Rodeo Weekend

- Cathryn Christensen

It seemed like everything we did this past fall was building up to one event: Rodeo Weekend 2009. For those of you who are not familiar with Rodeo Weekend, it is the Rodeo Hall of Fame Induction celebration hosted by the National Cowboy Museum in Oklahoma City. And this year, the OSU Rodeo Team was invited to help with the event!

Saturday evening was highlighted with the Ben Johnson award and Tad Lucas awards being bestowed on two very deserving individuals: Neal Gay and Liz Kesler. There was also a silent and live auction to raise funds for the Rodeo Historical Society division of the museum. The OSU Rodeo Team officers were honored to assist with the silent auction and to get to meet some of their heroes. Just ask Courtenay DeHoff, VP about meeting her hero Pam Minnick. Or the whole group getting their photo taken with Donny Gay. The group got to spend time talking to and getting their picture with other legends such as Larry Mahan, Cotton Rossier, and many more. Sunday was the Hall of Fame induction brunch in which members and officers came to assist with the event and guide guests to the Great Hall where the ceremony was to take place. I overheard several people who were incredibly impressed by the rodeo team and asked that they be invited back for next year’s event. In fact, a booster member from the Cal Poly San Louis Obispo rodeo team took a photo of the Oklahoma State University team so she could “take back and show them what a rodeo team should look like.” She was impressed by how sharp our team looked decked out in full rodeo dress. I had no choice but to agree with her.

This was a great opportunity for the team and we are deeply grateful to the National Cowboy Museum for the opportunity. For more information on the Rodeo Historical Society or Rodeo Weekend, go to NationalCowboyMuseum.com.

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This year, the OSU Rodeo Team is doing something that hasn’t been done in Stillwater in quite a long time: host a full rodeo. The 1st Annual Cowboy Shootout Rodeo will be held next fall on September 24-25, 2010. This will be a full 7 event rodeo ( Bareback, Saddlebronc, Bulls, Barrels, Tie Down Roping, Team Roping, Breakaway) as well as muster basting and calf scramble. On Saturday, there will be the added entertainment of the Greek Buckle Games bringing the top ticket selling greek houses to compete for top honors which include a donation to their charity and a traveling trophy.

This is a big undertaking so all other major fundraising has been put on hold and they are focusing on getting sponsors for this event. If you know of anyone who would like to do a sponsorship, we have several options available for all price ranges.

This has been a great learning experience for many on the team and we are hopeful that this one event can provide enough funds each year to keep the team on the road as well as put some money back to make improvements to the arena.

If you want to make a donation to this rodeo or know of someone who can do a sponsorship, please email the information to rodeo@okstate.edu.

Rise School Cowboy Day

This year was the second year that the OSU Rodeo Team loaded up and went to the Rise School of Stillwater. The Rise School opened it’s doors a couple of years ago and serves special needs and typically developing boys and girls who are 18 months to 3 years of age. Once a year, they have Cowboy Day and invite the OSU Rodeo Team to their school. The team brings a couple horses that the kids get to pet or sit on. The director has told me that these kids can’t wait to don cowboy boots and hats and get busy improving the arena. They did a full overhaul of the outdoor arena, including dismantling the bucking chutes and replacing all rotten wood, and installed a metal catwalk that had once been plywood. They added reinforcements to the holding pens behind the chutes and replaced more rotten wood on the bleachers. There were many who gave 50 plus hours over the course of the 3 weeks spent on getting the arena up to par.

As many of you know, we have been without a working tractor at our disposal for many years. The Army surplus tractor that had been an eyesore for over half of a decade is finally gone and we recently had a 50 hp Kubota tractor donated to the team. With the Priefert arena tool that we have and the ready access to a tractor, both arenas are in superb condition.

We are hoping to raise $50,000 to take advantage of the Pickens Legacy Scholarship Match. This would launch the OSU Rodeo Team into the forerunner of rodeo competition in Oklahoma. This money can be pledged over 5 years and can be from one or multiple donors. It just has to be a minimum of $50,000. It is on a first come, first serve basis to time is precious on this front.

The OSU Rodeo Team has made the commitment to bring rodeo events back to Stillwater and would like to eventually host a college rodeo once again at OSU. We want our facility to be a showcase for Stillwater and OSU. In order to accomplish this, some alumni and boosters are working on a two-pronged attack. Jennifer Cunningham is working on the funds to re-vamp the entrance to the facility which would be renamed at that point in honor of Terry Hyman.

Cathryn Christensen is working on donations to complete a building that would house a class/meeting room for the team, concession stand for events, bathrooms for members, and storage for supplies and equipment.

For either of these two endeavors, in kind donations or cash donations are accepted.

Please help us build for the future what you didn’t have in the past.

Meet your OSU Rodeo Association Officers

These are but a few of the wonderful members of your OSU Rodeo Association, where they’re from, and some of their favorite activities or interests (according to their Facebook pages):

Rachelle Holt President Graver, KS
Courtenay DeHoff Vice President Tonganoxie, KS
Kyle McLean Treasurer Miles City, MT
Chris Muegge PR Carthage, IN
Katie Butler Secretary Neal, KS
Kaylann Pellam Ag Council Representative Murrieta, CA

OSU Rodeo Association Spring Rodeo Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
<td>2/19/2010 - 2/21/2010</td>
<td>Rodeo, Showing Cattle, Rodeo, riding, training horses and just hanging out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Hays State University</td>
<td>4/16/2010 - 4/18/2010</td>
<td>Rodeos, Roping, Nebraska football games, Cowboys for Christ, Fellowship of Christian Cowboys, OSU Rodeo Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Hays, KS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Scott Community College</td>
<td>3/12/2010 - 3/14/2010</td>
<td>Track&amp;Field, Volleyball, running, riding my horses. Rodeo-I barrel race, team rope, &amp; ride bulls-I was 4th in the nation against the guys in 2005 in Jr Bull riding &amp; 7th in the nation in 2007 in Sr. bull riding. I also rope on the OSU rodeo team.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Scott, KS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panhandle State University</td>
<td>4/1/2010 - 4/3/2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weatherford, OK</td>
<td>4/8/2010 - 4/10/2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwestem Oklahoma State Univ.</td>
<td>4/8/2010 - 4/10/2010</td>
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<td>Fort Hays State University</td>
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