

# HAPPY TRAILS: A REPORT FROM THE RODEO ROAD

By Mackenzie Carr  
Miss Rodeo America 2012

Hello everyone!

July is rodeo month! To sum it up in one word, busy! I left my home state of Oregon the last week of June and only returned home for a quick two days at the end of July to do some laundry. I spent the majority of my time bouncing between Wyoming and Colorado, and made a quick stop in Nebraska.

I began my travels in the cowboy state at the Cody Stampede. Unlike many cowboys, I stayed in one spot during Cowboy Christmas 4th of July run. Cowboy Christmas refers to the numerous rodeos that take place during



Mackenzie at the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs with "The Champ."

up, I was off to Estes Park, Colorado for the Rooftop Rodeo. I had also never been to this town and rodeo either. It was a nice change in scenery compared to Cody. I felt a little more at home in the mountains surrounded by trees instead of sagebrush. After working at the first rodeo performance, I was on the road again. I headed to Colorado Springs for the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, the PRCA Hall of Fame Inductions, and the Miss Rodeo America Royalty Seminar. I had attended these events last year as Miss Rodeo Oregon, but this year, I had the honor of being a part of them. I rode

Harry Vold's big black horses every night in the rodeo, presented the awards at the Inductions, and served as a clinician at the seminar. It was a huge honor to take part in these events, especially the Hall of Fame Inductions. Being able to witness Billy and Robert Etbaur, Hal Littrell, the Dodge City Round-Up, John Taylor, Khadafy Skoal, and Frank Schneider receive one of the greatest PRCA honors was amazing. Congratulations to

the Class of 2012.

Next stop, Cheyenne, Wyoming for the Daddy of 'Em All. This iconic rodeo draws people from all over the world who are craving some rowdy western fun. Not only did I get to ride at incredible speed down the race track during my "fly by," I also saw the great Merle Haggard in concert and flipped hundreds of pancakes at the pancake feed. This rodeo definitely lived up to its well-known reputation!

My last stop on July's rodeo road, was the small town of Mitchell, Nebraska. This was the first time Miss Rodeo America has ever attended this rodeo. I had heard prior to going, that Mitchell is so small that you could spit across the town. I realized upon arriving, that they weren't kidding. I am from a

very small town and really enjoyed my stay there. I have found that sometimes the smallest of rodeos are the most fun! Until next time.



Mackenzie with some Oregon Duck fans in Cody, Wyoming at the Buffalo Bill Museum.



Mackenzie and Miss Rodeo Wyoming, Kimberly Kuhn, prop up the bar on the 4th of July.

the week of the 4th of July that give rodeo contestants the opportunity to win large amounts of money in a short period of time. This was the first time I had been to the Cody Stampede, as well as the northern part of Wyoming. Throughout my stay, I did everything from promoting and working the rodeo, to rafting on the Shoshone River. Being from a state that receives a great deal of rain, I seem to bring precipitation with me everywhere I travel to; even Wyoming. It had been scorching hot most of the week, but the day of the rafting trip, it decided to rain and hail while we were on the river. I could do nothing but laugh and think, "Go figure!" I am so happy that I was able to spend Independence Day at a Wrangler Gold Tour Rodeo and with the amazing people on the Cody Stampede board.

After the Stampede wrapped

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