

### **Chris LeDoux's got a new album out: Let 'er buck!**

*Oct. 19, 1998* -- The music of Chris LeDoux has dirt under its nails, a sore back and the feel of a comfortable, worn leather saddle at the end of a hard trail. And when LeDoux explodes onto a concert stage, it's with the same electric fury as when the chutes used to open for him astride a bucking bronc. It is cowboy country western music at its best -- from a real cowboy.

"No "urban cowboys" here, when LeDoux sings about the life of a rodeo star, he sings from experience

"I was rodeoin' through high school and started writing songs about the lifestyle," said LeDoux. "I decided to do something besides rodeoin' when I got married because a lot of times you wouldn't win and I didn't want my wife to starve."

It is doubtful that LeDoux's fans will allow that to happen. LeDoux fans are vocally proud of their hero. His core fan base is almost guaranteed to snap up 250,000 copies of every album he creates -- whether he receives airplay, a hit single or any promotion. Following its July 14 release, his new CD "One Road Man" debuted on the country album sales chart at number 24. LeDoux is also a shoo-in for a sold-out concert in almost every town he visits.

LeDoux said he doesn't let the fame and adulation go to his head, but he does enjoy it.

"It's just amazing," said LeDoux, of his fans. "I think they're great. But, you know, I'm just one of them, really at a concert. I just happen to be the party host."

His loyal group of fans have posted web sites to the "host" such as: <http://www.cowgirls.com/dream/jan/ledoux.htm> and <http://www.users.csbsju.edu/~sjfische/LeDoux.html>. However, it is doubtful LeDoux will ever visit any of the hundreds of websites that pop up when you type his name into a search engine.

"I'm sitting here looking at the computer we bought for the kids. I don't think I even know how to turn it on," laughed LeDoux, by phone from his Wyoming ranch. "I wouldn't know how to look at some of the stuff on the Internet. Sometimes the fans will print stuff off for me or the guys in the band will -- that way I can see it. I sure do enjoy it and appreciate it."

The good-natured LeDoux was born in Biloxi, Mississippi, and moved to Austin, Texas when he was 12. It was in Austin that LeDoux became the proud owner of his first horse and was taught to ride by an old calvary sergeant. A mere two years later LeDoux had worked his way to the national finals of the Little Britches rodeo, where he won the bareback riding championship and also made a good showing in the bullriding competition.

LeDoux was a member of his high school rodeo team: winning the Wyoming State Championship shortly after graduating. This honor led him to earn a scholarship for Casper College, Wyoming where he became the Intercollegiate National Bareback Riding Champion. He continued winning awards and recognition in rodeo throughout his college years.

By his third year of college competition, LeDoux had joined the Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association (PRCA). LeDoux soon reached the pinnacle of his rodeo career in 1976 when he became the World Champion Bareback Rider at 28. During these years of competition and accomplishment in the arena, LeDoux wrote, performed and recorded songs that spoke to him and his life as a rodeo cowboy -- selling 8-tracks on the rodeo circuit out of the back of his truck.