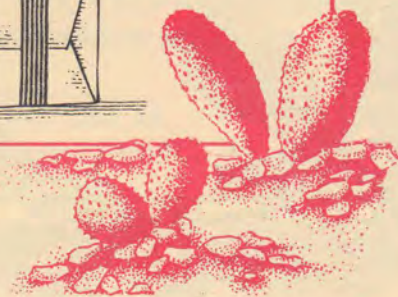


The

BRANDING IRON

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 16363, Phoenix, Arizona 85011
(602) 265-0618

*Season's
Greetings!*



*Christmas
'92*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the Holidays coming up, it's easy to forget that our Roadrunner Regional Rodeo is only about a month away.

Also easy to forget (or is it that we WANT to forget?!) is the fact that for the first time in our history, we had two money losing Major Rodeos this year.

With both Saguaro and the Finals draining our funds, AGRA is now technically "in the hole" and we desperately need to raise funds between now and January's RRRR.

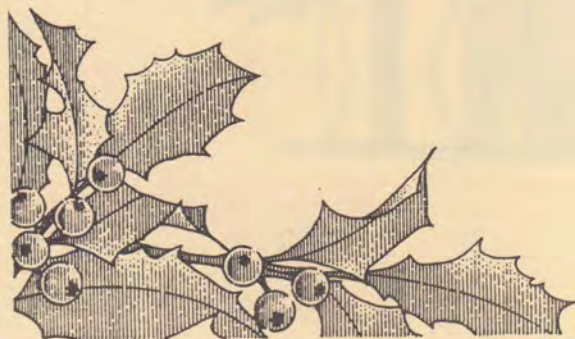
Helping us out is the staff and management at CHARLIE'S, who are graciously allowing us to turn our Christmas celebration during their 21 Days of Christmas, into a fundraiser. Please plan on helping and supporting us, on Sunday, December 13th, as we take over some of the bartending and waiting duties, as well as put on a show for everyone.

Speaking of Charlie's, it's expansion to Chicago is taking away some of our local Members. Already gone, or soon to be leaving, to start up the new bar, are JOHN KING, ERIC SMITH, and ANTHONY PIERI. We'll miss you guys, hope you plan on visiting often.

Remember that our yearly Membership renewals are due in the next month, and please plan on helping us out at our December 13th fundraiser. We need everyone's help and support in these next few weeks.

Thank-you!

Alan Juersen



BOARDS TO CHANGE

Really big changes, if the current nominations are any indication. Lots of long-time names dropping off, and an equal number of new people running for the first time.

Both the Tucson Satellite, and the AGRA Board are up for Elections within the next month or so, and just like in November, you've got some real choices, real differences, and a big responsibility to make sure you vote, to effect the future of AGRA.

First up will be the Tucson Satellite Board Election, set for Sunday, December 20th, from 5:00 - 6:00PM at IBT's in Tucson. All current AGRA Members are eligible to vote in this Election. With the nominations finalized, your choices will be...

President - Bill Darnell or
Mike Mahynske
Vice-President - George Kaminski or
Peter Sittig
Treasurer - Gil Leon or
Geoffrey Willcox
Corresponding Secretary - Craig Coder
or Mark Miller
Recording Secretary - Craig Coder or
Randy Bilbro
Dance & Entertainment - Larry Mann
Fundraising - Sean Thomas
Mobility & Logistics - Jim Fisher,
John Klein, or
Telvi Roybal
Public Relations - Peter Sittig or
Rick Sloan
Rodeo Events - John Klein, Kelly
O'Neil, or Telvi Roybal

On the State-wide level, the first round of nominations are in for the '93 AGRA Board. Nominated to date are...

President - Michael Cooney, Mike
Mahynske, Artie Michaelis
and Crawford Taylor
Vice-President - Michael Cooney,
Phil Looby, and Sean
Thomas
Treasurer - Artie Michaelis
Corresponding Secretary - None

Recording Secretary - Randy Bilbro,
and Ron Trusley
Dance & Entertainment - Lyle Hedges
Fundraising - Terry Filloon, Mark
McCrory, and Jamie
Saragosa
Mobility & Logistics - Jeff Coon
Public Relations - Crawford Taylor,
and Bill Travis
Rodeo Events - Larry Jones, and
John Klein

More nominations will be taken
at the December 13th Membership
meeting at CHARLIE's.

