experience for two very dedicated GS fans from Bismarck, North Dakota.

Sincerely,
Lynette Lewis
Bismarck, ND

Dear George,

Congratulations on the 5 nominations and on last night's 2 wins for you. Of course, we think you should have won in the other categories too. You deserve all the awards and more.

We liked hearing you thank Norma and George, Jr. for their support.

We will miss seeing and hearing you at the Wichita, KS coliseum October this year. We hope you will be back with us in '98. There's just no one that quite equals you, George.

Thank you for the great songs you do and for the good fan club seating.

Sincerely,
Strait Fans
Chuck & Lorna Stover
Valley Center, KS

GSFC,

Congratulations to George for his two CMA Awards in September. I saw on tv (TNN) that George is considering a "Swing Album." I'd love that.

Ruth Lane
Sarasota, FL

Dear Anita & GSFC,

Yes! George Strait did it again, winning the CMA's Male Vocalist and Album of the Year for the second straight, or rather strait year. Once again, I say he should have won Entertainer, also!

George is a country singer and that's what the CMA's are, "COUNTRY Music Assoc.

Congratulations to George on all he does and what he is to everyone, especially to Country Music!!

Keep up the good work Anita and staff for all you do.

Love ya!
Eva Jane Queen
Pflugerville, TX

Hi!

I received my membership packet yesterday! Thanks.

I have enjoyed the issue of "Strait Talk" - especially the photos from the Team Roping Classic which I attended. It was fabulous!

Have also recently attended the Country Music Festival which was the greatest ever! George just keeps getting better and is such a wonderful role model for our young people!

Thanks again,
Eva Keener
San Antonio, TX

George,

For all these months that I've listened to the album, "Carrying Your Love With Me," I have felt it was your best year. My first impression was that "The Nerve" was my personal favorite. It still is!

Janet Schanbacher
Udall, KS

Hi Anita,

Wanted to tell you that I got to go to the San Antonio Concert last weekend. Had a blast and thanks for the great fan club seats. We had 2 row center. George was the best ever! Enjoyed the other artist, but went to see George! My husband gave me the trip for our anniversary. Said he could not think of anything better to give me and he was right, the only thing better would have been is he could have been there too. But he had to work.

I met 4 other girls, Donna Shell, Connie Dinius, Minnie Barnes, and Sandy Whiting, that I know from America On-line. Actually, it ended up being about 15 of us that met up there. We saw on Today's Country our flashlights waving to George when he walked out on stage. Could not believe they showed up so well.

Thanks again for the great Fan Club seats. I enjoyed the Festival concert very much.

JoLynn Picard
Lake Charles, LA