

# Get the most out of Big Week

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Since the California Rodeo Salinas draws thousands of fans to the Salinas Sports Complex every July, you won't be the only one looking for a parking spot or a good seat.

Fortunately, it only takes a little planning to make sure you get the most out of "Big Week."

▫ **WHAT TO WEAR:** One thing you can expect from Salinas' summer weather is inconsistency. It may be chilly in the morning or evening and blazing in the afternoon. Dressing in layers is recommended. Dressing Western is better yet. Don't wear open-toe shoes or high heels. They don't work in dirt.

▫ **WHERE TO PARK:** Overflow parking did not fill up last year, say Salinas Rodeo officials, so there will be plenty of parking spaces for \$10. But if you want a good spot arrive early. Don't park illegally or your car will be towed.

▫ **HOW TO AVOID TRAFFIC:** North Main Street traffic will get backed up with Rodeo-goers from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday and from 12:30 to 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, said Sally Hamana, marketing coordinator for the Salinas Rodeo. To avoid sitting in your car, arrive early or better yet take the



THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN FILE PHOTO

Rodeo fans take it Sunday's finale of the 2005 event. If you want to be more than a face in the crowd, follow some hints to make your experience more enjoyable.

bus, ride a bike or walk if possible. Leave early or take your time on the way out to avoid getting into a traffic jam.

Those coming to the Rodeo from the Monterey Peninsula may see more traffic than normal on Highway 68 because

of the Red Bull U.S. Grand Prix motorcycle races Friday through Sunday at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca.

Race organizers, however, are trying to minimize traffic gridlock by diverting cars along Reservation Road to California State University, Monterey Bay.

▫ **HOW TO GET GOOD SEATS:** Arrive or buy your tickets early for general admission or reservation seating if you want to be tasting dirt.

Bring a seat cushion for extra comfort.

▫ **HOW MUCH MONEY TO BRING:** A family of four, considering ticket prices, food and drinks, can expect to spend \$60 to \$100 per day. Bring more money if you want track seating and souvenirs.

▫ **WHERE TO GO FOR HELP:** Flag down any volunteer wearing green and tan Rodeo shirts for assistance. Go to the first aid station at the north end of the midway for medical help and the box office for lost children.

Contact security for jumpstarts or lockouts.

▫ **SAFETY HINTS:** Bring sunscreen (and use it), and drink lots of water.

▫ **RULES AND REGS:** Smoking is prohibited in the grandstands and permitted only in designated outdoor areas. Video cameras are not allowed, so leave them at home.