



LOUIE AND THE DUKE CLASSICS 2006

-Jim Olson

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This month I'd like to tell you all about an event coming in October that I am very excited about. October 13th, 14th and 15th will be the dates of the First Annual Louie and The Duke Classics, which will be held in Casa Grande, Arizona. The Louie and The Duke Classics are a Golf Tournament, Benefit Dinner and Auction, Team Roping and Barbeque and all of the proceeds go to benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and the John Wayne Cancer Foundation. Now, when I was first approached about being a part of this event, I was excited. First off, because it is for a good cause, and I always enjoy getting involved to help out in the community. But my biggest excitement came from the John Wayne connection to this event. You see, not only is John Wayne an American icon and hero to people everywhere, but he had a special connection to the Stanfield and Casa Grande areas. As most people know, he and Louis Johnson were partners in a farming, ranching and feedlot operation which included more than 14,000 acres of farmland, a feed yard, and the headquarters of their enterprises in the Stanfield area. I am proud to say that not only am I a huge fan of John Wayne, but I actually own part of that property near Stanfield. John Wayne also loved the Francisco Grande Resort, which is located just west of Casa Grande and east of Stanfield. It is said that he and Louie would put people up there by the hundreds when they had special events going on, such as their annual "26 Bar" bull sale. That seems very fitting, as the Francisco Grande Resort is the location of the First Annual Louie and the Duke Golf Tournament and Dinner Auction.

Friday October 13th kicks off the festivities with a Golf Tournament beginning at 1:00 in the afternoon. It will be a 4-man scramble and is limited to forty, 4-man teams. Entry fees are \$500.00 per 4-man team, which includes 4 tickets to the dinner and auction that evening along with numerous other "golfer gifts." The winning team will receive beautiful "Louie and the Duke" Belt Buckles which will be the only 4 buckles like that anywhere! There are numerous other prizes, including prizes for the longest drive, closest to the pin, and others. Following the golf tournament that evening will be the dinner and benefit auction which should prove to be one of the "Social Events of the Year." For all of you John Wayne fanatics, there will be numerous items of John Wayne memorabilia auctioned off including some items never available before. You see, March 7th, 2007 would have been John Wayne's 100th

birthday, and the Wayne Estate has authorized limited production of some new items to commemorate the Duke's 100th birthday. A few of these limited production items include saddles, "Red River D" belt buckles, rifles, shotguns, pistols, gun safes, knives and hats. WOW! Alice Johnson-McKinney, and descendants of Louis Johnson along with Ethan Wayne and representatives of the John Wayne family will be in attendance.

The next day, Saturday, October 14th, starts the Louie and the Duke Classic Team Roping to be held at the Casa Grande Rodeo Grounds AKA Ed Hooper Park. That day will start off with a #12 Pick and Draw Roping. You can pick 1 partner and the computer will draw you 2 more, and you can enter that way 2 times at \$150.00 per entry or a total of 6 partners for \$300.00. This Roping will start at 9:00 a.m. sharp and the books open at 8:00 a.m. First place average winners will receive beautiful, Special Edition Louie and The Duke commemorative replica rifles, which are mounted in a really cool wooden frame. Second in the Average will receive Louie and The Duke Buckles and third will receive Custom Breast Collars. The second roping on



Saturday should be some great watching for all of the people on hand treating themselves to the Kortsen Boys Barbeque which also takes place that day. The second roping is a 1 Header, be as fast as you can be, "Rodeo Run" type of Roping. You can enter 2 times, at \$50.00 per man, and it is "Open to the World." Here is the kicker though, there are special Buckles for the fastest #13 or #12 team, the fastest #11 or #10 team, and for the fastest #9 team or below. Oh and did I mention the Special Louie and The Duke Replica Rifles for fastest overall! So everyone should enjoy, and enter this roping. Who knows, you may see a #11 team for example, who is on their game and draws good and smokes a steer in 5 flat and beats everyone. But even if that #11 team didn't win 1st in the overall fast time, they still have a chance to win beautiful buckles for being the fastest in the #11 or the #10 category! The last Roping on Saturday is going to be a #11 World Series of Team Roping Qualifier. Now, for the few out there who haven't heard about the World Series of Team Roping, it is a unique concept that is the brain-child of none other than Denny Gentry (yeah, the man who started the U.S.T.R.C.). The World Series of Team Roping will be held during the first weekend of The National Finals Rodeo in December and is

