

## From the Desk of MRAz 2007: Viva Las Vegas!

### *Katie Captures First Runner-up & Horsemanship Award at MRA Pageant*

Hello Friends & Family! I have so much to tell you! First, I hope this finds you happy and healthy, and that you and yours had a warm holiday season! **We had a great Christmas!** It was so nice to finally catch our breath after the chaos of preparing for the Miss Rodeo America Pageant! We spent the holidays surrounded by family, friends, and our cows. Since May, we'd been away from my family's ranch in California. It was nice to be back there and rekindle friendships with our far away pals – both two and four-legged!

I must first thank you for your support in Las Vegas! I know that many of you have a first hand account (either your own or your daughter's) of how stressful but rewarding the experience can be! I want you to know how much I appreciate your kind words to my Mom and me.

**I had the most wonderful experience in Las Vegas;** I wish I could share with you all that I learned and all who touched me. I could not have asked for a better week! I said a lot of prayers, drew good questions and good horses, and gave it my all. Winning the Horsemanship Award was a tremendous honor; one I will be proud of my entire life! And

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now, I know exactly how Amanda felt when she was named 1st runner-up... It is a great feeling, but bittersweet to get so close! One thing is for certain, I have a beautiful silver saddle and memories and friendships to last a lifetime! The chaperones commented on how well the contestants got along, and we really did. I started an e-mail chain and we are updating each other on our lives every couple of weeks. We are already planning the 1st annual reunion of the MRA Class of '08.

The 2008 Rodeo Season is off and running, and so am I! I spent January 14-28 in Denver for the **National Western Stock Show and Rodeo!** If you ever have the chance to go, you'll be in for a treat! The Cervi Championship Rodeo Company puts on a spectacular show, complete with lasers and pyrotechnics, specialty acts and bullfights, big names and top stock! I had the opportunity to meet fellow rodeo fan, and Baseball Hall of Famer, Nolan Ryan!

While in Colorado, thanks to my friend JC Trujillo, **I got to attend the Cowboy Downhill in Steamboat Springs!** This was the first time that Miss Rodeo Arizona had been there on skis! I was in for a once in a lifetime opportunity, so there was no chance of me turning out of the competition! The Cowboy Downhill contestants enter at Denver, and ski in their chaps! It is a dual slalom course, with a jump, after which you

**Viva Las Vegas! - Continued from Page 1**



**Struttin' Her Stuff!**

♣♥♦♠♣♥♦♠♣♥♦♠  
 Amanda (MRA '06) and Katie at Get Acquainted Party; With Nancy Ayers after the Fashion Show; Katie trades in her steed for skis; Winner of the "Best Wreck" Award  
 ♣♥♦♠♣♥♦♠♣♥♦♠

rope a Denver Broncos Cheerleader and saddle a horse, before racing to the finish line! I knew I'd be competitive in the roping and saddling, but I had to get to the bottom of the hill first! My best friend, Heather Kliever, flew in for the adventure and we wisely took a ski lesson with Marry Cane - the day before the race! Marry taught me how to turn, to stop and gave me the "can-do-confidence" I needed for the big race!

Race day came around, and I dressed in my MRAZ Chaps and matching vest, silver crown, and trusty black Baily - both duct taped and pinned on! I signed in and chose bib number 22. After all, Eric Byrnes of the Diamondbacks is #22, I'm 22 years old, and it was January 22! We were to choose our partners for the dual slalom. So, I chose a bareback rider, who was on his first set of skis, and had a broken foot. I thought he'd be a good opponent! There were a lot of cowboys who wanted to race me, I felt like the only girl football player, who inevitably was always tackled first! I picked an already injured cowboy and he still beat me!

Before the race started, I interviewed with many reporters, some from Steamboat, some from ESPN, some from the PRCA's PSN! It was really exciting, and since I was the only girl competing, they all wanted to know my strategy, it was pretty simple... "survive!" I visited with many of JC's buddies, including Olympic Medalist Billy Kidd, who I hit up for advice on how to stick the landing after the jump - which, by the way, was about three times taller than me! He said, "Well, it is your first time on skis, so I think you should go off the side, and besides, JC and Larry Mahan would say, if you're not cheatin', you're not tryin'!" I had an extra layer of confidence after talking with him, and upon seeing the Justin Sports Medicine Team on hand!

