

Road to the Rodeo

WITH SUMMER IN FULL SWING, IT'S TIME TO HIT THE ROAD AND EXPERIENCE ONE OF THE AMERICAN WEST'S MOST CHERISHED TRADITIONS: RODEO. WHETHER YOU'RE WANTING TO CHECK OUT A LOCAL RANCH RODEO OR EXPERIENCE THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF THE BIGGEST AND RICHEST EVENTS, RODEO HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.



The sport of rodeo has been around for more than 100 years, and its heritage is preserved in many forms. One excellent venue that highlights this exciting competition is the Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Megan Winterfeldt, Exhibits and Collections Coordinator for the museum, shared a few facts to wet your whistle for the summer cowboy events we're highlighting in this section.

1. The Hall of Fame Class of 2020, which was inducted July of 2021, featured rodeo secretary and timer Sunni Deb Backstrom. Sunni joined her mother, Ellen, to become the first mother-daughter pair inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame. Ellen was inducted in 1995.

2. In 1993, the ProRodeo Hall of Fame inducted bareback horse High Tide of the Flying U Rodeo Company. High Tide is noted for his longevity in the sport. His first selection to the National Finals Rodeo came in 1967. He repeated the nomination for 20 years. He was twice featured on Ripley's Believe It or Not for his accomplishments.

3. The 2003 National Finals Rodeo saw Billy Etbauer set an NFR saddle bronc

riding record with a 93-point ride on Kessler Championship Rodeo's Cool Alley Dip. A year later, he tied the record on the same horse. This record still stands for the top score in Saddle Bronc Riding at the NFR.

4. Saddle Bronc Rider Deb Copenhaver is credited with the removal of the horn from bronc saddles. The story goes that Copenhaver had loaned his saddle to Sonny Tureman, who had drawn a particularly tall sorrel horse. As the horse was going through the unsaddling chute, the horn cap caught on a low bar and peeled it back. Copenhaver asked Bud Linderman what he should do with the ragged piece of metal that used to be the horn. Linderman told him to take it off. That saddle – with the filed-down bronze horn – is on display at the Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame.

5. Tad Lucas rode bulls to raise money for the American Red Cross during the first World War, rode broncs in Mexico for a Wild West Show, and trick-rode in London at Wembley Stadium. This all-around cowgirl rode her last bronc in 1964 at the age of 62.

6. According to the PRCA Media Guide, Stetson Wright is the only Rookie to win the All-Around title, which he claimed in 2019. He repeated his All-Around win in 2020 and added the 2020 Bull Riding World Championship title as well. This makes Wright the youngest back-to-back winner of All-Around titles.

7. There are three cowboys who have won world titles in four events. Everett Bowman won All-Around, Steer Wrestling, Steer Roping, and Tie-Down Roping titles. Bill Linderman won All-Around, Bareback Riding, Steer Wrestling, and Saddle Bronc Riding titles. Trevor Brazile won All-Around, Team Roping, Tie-Down Roping, and Steer Roping titles.

8. Clown Andy Womack used to haul his mule in a bright pink trailer with a sign across the back that read "Haulin' Dynamite." The little mule's name was Dynamite. The trailer and sign garnered a lot of turned heads and honks as he was going down the road.

"THE WESTERN CULTURE REPRESENTS HARD WORK, MORALS, CHARACTER AND EVERYTHING I LOVE ABOUT BEING A COWBOY AND AN AMERICAN, AND THERE'S NO OTHER SPORT THAT REPRESENTS THAT AS WELL AS RODEO."

JACKIE CRAWFORD



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Reno Rodeo

JUNE 16–25, 2022

**Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center,
Reno, Nevada**

Known as the "Wildest, Richest Rodeo in the West," the Reno Rodeo is celebrating 103 years of wild west family fun. The traditional 10-day rodeo has stretched into 11 days with the addition of a kick-off concert sponsored by KBUL Radio. This is a PRCA-sanctioned sporting event and is a non-profit organization made up of more than 900 volunteers. More than 140,000 fans attend each year for the fourth-richest PRCA tour rodeo.

renorodeo.com

National Junior High Finals Rodeo (NJHFR)