You'll be receiving packets of
information on the Elections Banquet
along with Absentee Ballots, in the
mail after December's meeting when
nominations have been finalized.
The date and place to keep open
on your calendars is the evening of
Saturday, January 30th, at our Rodeo
Host Hotel, the Quality at Park
Central.

TICKLER OUT OF WORKBOOTS INTO PUMPS

SCOTT TICKLER, AGRA's Fund-
raising Director, has stepped down
from that position to concentrate
on his Royalty work. Already our
'92 Miss 1st Runner-Up, Scott's
alter ego, VICTORIA LONDON, is also
running for the 1993 Miss Title.
Besides the fundraising efforts for
her own charities, and those of the
other Contestants, Victoria also
remains heavily involved on the
Entertainment side of AGRA's much
needed fundraising (no wonder the
girl can't get a date!).

So basically, what Scott is
giving up, is the "paperwork" side
of AGRA fundraising. As we're so
close to our Annual Elections, the
Board has decided to assume those
duties themselves, rather than
appoint someone else for such a
short time period. The Board would
also like to thank Scott for getting
us thru that hellacious booth
set-up at Finals. Now that the
problems are fixed, we'll be happy
to take it over for you!

XMAS PARTY

'Tis the Season, and CHARLIE's
"21 Days of Christmas" celebration
has scheduled Sunday, December 13th
as AGRA's night to party. Besides
the evening-long partying, that
night will also be a major fund-
raising effort as we prepare to
stage our 8th Annual Roadrunner
Regional Rodeo next month.

Do you know how many tens of
thousands of dollars it takes to
put on our Annual Rodeo? Are you
aware that we're still struggling
to pay off the Finals Rodeo? Can
you see how important it is that
each and every one of you head to
Charlie's on the 13th to help us
out, while getting into the festive
spirit of the Holidays? My, you're
a clever little bunch!

Plans are tentative at this
time, but look for a lot of fun
that evening once the Membership
meeting is done. We may be taking
over the bartending duties from
7-9:00PM (you'll get shots regard-
less of what you order, 'cause
that's what we know how to make?!)
and will keep part of the bar the
entire evening. There may be an
ongoing raffle that evening as well,
and on the dance floor... look to
see lots of Royalty, and old men
Board Members in dresses, perform-
ing all your favorite Country
Christmas tunes.

Sounds like several scandals
in the making, see you all there!

Camelwest Tax Service
Serving the Phoenix Lesbian & Gay Community Since 1983

INCOME TAX PREPARATION
at Reasonable Rates

Bob Lind, EA
Evening & Weekend Appointments • 841-5414

TGRA

RODEO RESULTS

The '93 IGRA Rodeo Season has begun, with well over 100 Contestants participating in TGRA's 9th Annual Gay Rodeo, this year held in Dallas.

Just a handfull of AGRAers crossed the Division lines this year to compete in Texas, and we received no gossip whatsoever. Guess we're supposed to believe that the likes of LARRY JONES and GREG OLSON behaved themselves on this trip. Okay, we'll play along.

Starting out the year right was DENNIS TERRELL, who brought back the Season's first All-Around Cowboy Buckle. ANDY ANAYA was 1st Runner-Up, Greg Olson took 2nd Runner-Up, and CANDY BELL was the 5th Runner-Up for All-Around Cowgirl. Candy also brought home the Steer Riding Buckle, and Larry shared the Goat Dressing honors with Greg. Greg also earned the Flag Race and Pole Bending Buckles. Dennis shared the Team Roping top spot with Andy, and Andy soloed with the Buckle honors in Calf Roping on Foot, and Break-Away Roping.

Saturday Standings...

Barrel Racing

- 2nd - Dennis Terrell
- 7th - Larry Jones
- 9th - Greg Olson
- 12th - Andy Anaya

Break-Away Roping

- 1st - Andy Anaya
- 4th - Dennis Terrell

Bull Riding

- 1st - Candy Bell

Calf Roping on Foot

- 5th - Larry Jones
- 6th - Andy Anaya
- 8th - Dennis Terrell

Chute Dogging

- 14th - Greg Olson

Flag Race

- 1st - Greg Olson
- 3rd - Dennis Terrell

Goat Dressing

- 1st - Larry Jones & Greg Olson
- 8th - Andy Anaya & Dennis Terrell

Pole Bending

- 1st - Greg Olson
- 3rd - Andy Anaya
- 8th - Dennis Terrell
- 25th - Larry Jones