I got to the starting gate on the red course; my injured opponent was on the blue course. They said, "Red Course clear, Blue Course clear, skiers ready, start!" After a slight hesitation and a quick prayer, I was off, but not for long! Before I even got to the first red gate, I was in a roll. Not on a roll, but in a roll! I recovered quickly with a laugh and heard a guy at the top say, "Go help her!" Apparently, I had lost a ski! I asked the gentleman helping me lock into my ski, if I was winning; he looked down at the finish line, where my opponent was standing, and said, "Well, if you hurry, you might win the next one!" I was off again, weaving through gates at lightning speed... or so it felt! Next came the jump, I took Mr. Kidd's advice and went off the side, where I still had about a 2-3 foot jump... I skied to the cheerleader, built a loop, roped her... skied on to saddle the horse and through the finish line! I asked Mr. Kidd what he thought of my performance, he said, "You looked like Picaboo Street up there, I give you a perfect 10!" I asked for my time, but they stopped the clock after my tumble!

The next race was the Stampede! The courses were cleared, and the cowboys and I lined up at the top of the hill. They said, "Skiers ready," and counted down from 10. The next 25 seconds were complete chaos, so much so that I forgot to leave the starting gate! I watched until I realized I was supposed to be down there tangled in the spaghetti of cowboys, skis, and snowboards. I left the starting line and immediately tumbled, again. Same spot! It's a good thing I didn't leave the line with everyone else, as I don't need any help in the crashing department! I got up and started again, I was at a pretty good clip,

*Continued on Page 5*



**Sponsor Spotlight: Fast Frame of Prescott, Arizona**

Customer Service is their number one priority. From the moment Katie entered their showroom, she was greeted and treated in a friendly, caring manner. Fast Frame of Prescott partnered with Katie in framing a beautiful piece of artwork donated for the 2007 Miss Rodeo Arizona Trunk Show and Gala Auction. Fast Frame of Prescott's friendly service and outstanding custom framing helped Katie tremendously! They helped put together a Trevor Brazile Shadow Box, complete with an autographed shirt, signed picture, and rope - it was beautiful! Thank you for your sponsorship! Katie says, "For all your framing needs, I recommend:



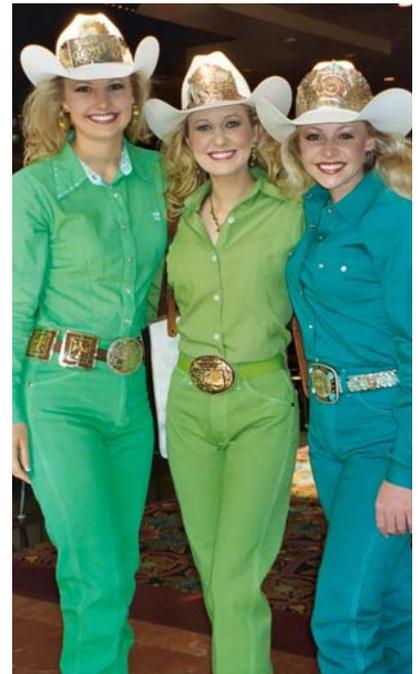
**Miss Rodeo America Pageant 2008**



Katie and Erin Robins, Miss Rodeo Nebraska, argue over who REALLY has the World's Oldest Rodeo!



Making friends at the Pageant Orientation!



Amy Wilson, Lauren Holt, and Katie Hill - the future MRA, 2nd Runner Up and 1st Runner Up - together before the pageant even began!



Mom, Chris, John Landino and Katie, post-Fashion Show



Modeling chaps at the President's Luncheon with Lindsay Glaze, Katie's MRA roommate



Katie and hero, Pat Ommert



With mom, Chris, at the Get Acquainted Party



"The A Team" Alabama, Arizona and Arkansas



Cutting a rug with John Landino at MRA's Get Acquainted Party



Ashley Beddingfield, MRTn, Katie and Dawn Morris

## Miss Rodeo America Pageant 2008 (cont')

### *Katie Hill*

Miss Rodeo America 2008  
1st Runner-up &  
Horsemanship Winner



Katie being presented the Horsemanship Award\*

↑ The MRAz Board – Blonde Bombshells! - Amanda (MRA '06) and Julie Jenkins (President), Katie (MRAz '07), Heather DeWitt (VP), Nancy Landino (Past President) and Deanna Freeman (Nat'l Delegate)