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by sending in your entries and "direct entering" for \$3,000.00 per team; the second way is by "Qualifying" at a World Series of Team Roping "Qualifier" like this one in Casa Grande. For more details on the World Series of Team Roping, you should check out their Web Site at ropedaddy.com or just pick up about any roping publication and read their ads. The #11 World Series of Team Roping Qualifier is a pick your partner, enter 2 times, for \$150.00 per man, and the World Series of Team Roping rules will be in effect (again check out the Web Site, they aren't much different than U.S.T.R.C. rules). The average winners in this roping will receive beautiful buckles and the top 5% placing in the average will get to qualify for the World Series of Team Roping (see rules on this detail also).

The Final Day of the Louie and The Duke Classic Team Roping will be Sunday October 15th, and this day should prove to be another huge turnout for the team roping crowd. The first roping of the day is a #11 pick 1, draw 2 for \$150.00 per entry and you can enter up to 2 times for a total of 6 partners for \$300.00. The prizes for this roping are the same as the #12 pick/draw on Saturday, rifles for 1st in the average, buckles for 2nd and custom breast collars for 3rd in the average. The next roping on Sunday will be a #10 World Series of Team Roping Qualifier. This will be just like the Qualifier on Saturday except it is a #10 Roping. You can enter 2 times for \$150.00 per man and the average winners will get some more of those beautiful "Louie and The Duke" Special Edition Buckles. And don't forget that this is one of only a few opportunities to qualify for the World Series of Team Roping that will be held here in Arizona! The Final Roping of the weekend will be a #9 pick 1, draw 2 for \$75.00 per entry. You can enter 2 times for a total of 6 partners for \$150.00 and this Roping is capped at a #5 Roper. This Roping is loaded with prizes, which include the special edition replica rifles for 1st in the average, belt buckles for 2nd through 4th in the average, and Breast Collars for 5th through 10th in the average! All #5 and under ropers, this is a "Must Attend" Roping!

Other prizes for the weekend include a really nice Polaris Ranger for the "High Point" Roper of the 2 days and a \$1,500.00 Certificate for a Custom Tod Sloan Saddle to the High Point Lady Roper of the weekend. To win the Polaris you must rope both days. Also the fastest time in the Short Go of the #12 Pick/Draw will receive spurs, and the fastest time in the Short Go of the #11 Pick/Draw will receive a couple of rope bags, and other prizes will be given away also! By My Count, that is 8 Special Edition Louie and The Duke Replica Rifles, 20 Special Edition Belt Buckles, 16 Breast Collars, 1 Custom Tod Sloan Saddle, 2 Sets of Spurs, 2 Rope Bags and a Whopping Polaris Ranger all to be given away in 2 days of Roping! WOW! And don't forget about all of that cash to be won, with the ropings as big as they are expected to be, they should pay very nicely. None other than Arizona's very own 20 time National Finals Rodeo qualifier and 2 time World Champion cowboy, Dale Smith, is the Honorary roping committee chairman. Dale's presence will be cherished by all roping fans. Couple that with all of the John Wayne memorabilia and other items at the auction, and you can definitely see that this is the place to be if you are looking to "fill your sack." Take my advice, and make your presence be known in the Casa Grande, Arizona area October 13th through the 15th and you can bet that you won't regret it! And remember, all of this is for a great cause, and your support and presence will be greatly appreciated. ♦



11th Annual Fashion Show



"Everyone Welcome"

Featuring Fashions by *Wrangler*

Like Bobbi's Black Leather Pants

Other Events:

- Storewide Sale
- Kids Ropings
- Adult Ropings
- Booths
- Entertainment
- It's Great Fun!



Fashion Show:

- Starts at 2 PM
- Classy Clothes
- Super Models
 - Great Entertainment
 - Music
 - Door Prizes
 - One Special Prize

Sat., Nov. 4, 2006

9 am - 5 pm

505 West Main Ave., Casa Grande, AZ 85222

Our Models will be wearing  and 



Western Wear ★ Boots ★ Roping Supplies
Feed Supplies ★ Saddles & Tack
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