Steer Decorating

- 3rd - Andy Anaya & Dennis Terrell
- 4th - Larry Jones & Greg Olson

Steer Riding

- 2nd - Dennis Terrell
- 5th - Greg Olson

Team Roping

- 1st - Dennis Terrell & Andy Anaya
- 2nd - Greg Olson & Larry Jones
- 3rd - Greg Olson & Larry Jones
- 4th - Dennis Terrell & Andy Anaya

Wild Drag Race

- 3rd - Andy Anaya & Dennis Terrell
- 9th - Larry Jones & Greg Olson
- 10th - Candy Bell

Sunday Standings

Barrel Racing

- 2nd - Andy Anaya
- 4th - Dennis Terrell
- 12th - Greg Olson
- 19th - Larry Jones

Break-Away Roping

- 1st - Andy Anaya
- 3rd - Greg Olson
- 4th - Dennis Terrell

Bull Riding

- 2nd - Candy Bell

Calf Roping on Foot

- 1st - Andy Anaya

Chute Dogging

- 1st - Dennis Terrell
- 8th - Greg Olson

Flag Race

- 1st - Greg Olson
- 2nd - Dennis Terrell

Goat Dressing

- 3rd - Larry Jones & Greg Olson
- 7th - Andy Anaya & Dennis Terrell

Pole Bending

- 2nd - Greg Olson
- 13th - Dennis Terrell
- 14th - Andy Anaya
- 16th - Larry Jones

Steer Decorating

- 4th - Larry Jones & Greg Olson

Steer Riding

- 1st - Candy Bell
- 5th - Greg Olson
- 8th - Dennis Terrell

Team Roping

- 1st - Dennis Terrell & Andy Anaya
- 3rd - Andy Anaya & Dennis Terrell

Wild Drag Race

- 2nd - Andy Anaya & Dennis Terrell
- 12th - Candy Bell
- 19th - Larry Jones & Greg Olson



FAXES

The '90's version of "letters". The following FAX arrived at just the right time, as we were planning on making a few caustic comments about the recent November votes in Colorado, and ask how we could help.

For those of you who read only the back half of the ECHO, a quick recap...

Among the many ballot propositions across the Country last month, were two particularly anti-Gay measures (sponsored by National right-wing groups) seeking to overturn existing Gay Rights laws in both Oregon and Colorado, and make future rights laws illegal. Oregon voted theirs down, Colorado approved theirs.

Needless to say, things started to hit the fan immediately. One group wants to cancel Aspen's Gay Ski Week. HARVEY FIRESTEIN went on ARSENIO HALL announcing an overall Boycott Colorado campaign, and BARBRA ("Babs" to us) STREISAND announced her support of the boycott at a recent AIDS benefit.

Now, being a firm supporter of boycotts, and the economic pressures they bring to bear on those who are against us, we were in a quandry. What about our Colorado Rodeos?! Denver voted 60% AGAINST this measure, so we don't want to punish them right? But using that logic, Colorado Springs voted FOR the measure, so what do we do with Pike's Peak? Some solutions are already underway. Aspen has decided to continue Gay Ski Week, and their Council passed measures condemning the State-wide vote. MARTINA NATRAVILOVA is joining others in suing the State to overturn the vote. And there are definite plans in store to deal with a certain, PERKIN'S Chrysler Plymouth of Colorado Springs (Colorado's answer to our own, now defunct, MECHAM Pontiac) who were very strong supporters of this homophobic new law.

What follows is CGRA's answers to date on this controversy, and we hope to have updates from them in the future. Tell us what day we can jam Perkin's FAX and phone lines!

Howdy, From the Colorado Gay Rodeo and the Gay Community of Denver, Colorado Springs, and the rest of Colorado!

All of us wish to thank you and the rest of our family from across the Country for your support and continued prayers for us after Amendment #2.

Colorado TV news reported that the Los Angeles Teachers Union has voted to Boycott Colorado and we can not begin to tell you how upset we are that anyone would desert us at this time.

Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo, July 2-3-4, and Pike's Peak United Rodeo Sept. 24-25-26 are still on schedule. We will not be driven out of Colorado or any other State and we pray you will be at these Rodeos in even greater numbers as a message to Colorado and the Nation - We will fight against discrimination and for EQUAL RIGHTS!

Let's make Colorado the Gayest State in the Nation - Come to Rodeo!

RRRR- 3 DAYS LONG ROYALTY CONTEST MOVED

A big change coming up in Jan., as our Roadrunner Regional Rodeo becomes a 3-day affair, and our '93 Royalty Contest is held a week before the Rodeo.