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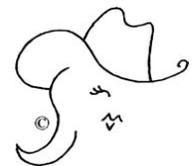
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### Wild West K8 Promotions

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- ☆ Captured local, state & national awards

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## Viva Las Vegas! - Continued from Page 2



Fielding questions for interviewers before the race



Discussing strategy with Bull Rider Steve Woolsey



Showing off before the 2008 Cowboy Downhill in Steamboat Springs, CO



With Olympic Medalist, Billy Kidd

and could hear the crowd cheering for me then all of a sudden, some little kid fires a snowball at me; I didn't really know how to duck or dive around it, so it hit me square in the face! That's when my skiing expertise set in, I did what I'd call a diagonal sliding stop and told the young man that he was not very nice, then turned and finished the race....last, but on my feet!

After the race, we signed autographs and headed to the very top of the mountain, where we skied seven miles down! I don't think I have ever had so much fun or seen such beautiful, breathtaking country! Back at the lodge, we got ready for the Awards Banquet, where I helped hand out awards. When it came time to announce the coveted award for Best Wreck, I couldn't believe they called my name! I was presented a pair of skis, Justin boots, an Ipod and other great prizes, but best of all: **bragging rights!**

My trip to Colorado was one I will never forget! I had amazing adventures, outstanding rodeo action, and got to visit great people! Two such people are Mr. John Cavey and Mrs. Pat Thompson, who are great sponsors of the Miss Rodeo America Pageant, and the Rodeo in Denver! I had dinner with them on my last night in town; their family and Amy Wilson, Miss Rodeo America joined us for a wild time! I say wild because they took us to the oldest restaurant in Denver, The Buckhorn Exchange, which has been open for over 110 years! Amy and I decided to try something we'd never eaten before; the two of us feasted on: rattle snake, alligator tail, buffalo, elk, and quail! **What a treat and definitely a night to remember!** I'm not much of a snake person. In fact, my favorite snake is a dead snake, but I must admit the rattle snake tasted pretty good, it had a little bite to it! (Ha ha!) Thank you John & Pat!

I am headed to Rapid City, South Dakota, for the Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo. It will be my first time in South Dakota! I am looking forward to visiting with good friend, and 2007 MRAz Judge, Mrs. Sandy Garrett. I sure will appreciate the warm Arizona sun after these northern US trips! February 8-10th, puts me at the **Yuma Jaycees Silver Spur Rodeo**, then I will fly to Orlando, Florida on the 11th! I have never been to Florida, but I have been promised many awesome adventures, including alligator wrestling, wild pig hunting, and some great southern cooking! I bet I'll have lots of great stories to share at the **Parada Del Sol Rodeo** February 29-March 2!

Thank you again for your support at the Miss Rodeo America pageant! Seeing so many familiar faces meant the world to me, and I can't thank you enough. May 2008 bring you many, many blessings!

Katie Hill, Miss Rodeo Arizona 2007

## Mark Your Calendars

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ February ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥		♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ March ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣	
8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	Yuma Jaycees Silver Spur Rodeo (Yuma)	2/29 – 3/3	Parada del Sol Rodeo (Scottsdale)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parada del Sol Parade (Scottsdale)	12 <sup>h</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Dodge Nat'l Circuit Finals Rodeo (Pocatello, ID)
22 <sup>nd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo (Apache Junction)	14 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Helzapoppin' Rodeo (Buckeye)
☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ April ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁		🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 May 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸	
12 <sup>th</sup>	QueST, 10am – 5pm (Gilbert)	15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	2008 Miss Rodeo Arizona Pageant (Payson)
19 <sup>th</sup>	2008 MRaz Pageant Orientation (Payson)	18 <sup>th</sup>	2008 MRaz Coronation (Payson)

## Miss Rodeo Arizona 2008 Contestant Information

<b>Packets</b>	<p><b>Who:</b> Young ladies between 19 and 26 years of age, who have never been married or pregnant</p> <p><b>When:</b> Registration packets will be available beginning January 26<sup>th</sup>; you must request a packet</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Patty Brenner (<a href="mailto:mrazpageant@gmail.com">mrazpageant@gmail.com</a>) or Julie Jenkins (<a href="mailto:mrazpres@gmail.com">mrazpres@gmail.com</a>)</p>
<b>Orientation</b>	<p><b>Who:</b> MRaz, Inc. Board, 2008 MRaz Contestants and Parents/Guardians</p> <p><b>When:</b> Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008</p> <p><b>Where:</b> Payson, Arizona at the Lamplight Park Event Center</p>
<b>Pageant</b>	<p><b>When:</b> Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup></p> <p><b>Where:</b> Payson, AZ in conjunction with the Gary Hardt Memorial Rodeo</p> <p><b>Tickets:</b> Ticket prices and pageant events will be posted on <a href="http://www.missrodeoarizona.info">www.missrodeoarizona.info</a> no later than March 15th, 2008. Email <a href="mailto:mraztreas@gmail.com">mraztreas@gmail.com</a> for more information.</p>

