

HEARD OVER THE

RAIL FENCE

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About The Ellensburg Rodeo

APRIL 2011

The One Arm Bandit: Back in the Arena for the 2011 Ellensburg Rodeo

By Camille Meek

The One Arm Bandit, John Payne, will be back in Ellensburg for the 2011 Rodeo during Labor Day weekend. A huge hit with the Ellensburg Rodeo fans, Payne has been a 10 time PRCA "Specialty Act of the Year" and has headlined the most wanted specialty act list since 1988.

With the crack of his bullwhip and help from his trained dogs, Payne herds wild animals, including buffalo and longhorns, over a narrow plank to the top of his trailer.

His single-handed performances entertain rodeo audiences all around the country. Payne has performed at the Ellensburg Rodeo a number of times, and the Ellensburg Rodeo is excited to have the One Arm Bandit in the Rodeo arena again this year.

Payne was born in Oklahoma in April of 1953. Twenty years later, Payne quickly learned that he wasn't a good electrician. On June 12, 1973, Payne climbed up a telephone pole to cut some wires.

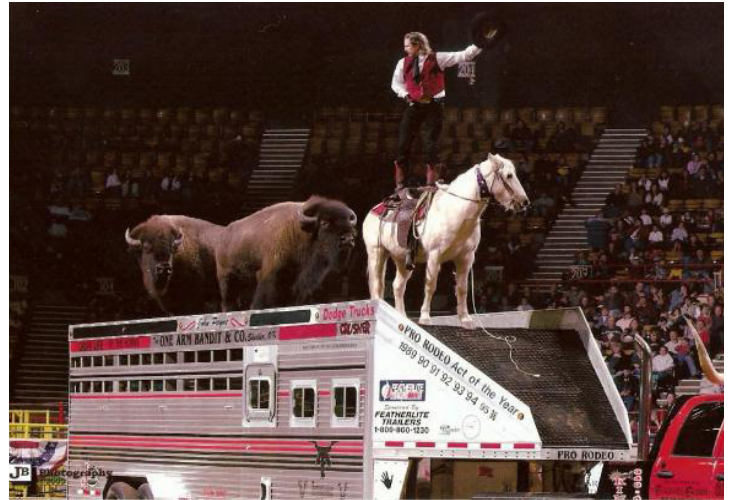


Photo Courtesy of www.theonearmbandit.net
John Payne, "The One Arm Bandit"

He thought the electricity was shut off, but as 7,200 volts of electricity ran through his body for 20 seconds, he was quickly proven wrong.

The voltage burned through his left leg leaving his bone exposed, and he couldn't focus his eyes. The doctors wanted to amputate his left leg, but Payne refused. He told the doctors "I can't ride a horse with no leg; and if I can't ride a horse I don't want to live." The doctors did amputate his right arm because it had been damaged beyond repair from the voltage, naming John Payne the "One Arm Bandit."



2011 Ellensburg Rodeo Poster

This year, the Ellensburg Rodeo Board invited artists from the Western Art Association, local artists and local photographers to submit artwork to be considered for the 2011 Ellensburg Rodeo Poster. The Rodeo Board wanted to find artwork that captured the excitement and flavor of the Ellensburg Rodeo. After a local voting at Fitterer's Furniture and a final vote by the Ellensburg Rodeo Board Members, Karen Boylan's entry was selected as the 2011 Ellensburg Rodeo Poster.

Karen Boylan has a strong passion for painting that has grown deeper over time. She's received many awards, including: Rodeo Poster Artist in 2003, 2006, 2010 and now 2011; Fair Poster Artist in 2002 and 2006; Spirit of the West Cowboy Gathering Poster Artist in 2009 (also awarded Best of Show in Oil).

2011 posters are available at the Ellensburg Rodeo ticket office.

\$20 signed by Karen Boylan
\$10 unsigned



The Ellensburg Rodeo

609 North Main Street • Ellensburg, WA 98926



New Bareback Arena Record Set at Last Year's Rodeo

Steven Peebles currently holds the bareback Ellensburg arena record with a 90-point ride on Calgary Stampede's Mad Money. The last record was held since 2006 by Jess Davis with an 89-point ride. Steven Peebles broke the record on Monday, September 6, 2010. He won over \$8,800 from his average and round 2 scores, and an additional \$4,500 went to both Steven Peebles and Calgary Stampede for breaking the bareback Ellensburg Rodeo arena record.



Photo from PRCA
Steven Peebles

Local Competitions at Rodeo 2010 Award Winners

County Tie-down Roping: Brent Minor
County Breakaway Roping: Cheryl Brown
County Team Roping: Eamon & Lynn Sullivan
County Barrel Racing: Shelly Treat

All Around Cowboy: Russell Cardoza 2011 Ellensburg Rodeo



- Won \$4,680 in steer wrestling, team roping and tie-down roping at the 2010 Ellensburg Rodeo
- Born October 23, 1986 in Knights Ferry, CA
- Started roping when he was 3 years old
- Joined PRCA in 2006
- PRCA earnings: \$400,175
- Placed in 4 rounds of the Wrangler, NFR (National Finals Rodeo)

Big Four Accumulative Award of \$5,000 Goes to Trevor Brazile

By Casey Beard

The Big Four is comprised of the Ellensburg Rodeo and Walla Walla Frontier Days staged on Labor Day weekend, the Lewiston Round-up help the following weekend, and the Pendleton Round-up held the second full week of September.

In 1954, the Big Four started discussing a cash prize for the cowboy winning the most points at the four rodeos. The prize would recognize the rodeos' historical relationship, confirm their status among the nation's premier rodeos, provide an incentive for cowboys to enter



Photo from PRCA
Trevor Brazile

all the Big Four rodeos and reduce the number of "turn outs." Each rodeo would contribute an equal share, with the prize to be awarded at Pendleton, the last chapter in the Big Four's annual saga.

Back in the 1990's, a special award (\$5,000) was setup for the next three time winner of the Big 4 award. With Trevor Brazile winning last year, he qualifies for this special accumulative award. Others have won multiple times, but Trevor Brazile is the first to win three times since the establishment of this award.



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What's New?

Royal Court Update

Ellensburg Rodeo Royal Court, Queen Jessica Hansberry and Princess Marisa Wickerath, have an exciting and busy summer ahead of them. Here are some of the events where you can support our Royal Court:

- June 12: Posse Youth Show
- June 24: Relay for Life
- June 25: Brindle Trails Party in the Park
- July 2: Pioneer Days Parade
- July 16: Olympia Lakebair Parade
- July 24 Posse Youth Show
- July 30: Seattle Torchlight Parade
- August 13: Posse Jr Rodeo
- August 20 at 8am: Moses Lake Rodeo kick-off Breakfast in Ellensburg
- August 20: Moses Lake Rodeo



New Rodeo Web Site

If you haven't already spent time on our new web site, go take a look!

<http://ellensburgrodeo.com/>



Come visit us at the Rodeo Office and check out our
New Merchandise!



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