Lots of discussion on this issue between the Board and Membership, with the hoped for result of NOT repeating last January's record-breaking 12-hour days of running Events, which lasted until 11:30PM on Saturday. As we're expecting roughly the same number of Contestants at this year's Rodeo, something had to be done. 12-hour days for Contestants, Officials, and Volunteers, just isn't workable.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

On the other hand, we don't know if spreading the Events over a 2 1/2 day period (shorter days, but more of them) is workable either. Since we know the long days don't work, it was decided to try the extra day this year.

Events will be run at the usual times all day on Saturday and Sunday, and we're adding a half-day of Events to be run on Friday night. Contestants sign-up then, will now be on Friday morning instead of evening.

With the abbreviated Friday night schedule, and many of our Royalty Contestants also being Rodeo Contestants, that threw off our Royalty Contest plans.

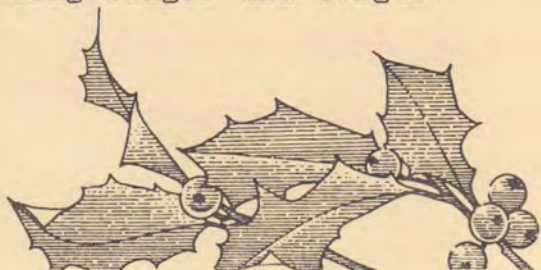
So, Friday night in the Dance Hall is now scheduled to be one big Jamboree Dance with MILLER BEER helping us out, and just a smattering of performers. With a half night Rodeo, and less than a full show, Friday night's ticket price will also be halved, to just \$5. Saturday and Sunday ticket prices will remain at \$10 for the full days and evenings of Rodeo and Entertainment.

Our '93 Royalty Contest has now been moved back a week, to Saturday, January 9th. Start that week on Tuesday the 5th, at CHARLIE'S, as that evening will bring all 11 of our Contestants together for one final mass Benefit Show for their Charities.

On Saturday, Charlie's will be tenting their patio area for that evening's Show and Contest.

Pass the word now... Royalty Contest Final Fundraising on Tuesday night the 5th. Royalty Contest on Saturday night the 9th. RRRR '93 starts with Events and a Dance on Friday evening the 15th, with our "regular" Rodeo days and nights on Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th.

Gawd, these Rodeos are just getting longer and longer!



An important change in the by-laws from last year, has our AGRA Membership renewals due by the second Sunday in January this coming year.

Changed in part to get a badly needed infusion of cash before our '93 Roadrunner Rodeo, we no longer have the option of renewing at our yearly Elections Banquet

Some sort of reminder will probably be going out to you all under separate cover, but just in case, you'd be smart to remember to renew your Membership at either December's General Membership meeting on the 13th, or (your last chance) at January's meeting on the 10th.

Yearly renewals are \$20 for a regular Membership. If you delay in renewing, then you're liable to walk into the Elections Banquet owing a full \$40, and starting over as a new Member.

Contact MAX "Sure I'll take your money" SUTHERLAND at #265-0224 for details.

BAR CRAWL RETURNS

The sight of people in Stetsons and Ropers crawling the sidewalks of the Valley will be returning soon, as Public Relations Director BILL TRAVIS revives the lost art of the "Bar Tour" to promote our upcoming January Roadrunner Regional Rodeo.

December 27th is the date, and 5:00PM, or thereabouts, is the time set to meet at CHARLIE'S. Once the Board Meeting that day has ended, we'll be dividing up sections of town, and their bars, and hitting them all to distribute Rodeo posters, tri-folds, and mainly, to party.

