

Friends of Miss Rodeo Arizona Newsletter

January - April 2015

My journeys thus far as your 2015 Miss Rodeo Arizona have given me many opportunities and memories I won't soon forget! The big start of this journey was on January 10th in Bullhead City, Arizona where the glamorous 2014 queen Miss Taci Shaffer officially crowned me Miss Rodeo Arizona 2015. It was a fun event with dancing, great food, raffle prizes, and more! The very next week on January 15th through the 18th I was in Denver, Colorado for the National Western Stock Show. This is where I truly started to get to know some of the other state queens and all I have to say is that we are fun group of girls! On January 24th and 25th I had the honor of carrying the Arizona flag at the Delbert Days Rodeo in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. I also had the opportunity to visit the girls who now hold my past titles and I couldn't be more proud! It was a dream come true on January 31st because I had the opportunity to ride a beautiful reining horse stud while carrying the American flag for the National Anthem at the Sun Circuit Quarter Horse Show. And directly after this I had the opportunity to do some volunteer work with the Cowgirls Historical Foundation at a Super Bowl charity event that was put on by Mark Wahlberg. Not only did I get to help raise money for a good cause but I also got to meet Mark himself! That is definitely not something you get to do everyday.

My kick-start for the month of February was spent at the Silver Spurs Rodeo in Yuma, Arizona on February 13th and 14th. The hospitality there was amazing; Yuma is filled with great people and can put on an even better show! The next week on February 17th through the 21st I was in humid Kissimmee, Florida. I was so excited to be reunited with the other state queens once more! This is where I learned how to do a proper school visit because all the other state queens and I visited one to three schools a day! The kids were so energetic and excited for the upcoming rodeo weekend. For the actual rodeo I rode a dead broke horse named Paco and because Arizona starts with an 'A', Paco and I lead the queens run for all the state queens! Florida was also filled with other fun adventures too like Gatorland, climbing scary obstacle courses, Medieval Jousting, and more alligators! The next weekend on February 27th through March 1st I not only represented Arizona but I also rode with Cowgirls Historical Foundation drill team representing Faith, Family, and Freedom at the Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo in Apache Junction, Arizona. The stands were full but most importantly my family was able to make it to this rodeo for my mom's birthday and they finally got to watch Oreo and I strut our stuff for the first time as Miss Rodeo Arizona!

I spent most of March in my hometown with my family, friends, and supporters. On March 12th through 15th Oreo and I rode at the Avi River Stampede in Laughlin, Nevada. I had the opportunity to visit some of my sponsors, spend time with my family, and create memories with the local rodeo queens. On March 19th I participated in another charity event with the CHF cowgirls. We mingled with crowds and modeled off the many auction prizes. A couple days later on March 22nd I judged my very first queen pageant in Needles, California. This was a very special opportunity for me because my very first title was the 2009 Colorado River Round Up Needles Rodeo Princess. I learned a lot being on the other side of the table and now realize just how difficult a judge's job can be! I went to a thank you banquet on March 26th for the Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo. It was plenty of fun but also an eye opener on exactly how many people it takes to put on a fantastic show! On March 27th through the 29th Oreo and I again rode with the CHF cowgirls at the Fiesta Days Rodeo. The start of this weekend showed to have some

challenging events (I was in a car accident on the way to the rodeo) but nothing could stop Oreo and I from riding in that rodeo like we said we would. It ended up being a very fun weekend and a great learning experience! I found myself once again in Needles, California on April 3rd and 4th for the Colorado River Round Up Rodeo. Most importantly I surprised one of my biggest fans at her school for show-and-tell. Her reaction when she saw me was priceless, which made this visit not your average school visit. I'm so happy that I have the opportunity to be a positive role model to so many people, and I can already see my influence as I witness people galloping down the path with Miles of Smile!