## Something to add?

Are you interested in supplying an article for the Friends of Miss Rodeo Arizona Newsletter? Don't be shy. We're interested in including you! Please email [mrazsec@gmail.com](mailto:mrazsec@gmail.com) for more information on how you can contribute to the official media of Miss Rodeo Arizona!

## This is Your Chance! By: Katie Hill, Miss Rodeo Arizona 2007



### Potential Miss Rodeo Arizona Candidates:

I would like to thank you for your interest in the Miss Rodeo Arizona program, and invite you to continue investing in Arizona and Rodeo. The Miss Rodeo Arizona, Inc. Board strives to produce a first-class pageant, drawing talented girls from all over the state. In the four-day competition we call **The Silver Crown Showdown**, contestants are judged on horsemanship, public speaking, modeling, interview skills, rodeo knowledge, photogenics, personality and appearance. It sounds like a lot, but what those capable judges are looking for is a young lady who 1) can carry herself with class, 2) knows the sport of rodeo in its entirety, and 3) will be an outstanding representative for both rodeo and the state of Arizona.

On May 20th, I was crowned Arizona's First Lady of Rodeo. It has been a dream come true and a tremendous honor, one that comes with a lot of responsibility. Being Miss Rodeo Arizona is a full-time job! Since I was handed the reins as Miss Rodeo Arizona, I have had the most exciting adventures, met the most incredible people, made lifelong friends and have the memories to match. **Under no other circumstances or situations would I have been afforded these opportunities.**

It was a difficult decision to run for the title, as I was busy with school and other responsibilities. Looking back now, there is no doubt this has been **the best year of my life!** It is important for you to understand this is a huge commitment. You have to uphold the prestige of the title with integrity. It is a responsibility. It is a job. But, it is imperative that I tell you for every bit you put into it, you will be rewarded tenfold!

Just running for the title is a great learning experience! I can honestly say I consider the girls who I competed with to be some of my closest friends. No matter what the outcome is, **the experience and the friendships garnered are priceless.** My goal in December was to earn the title of Miss Rodeo America. It didn't quite happen. I ended up 1st runner-up, but won Horsemanship! I truly feel in my heart, regardless of the result, I had the best week of my life in Las Vegas. I will cherish those moments my entire life!

Only a select few young women have the chance to run for Miss Rodeo America, only a select few get the opportunity to run for Miss Rodeo Arizona. **This is your chance, take advantage of it!** If I had not competed, I would have regretted it! You are only young once; these experiences will enrich your life! I encourage you to run for Miss Rodeo Arizona. It has been a blessing and a dream come true for me, and will be for you too!

God Bless,

Katie Hill, Miss Rodeo Arizona 2007

For more information, turn to page 6.

### Hats Off to Katie Hill: A Poem by Marge Tucker

Hey, didja happen to see  
that gal sittin' over there?  
She's a purty little thing  
and she's got golden hair.

She jest got back from  
Vegas a-luggin' a brand  
new saddle, It's purty with  
that silver stuff but it's no  
good fer workin' cattle.

She is Arizona's rodeo  
queen and travels all over  
the west. She even went  
to Steamboat Springs as  
JC Trujillo's guest.

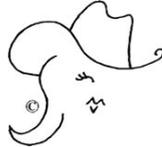
To ride on skis, her first  
time out and she won the  
award. It's a pair of skis  
for the most spills, she jest  
couldn't stay aboard.

But I'm proud of her, she's  
one of a kind, there jest  
ain't none other, What I  
want to do is ask her  
straight. Can I be your  
grandmother!