Call Bill at #285-5623 for more details on how you can help us out, while "doing the bars" at the same time.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Dec. 6th - Sunday - Tucson's Chili Cook-Off
4:00-8:00PM - Hours/Tuc.
- Dec. 13th - Sunday - AGRA Board Meeting
3:00PM - Charlie's/Phx.
- Dec. 13th - Sunday - AGRA General Membership Meeting
5:00PM - Charlie's/Phx.
- Dec. 13th - Sunday - AGRA "Days of Christmas" Party
7:00PM - Charlie's/Phx.
- Dec. 19th - Saturday - Tucson's Christmas Jamboree
Show and Raffle
Evening Show - IBT's/Tuc.
- Dec. 20th - Sunday - Tucson Satellite Board Election
3:00PM - Board Meeting
5:00PM - General Membership Meeting
5:00 - 6:00PM - Elections Voting
All at IBT's/Tuc.
- Dec. 23rd - Wednesday - 1st Annual Coyote Club Christmas
Benefit for Sponsorship of
Ms Candidate Terry Filloon
Evening Show - Coyote Club/Scots.
- Dec. 27th - Sunday - AGRA Board Meeting
3:00PM - Charlie's/Phx.
- Dec. 27th - Sunday - '93 RRRR Publicity Bar Tour
5:00PM - Meet at Charlie's/Phx.
- Jan. 5th - Tuesday - Final Royalty Fundraiser
9:00PM - Charlie's/Phx
- Jan. 9th - Saturday - 1993 AGRA Royalty Contest
7:00PM - Charlie's/Phx

VALLEY & STATE

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



CLASSIFIED ADS
Start after B2

SECTION

B

MONDAY
OCTOBER 26, 1992

★★

Phoenix gay rodeo ropes 5,000

By Joyce Valdez
The Arizona Republic

Phoenix hosted an international rodeo over the weekend that attracted the usual field of chewin' and cussin' cowpokes.

Before this rodeo, however, competitors prayed for social tolerance and removed their hats in memory of comrades who had died of illnesses linked to acquired immune deficiency

syndrome.

The International Gay Rodeo Association's 1992 finals, which concluded Sunday, attracted about 5,000 spectators during a three-day run at a private west Phoenix arena.

Organizers reported no major incidents except for a non-violent protest Saturday by animal-rights activists, who condemned the rodeo for promoting "the very forces responsible

for the oppression of gay people."

More than 100 gay men and lesbians competed for cash prizes in riding, roping, livestock and light-hearted "camp" events. The gay-rodeo circuit permits qualifiers to participate in any event regardless of gender, so women are free to wrestle steers and men can barrel-race.

"It is as much a fair as it is rodeo,"

— See GAY, page B2

Gay rodeo draws 5,000 in Phoenix

— GAY, from page B1

said Artie Michaelis, business manager for the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association, as he brushed by a "rodeo queen" who appeared to be a man in women's clothing.

But most of Sunday's spectators would have blended into any Western crowd in their faded jeans, boots and wide-brim hats.

From November through October, gay rodeos are held in such cities as Tucson, Seattle, Oklahoma City, Denver, San Antonio and San Francisco. David Pizzuti attends several each year as a rodeo clown.

"A lot of the (straight) rodeo crowd knows there's a gay circuit, but I think it would be a surprise to most people," said Pizzuti, 30, of Denver.

The level of gay competition ranges from promising novices to gritty professionals who assume false names because they don't want to jeopardize their careers on the straight rodeo circuit.

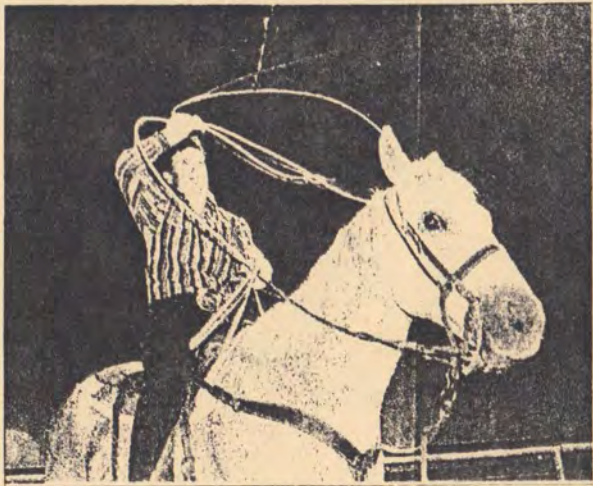
Eric Smith, 23, of Phoenix, joked that his rustic background is limited to some Tennessee kin on his father's side. He said people are drawn to rodeos because of the challenge and socialization.

"It's one of the funnest things to do, and the prize money is getting better," said Smith, who competed Sunday in camp events but has roped and ridden steers.

Saturday's protest was sponsored by the gay caucus of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, based in Washington, D.C.

Rodeos glorify "an era when violence against women, minorities, animals and gays was accepted," Phoenix member Paul Catalano said. "The gay community should reject the idea that violence and cruelty are entertaining."

Angie Darnell, an East Valley horseshoer, practices for the team roping event with her horse, Leonard.



