



## *Rodeo Cowboys:* *A Photographic Essay*

photographs by Toni Bennett



This show of nine black and white photographs were taken at various rodeo events in Washington during 2006 and 2007. I have been interested in rodeos since I was a little girl. Last year, I traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico and took pictures at a charro rodeo. Shortly after I returned from that trip, I took a weekend class with John Martinotti at PCNW photographing rodeo cowboys. Ever since then, I have been hitting rodeos at Shelton, Silverdale, Port Angeles, and Toppenish. I try to stick with the smaller venues so I can get closer to the action.

Photographing rodeos is especially appealing to me for several reasons: I love photographing animals wherever and whenever I find them; I love photographing at events where people are busy doing something else and not watching me watching them, and I especially love photographing “working animals” and their relationship with the humans they work for and/or with.

This series of nine photographs visits several key points in a rodeo cowboy’s life with photos of a new and old cowboy bookending the series. I hope you enjoy them. For more of my western/rural themed photography, visit:

[www.pennepix.com](http://www.pennepix.com)

