

# HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL RODEO 2011 ANNOUNCER

## **KEDO OLSON**

Kedo's background is one that naturally suits him for understanding rodeo. He was raised and worked on a ranch, learned to rope and ride at a young age to work and doctor and brand cattle on the family ranch.

He entered his first rodeo in Oregon and primarily roped and later had to try riding some bulls and some bareback horses. But his size worked against him and he stayed with the roping events. The only event he didn't try in the arena was saddle bronc riding, he rode enough colts.

After almost 20 years of competing in team roping and calf roping he injured his wrist and couldn't compete at the level he wanted, so he was asked to be on the PRCA rodeo board in Roseburg Oregon. Kedo wanted to work on what he knew best, the arena and ground conditions... so he became the arena director for ten years. What an experience to see everything that went on to produce a rodeo!

One of the duties the committee asked him to do was to handle all the Public Relations from TV and radio plus newspaper interviews. Due to Kedo's in depth experience he was a natural for the job. This also led him to do television specials about the rodeo, so Kedo and Rob Smets (five time World Champion Bullfighter) worked together for several years with the production of the rodeo specials.

Rob asked Kedo to announce a weekly summer rodeo series he was producing in Sisters Oregon, Kedo laughed and said "No thanks!" But as fate would have it, several years latter a small rodeo up the road from where Kedo lived asked him to help them out and announce their rodeo. The rest they say is History!

That was over 20 years ago, and since then Kedo has announced the California Finals 9 out of 10 years, the Oregon State High School Finals for 12 years, the National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals for 11 years, the Canadian Senior Pro Finals in Canada for 5 years, the Northwest Pro Rodeo Finals and twice the New Zealand Pro Rodeo Association National Finals rodeo.

He also has won the International Professional Rodeo Association Western Region Announcer of the Year Award twice, PRCA Committeeman of the Year Award and has toured New Zealand for 5 weeks announcing and putting on announcing schools. In 2003 Kedo was inducted into the National Senor Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, to top off his announcing career.

Kedo has certainly had a Blessed life, seeing so many sunrises and sunsets in 10 Western States, 2 Provinces of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and even Fiji! All this from rodeo, the young man that started roping on the ranch sure got his horizon's broadened!

After so many years on the road competing and for business... Kedo wants to slow down on his beautiful little ranch outside of Terrebonne Oregon and spend more time with his wife (Marilee) of 40 years, his son (Jesse) and his daughter (Jamie) and his grandchildren. The joys of ranching and watching the gorgeous mountains, running a few head of steers, helping the neighbors and riding a colt or two is what really makes this cowboy happy.

Kedo got to live the life that so many dream about, see so many sights and meet so many wonderful people from all over the world. So as this award winning story teller banters over the microphone, he speaks as a man who “has been there and done that!”

The Good Lord has Blessed him and saved his “hide” more than once!