Michael Chow/ THE PHOENIX GAZETTE

Cowboys, cowgirls in spotlight at gay rodeo

By Pat Kossan
THE PHOENIX GAZETTE

It started like any rodeo. A line of boots and hats at the ticket stand.

Children fidgeting at the rails eager for dust and horses.

Riders galloping into the arena displaying the colors and inspiring a hearty grandstand rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The recent 1992 finals of the International Gay Rodeo Association got under way much as any rodeo would.

But it wasn't necessarily rodeo business as usual.

For one thing, as the humid and rainy Saturday wore on, the rodeo queens began looking more and more suspect.

The rodeo clown was too fond of executing delicate splits along the top fence rail, head back, arms in air waving a hanky.

Sprinkled among the cowboy shirts were T-shirts with slogans such as "I can't even THINK straight."

And the highest scoring bronc ride of the afternoon was a back-wrenching performance by a cowGIRL.

By mid-afternoon, the crowd, sweat and thundering music inside the exhibition building promised another dust-raisin' party hosted by the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association.

A total of 119 of the best cowboys and cowgirls from 34 gay rodeo associations in 24 states and Canada had come to compete.

The rest — about 5,500 — had come to party.

"That's what rodeo is about — horses and drinking beer," says Phoenix businesswoman and rodeo competitor Carol Shearer. "There's a little bit of country in everyone."

Everyone includes about 8,000 people who have paid \$50 in annual dues to become card-carrying members of the IGRA, the fastest growing gay organization in the country.

The organization's 1993 circuit will offer 15 rodeos, including one this winter in Phoenix — which is expected to draw 7,000 to 10,000 — and another in Tucson in early spring. The 1993 circuit will wind up next October with the finals in Fort

See ■RODEO, Page D2

■ RODEO

From D1

Worth, Texas. The rodeos include traditional events, such as team roping and bronc riding, and traditionally fun events, such as goat dressing. Men and women compete in all events.

The circuit's growth and popularity has earned the IGRA a three-year, \$500,000 sponsorship from The Miller Brewing Company.

That's good news to Shearer, who has been competing in the rodeo circuit for a decade.

She swore off rodeo a year ago after breaking a rib in San Diego during the steer-decorating competition. (OK greenhorns: steer-decorating is done in a team, with one person roping the steer and another tying a ribbon on its tail.)

Despite her intentions to quit, Shearer was back in San Diego a year later where she won a buckle in chute dogging — that's a kind of steer wrestling.

At the Phoenix finals, she won a second-place ribbon and \$200 for her performance in the calf-roping-on-foot event. (She doesn't ride and has no intention of learning.)

"I get there, and I can't help getting involved," says Shearer, who enjoys gay rodeos far more

than the ones she remembers in her hometown of Fort Smith, Ark. "Regular rodeo, in terms of women, was limited to barrel racing and looking pretty for the cowboys in the stands."

Success of the circuit takes more than a good party. It takes a cause and a healthy purse.

Last year, the cowboys and cowgirls raised about \$500,000 for AIDS care and prevention; more than \$25,000 was raised in Arizona.

A purse that averages \$35,000 per rodeo inspires a big draw for the competition. A champion can make up to \$3,000 a rodeo.

Angie Darnell, an East Valley horseshoer, has been riding the gay rodeo circuit for two years.

She competes in five events — including team steer roping and barrel racing. She averages eight rodeos a season and earns \$400 to \$500 at each.

Darnell was among 23 Arizonans who qualified for the finals and she walked away with \$753 in prize money.

Phoenix businessman John King helped organize the gay rodeo circuit in the early 1980s.

He credits community support for its success. It took nearly 200

tertainers to put on the finals. This was the third time AGRA hosted the international finals since it organized 11 years ago.

"I saw rodeo as an organization for those 25 percent of gay people from the farms and ranches," King says. "It was an opportunity to pull their cowboy boots on again and do the things they love to do — except this time they could admit they were gay."

Despite its popularity and contributions, the IGRA is an organization that shuns publicity.

King fears exposure could prompt violence against participants and guests. He worries people may not come to the event if it means they could appear on television or in newspapers.

He also worries about community reaction. Anti-gay agitation shut down the IGRA finals in Nevada in 1988 and, two years later, threatened to shut down another in Kansas.

But the October event in Phoenix passed with little controversy.

A threatened protest against the rodeo by a gay animal-rights group — which promised banners, a leaflet distribution, civil disobedience and publicity — never mate-