**Thank You MRaz, Inc. and Miss Rodeo Arizona 2007 Sponsors!!**



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Without the financial backing of businesses like these MRaz, Inc. would not be able to support its titleholder and Miss Rodeo Arizona would not be able to complete her basic obligations, let alone go above the call of duty. Being Miss Rodeo Arizona (MRaz) is a year-long job. The winner signs a contract and has required duties to fulfill. In addition, representing Arizona and Professional Rodeo is a huge financial undertaking that the titleholder and her family are fully responsible for. The following list will give you a peek at titleholder's financial responsibilities: travel wardrobe, plane tickets, hotel and fuel expenses, dry cleaning, plus Miss Rodeo America pageant preparation (i.e.: horsemanship training, modeling, clothing: design/creation costs, boot dying, hats).

MRaz, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so all donations are tax deductible. There are multiple sponsorship opportunities available or you can donate products/services towards any MRaz Event to help raise money. Sponsors are included in promotional materials and MRaz can bring a fresh approach to your marketing and customer relations program – especially since our titleholders travel several thousand miles during their reign. In addition, we would gladly develop a sponsorship that best suits you and your business' needs. Contact [mrazsponsors@gmail.com](mailto:mrazsponsors@gmail.com) to start supporting your western heritage as an official MRaz Sponsor!

**We look forward to having you on our team!**

Miss Rodeo Arizona 2007



Katie Hill

MRAz Board

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 Treasurer: Carol Grencevicz  
 Secretary: Kate Cox  
 (MRAz 2001)

Members: Heather Freeman  
 (MRAz 2003)  
 Amanda Jenkins  
 (MRA 2006)  
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Past MRAz: Elizabeth Scott  
 (MRAz 2006)

We're on the Web!

[www.missrodeoarizona.info](http://www.missrodeoarizona.info)

MRAz Merchandise!

[www.cafepress.com/mrazinc](http://www.cafepress.com/mrazinc)

**MRAz Merchandise: A fun, new way to show your support**

MRAz, Inc. is dedicated to promoting Arizona, rodeo and the western lifestyle, while providing young cowgirls with scholarship, growth and motivational opportunities. We've established an online store to raise money for our state rodeo queen. All proceeds will benefit fundraising efforts of the current Miss Rodeo Arizona titleholder. Here is a small sampling of what you can purchase to show your support for MRAz and Katie, plus more online: "I 'heart' MRAz" shirts; Silver Crown Showdown hoodies and hats; MRAz Sweetheart teddy bears; baby bibs and bodysuits; mugs; mouse pads; ball caps; and, to show support for Katie at Arizona events and the Miss Rodeo America Pageant – purchase a "support button" featuring our very own Katie Hill! There's **something for everyone**: queens, princesses, camera-carrying moms, saddle-cleaning dads, horse-washing siblings... even Fido! **Check it out at [www.cafepress.com/mrazinc](http://www.cafepress.com/mrazinc)!!**

**Join Friends of Miss Rodeo Arizona Today!**

"Friends of Miss Rodeo Arizona" is a dynamic way to stay involved in rodeo and the rodeo queen community. Your membership fees help support MRAz, Inc. and the current state titleholder! Sign up now and take advantage of the many benefits...

- Bi-monthly "Friends" Newsletter
- \$2 off any MRAz sponsored event (including the Pageant)
- Membership Card
- Signed photo of current Miss Rodeo Arizona
- Discounted advertising / messaging on website and in newsletter
- Tax deductible membership dues

MRAz, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (tax ID# 86-0655574). Please email [mrazpres@gmail.com](mailto:mrazpres@gmail.com) for more information.

**For the Queen-To-Be: Miss Rodeo America and MRA Pageant**

- 1) Who was recently crowned Miss Rodeo America 2008? Where is she from?
- 2) Name a few changes in the 2008 pageant events. Are these beneficial? Explain.
- 3) Name the Top Five finishers for the 2008 MRA Pageant.
- 4) Which former Miss Rodeo America is also a World Champion Barrel Racer?
- 5) How many MRAz titleholders also held the title of Miss Rodeo America? What years?
- 6) Name a few Miss Rodeo America Sponsors. What do they sponsor?
- 7) In your opinion, what is the most prestigious award to win at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant? Why do you feel this way? Who captured that award this year?
- 8) What is the NAC? How can you be a part of it? Can you name someone from your state that is involved?
- 9) What is the website for Miss Rodeo America, Inc.? What information can you find there?
- 10) When did the Miss Rodeo America Pageant begin? What else do you know about the pageant's history?