JUNE 19–25, 2022

**Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter,
Perry, Georgia**

Celebrating its 17th anniversary, the National Junior High Finals Rodeo is the pinnacle event for National High School Rodeo Association Junior High Division members who qualify for this championship rodeo. Twelve-hundred competitors from across the world compete for a world title in 15 different events. NHSRA national sponsors make it possible for more than \$100,000 in scholarships to be awarded and more than \$150,000 in jackpot money. The Cowboy Channel will be covering the in-arena action.

nhsra.com/juniorhighfinals

The 81st Cinch Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo | NFR Open

JULY 13–16, 2022

Norris Penrose Event Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado

The best in ProRodeo are coming to Colorado Springs as the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo welcomes the inaugural NFR Open powered by RAM. Contestants from each of the 12 U.S. circuits, plus Canada, will be competing for \$1 million in payouts. Evening performances begin at 6:45 p.m. and a Saturday matinee starts at 12:15 p.m., with free parking and family-friendly fun outside the arena in the Fan Zone. Tickets are available now at pikespeakorbust.org.

pikespeakorbust.org



National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR)

JULY 17–23, 2022

CAM-PLEX Event Center, Gillette, Wyoming

The 74th annual National High School Finals Rodeo is the premier event for National High School Rodeo Association High School Division members who qualify for the championship rodeo. About 1,600 contestants hail from 44 states, five Canadian provinces, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand. NHSRA sponsors allow the event to pay out more than \$250,000 in scholarships and more than \$290,000 in jackpot cash to contestants. Experience the event and outside-the-arena activities in person, or catch the action live on the Cowboy Channel Plus App.

nhsra.com/nhsfr

Cheyenne Frontier Days

JULY 22–31, 2022

Frontier Park, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Founded in 1897, Cheyenne Frontier Days is the world's largest outdoor rodeo and Western celebration, with a PRCA rodeo drawing top professionals competing for \$1 million in cash and prizes. Enjoy behind-the-chutes tours, trick riding, a wild-horse race, a Native American Village, an old frontier town, pancake breakfasts and an art show. Don't miss the carnival, parades, an air show, top-name musical entertainment, and the PBR.

cfdrodeo.com

Ellensburg Rodeo

SEPTEMBER 2-5, 2022

Ellensburg Rodeo Arena, Ellensburg, Washington

The Ellensburg Rodeo started as a local competition 99 years ago, and today it's one of the top 20 professional rodeos in America. It retains its family-friendly spirit while offering \$400,000 in prize money to the event's 600 professional rodeo competitors. Over Labor Day weekend, spectators can experience a Friendship Dance with members of the Yakama Indian Nation, Rockin' the Chutes concert, Grand Western Parade, Xtreme Bulls Tour Semi-Finals and, of course, top pro rodeo competition.

ellensburgrodeo.com



The Inaugural PBR Team Series Championship

NOVEMBER 4-6, 2022

T-Mobile Arena, Las Vegas, Nevada

Are you planning to attend the Inaugural PBR Team Series Championship? Stay at South Point Hotel & Casino with the 2022 Inaugural PBR Team Series Championship Package featuring three nights' accommodation in one of South Point's deluxe rooms during the event. This includes nightly plaza tickets to each of PBR's three events and round-trip transportation to the event each night. Packages start at \$1,420.

southpointarena.com



WRCA World Championship Ranch Rodeo

NOVEMBER 10-13, 2022

Amarillo Civic Center Complex, Amarillo, Texas

The Working Ranch Cowboys Association's World Championship Ranch Rodeo includes four rodeo performances, a Ranch Horse Association of America horse show, WRCA Youth Cow Horse Championship and the WRCA Youth World Championship Ranch Rodeo. Fans can attend cowboy church, listen to cowboy poets and musicians, and shop vendors of ranching and cowboy trappings. This is the WRCA Foundation's main fundraising event benefiting its cowboy crisis and scholarship funds.

wrca.org



The Orleans and Sam's Town Las Vegas NFR Room and Ticket Packages

DECEMBER 1-10, 2022

The Orleans Hotel & Casino and Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall, Las Vegas, Nevada

Once again, The Orleans and Sam's Town are the places to be and be seen during the 10 days and nights of the world's biggest rodeo. Fans can enjoy The Orleans and Sam's Town with special room and ticket packages. Located only a few short miles from all the National Finals Rodeo action, you can experience the fun and action with nightly viewing parties and weekend live entertainment. Book your room and ticket packages today.

boydevents.com/nfr2022