

HAPPY TRAILS: A REPORT FROM THE RODEO ROAD

By Mackenzie Carr
Miss Rodeo Oregon 2011



Hello!
Since my last article, my schedule has yet again been very busy. The weekend of March 5th and my coronation were finally here! The night was full of good music from the Concrete Cowboys, great food--courtesy of Spirit Mountain Casino--and emceed by the one and only Scott Allen. Thank you to the Concrete Cowboys and Scott Allen for making the evening that much more spectacular; I am honored to call you my friends. The dessert dash, silent and live auctions, and blanket dance were a huge success. Thank you to everyone who donated items, dessert, money, and especially to the Grand Ronde Princesses for sharing their culture with us. Wrapping up the whole celebration was the passing of the crown. Thank you to Ashley Zeigler and her family for making the long trip to present me with my crown. It is an honor to serve as Miss Rodeo Oregon 2011, and I will do all in my power to make Oregon proud. Overall, it was a great success and will help fund my travels and my preparations for the Miss Rodeo America Pageant. I cannot thank everyone enough who helped make this night possible.

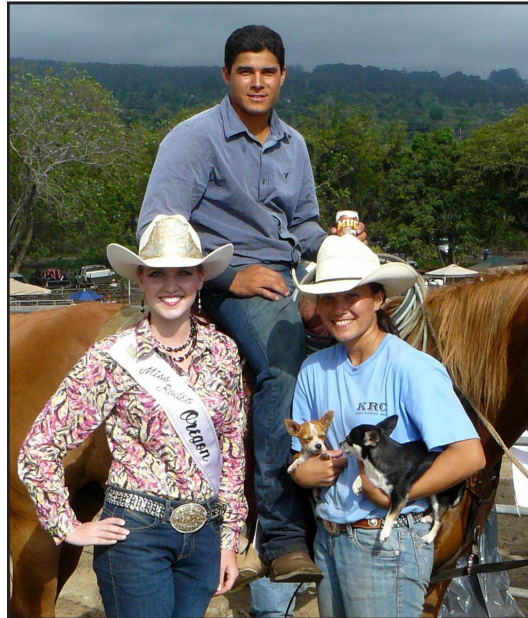
After the whirlwind of my coronation was over, I attended the Clackamas County Fair and Canby



Mackenzie with her parents Barb and Alan Carr at her coronation.

Rodeo Court's Coronation on March 12th. Congratulations to Haley, Kelsey, and Kelsey. I cannot wait to spend this year with you and I'm so excited to have the 2012 Miss Rodeo Oregon Pageant during your rodeo in August. Thank you again for having me; it was such a joy to share in your special night.

After Canby, I was off to the islands! On March 16th, my parents, my sister, and I travelled to the big island of Hawaii for the Kona Stampede in Honaunau, Hawaii. We spent the few days before the rodeo relaxing at the beach, walking around downtown Kona,



In Hawaii!

shopping at the farmer's market, and enjoying a luau. With the weekend came the rodeo and many fond memories. My horse's name was Ricky and she too was from Oregon! Thank you to Edwin Nobriga for letting me borrow her; she was such a good girl. After my run-in, I watched the rodeo in awe. Many of the events they competed in I had never seen before. My favorite was the Wahini Calf Mugging. It was done by teams of two women, one on the ground and one on horseback. The rider came out of the roping box and roped the calf. The woman on foot took off as soon as the calf was roped and flanked, more like tackled, the calf. Once the calf was on the ground, the rider dismounted and tied three of the calf's legs. Not only was this entertaining to watch, it showed just

how tough Hawaiian women are. Kudos to the wahinis! It was quite a treat to see all of the talented ropers, ranging from ages 8 to 80 and spanning both men and women.

After spending the weekend at the rodeo, Kala'i and Nahe Nobriga invited me to spend the next two days with them. We went on a trail ride, spent time at the beach, did a little cliff diving, crawled in an old lava cave, ate raw sea urchins and abalone (called wana and opihi in Hawaiian), and went pig hunting. I had so much fun spending time with them in those two short days. Thank you, Kala'i, Nahe, Macey, Marla, JR, and Sam for your kindness and hospitality; I cannot wait to see all of you again.

Once I returned to Oregon and reality, it was over to Redmond for the Rodeo Royalty Roundup on April 2nd. It was great to be able to help many of the Central and Eastern Oregon queens with all of their pageantry questions and queries. Miss NPRA Shalaina Joiner and I talked about interviews, knowledge, speech, and appearance. The girls were also given a makeup lesson, courtesy of Mary Kay consultants. I had a wonderful time getting to know the girls and cannot wait to see them in the future.

On April 6th, I was once again found on an airplane. This time I was Virginia-bound! After arriving in Roanoke, Miss Rodeo Virginia, Miss Rodeo Colorado, and I spent the night in Dublin, Virginia, and then we were off to Duke Hospital in North Carolina the following morning. There we visited some of the children in the bone marrow transplant unit. To see their enthusiasm and fighting spirit was both humbling and inspiring. After leaving Duke,



Mackenzie visiting with a bone marrow transplant patient at Duke Hospital in North Carolina.

we headed to Washington, D.C. and spent the next day touring the city. We visited the White House, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, WWII Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Air and Space Museum, and the Holocaust Museum. It was such a great day, but our feet were TIRED! On Saturday, April 9th, the three of us rode in the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade. What a treat! The crowd was huge and they were so thrilled to see cowgirls. I received a lot of "GO DUCKS!" while I was en route. It was a great way to end a fun trip.

On April 16th, I attended the St. Paul Royal Court Coronation. As always, it was such a good time; awesome turnout and great food. Congratulations



Mackenzie riding with Miss Rodeo Virginia and Miss Rodeo Colorado at the National Cherry Blossom Festival parade in Washington DC.

to Ashley, Barbara Jane, and Julie. I cannot wait to spend this year with you; we are going to have WAY too much fun!

On May 7th, I will be in Vernonia helping out at Vernonia Florist and Creatures Pet Shop. Come and stop by, support Vernonia's local businesses, and say hello. Hope to see you there!

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