

The Branding Iron



December Birthdays

- Bob Pimentel 6th
- Bob Breeding 9th
- Joseph Hervey 14th
- Terry Barr 28th

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From The Acting Chapter President/VP

The past year and a half as Vice President has been a learning experience for me in AGRA. When I took over the position in 2000 in the middle of the year, I was very new and eager to learn more about AGRA. Then the members re-elected me this year as well. I have seen AGRA grow more this year than in the past couple of years. In the year 2003 AGRA will for the first time ever have the IGRA Convention here that is exciting in itself. In the year 2002 AGRA will move its rodeo venue to Rawhide.

We have had a quorum for a full year so we could take care of AGRA business. In the Arizona Central Pride Parade AGRA had a float this year and won an award. This year AGRA sent Victoria London to Albuquerque and she brought back the Miss IGRA title, congratulations Victoria. In my opinion this board has accomplished a tremendous amount of work.

Then on September 11th the United States of America was caught off guard with a terrible tragedy. I believe before in the past American's took life and something's for granted but that is not true anymore. We have to

take life day by day and make it more precious. We just have to remember and get the most out of each day.

I would like to thank on a personal note Miss AGRA "Suzanne Targe't (Steven "Woody" Howard) and president for all of his help and support. Also I would like to thank the board Claire, Ric, E.J., Will, Dan, Shirley, and Bob Pimentel for being there when times were hard.

I would like to give my last thank you to a board member who has worked extremely hard for AGRA and has put his all into it Ric Leone. Ric has been Public Relations Director and State Secretary and Vendor Coordinator. He has been up against some tough barriers but he sailed past them anyway. I just want to say thanks Ric for all of your love and support. Last of all I would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We will build a bigger, better and stronger AGRA.

Glen May, Acting Chapter President & VP

Miss AGRA 2001 Talks to Membership

Hello kids! It's been a pretty long while since I've gotten the opportunity to write to all of you, but as most of you know I've been kept fairly busy dodging slings and arrows. Of course what did I expect, I do make for a really big target.

I just finished talking to the new Miss IGRA; my sister in BIG, Bianca St. John, and I am proud to announce that we will be honored with her presence for Road Runner Regional Rodeo 2002. Bianca (aka Kenny Cunitz) is a founding member of AGRA, so we can all take pride in her success. I will be extending a personal invitation to all of IGRA's Royalty team so I suspect we will have a great turnout from the new team.

The Victoria London Roast-o-Rama is scheduled for Wednesday, January 16th at Wink's. Erika Alexander (Miss AGRA

1999) and I are coordinating the event and promise a festive time for all. If you have an embarrassing photo or story about Miss London you are encouraged to e mail me with it.

All of your Royalty Candidates for 2002 are doing a bang-up job, and I encourage you to get out to their shows and events to show your support. Remember they are basically applying to be your next Royalty team, get to know them.

Until next time kids remember, your born naked and after that, it's ALL just drag.

Kisses,
Suzanne Targe~t
Miss AGRA 2001





There will be an information booth at the 2002 Rodeo in January in Artie's name.

Hello Fellow A. G. R. A. Members

I just wanted to take a few minutes to say thank you to all of the members who have come out to support your Royalty Contestants for the year 2002. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to see a show you probably do not realize all of the hard work, time, and effort that it takes on us to go out and perform usually on a weekly basis. Seeing other A.G.R.A members at the shows and showing their support makes it all worth while though. Miss Sassy, Novia, Pussy La Hoot, Gaylia, Patrick & Myself go out to local bars different community functions and pretty much any establishment that will let us in the door getting the community knowledgeable of the A.G.R.A about the up coming Rodeo that we are all very excited about and trying to get more people to join our membership, and at the same time out raising money for our different community charities. In just one 2 hour show at the Cash Inn Country, Miss Sassy and I

(along with a star studded cast of performers) raised \$765.00 to be donated to Aids Project AZ. Pussy La Hoot has her shows here at Charlie's every Sunday and has raised Hundreds of dollars herself, Novia is out raising money everywhere and anywhere that will let her sing and dance and even though they have not had as much time as we have in raising funds Patrick and Gaylia have done shows at Charlie's and Winks as well doing their part with what little time they have left. We are out there with PRIDE representing the A.G.R.A and just wanted to again say thanks to all of you that come out and support us and motivate us to keep doing what we love to do. Keep reading the Branding Iron of up coming show dates and times!!

Sincerely,
John Usher
Contestant for Mr. A.G.R.A 2002

PUBLISHER WANTED

Would you like to spend some time once a month to help this organization?
 Do you have publishing skills or enjoy working on your computer?
 If you answered either one of these questions with "yes", please call any State Board Member to let them know!.



Words of Encouragement From Woody

I hope that all our AGRA members their families and friends have had a great Thanksgiving. It was at our last general membership meeting that I realized that I have a great deal within this association to be truly thankful for, and proud of.

With the Chapter Board's decision to reject my resignation as it's President; until further notice, I felt validated and appreciated by a group of people I have been honored to serve shoulder to shoulder with on that Board. The response from the membership was frankly overwhelming. It is a rare occasion that any situation can find me without something to say, and even still the best thing that I can think to say is thank you all for your continued support and encouragement.

The planning for Rodeo 2002 continues in a forward positive motion. Every day I find

more and more e mails waiting for me at my computer from all over the country, with excited questions about what will be a historic rodeo. You as members of AGRA can be proud that you are going to be a part of that history. The changes that are taking place for Road Runner Regional Rodeo 2002 are good for Gay Rodeo internationally, not just here in Arizona.

Again I would like to call out to all our members to be involved. AGRA can only be as strong as the people who help hold it up, and anyone who tries to hold it down can't be allowed to succeed due to any of us deciding to not take action.

Have a Happy and safe holiday season, and until next time, Happy Trails.

Steven "Woody" Howard

AGRA MEETINGS

December

12/02/01—4:00 pm
Annual Meeting and Banquet at the Lexington Hotel

12/05/01—6:30 pm
Rodeo Committee Meeting at Pogo's 2017 N Scottsdale Rd.

12/09/01—2:00 pm
State Board Meeting 100 W Clarendon Ave, Phoenix

12/09/01—3:00 pm
Rodeo Committee Meeting 100 W Clarendon Ave, Phoenix

12/09/01—4:30 pm
Phoenix Chapter Board Meeting at the Lexington Hotel

12/09/01—7:00 pm
General Membership Meeting at Charlie's

All members are welcome to attend any and all of the Board of Directors meetings. Please, become even more involved by attending.



Typical State Board Meeting

AGRA MEETINGS

January

01/13/02—3:00 pm
Rodeo Committee Meeting 100 W Clarendon Ave, Phoenix

01/13/02—4:30 pm
Phoenix Chapter Board Meeting at the Lexington Hotel

01/13/02—7:00 pm
General Membership Meeting at Charlie's

There will be more Rodeo Committee meetings in January. Dates, Time and places will be announced as the committee schedules them.

December 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Annual Corporate Meeting & Banquet	3	4	5 Rodeo Committee Meeting at Pogo's	6 Bob P. B-day	7	8
9 Bob B. B-day Several BOD Meetings (see above)	10	11	12	13	14 Joseph H. B-day Laughlin Bus Trip	15 Laughlin Bus Trip AGRA Rodeo Clinic
16 Laughlin Bus Trip	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28 Terry B. B-day	29
30	31 Happy New Year					



Don't Drink and Drive!

The Branding Iron is a publication of A.G.R.A. Send press releases and article submissions to:

**AGRA
P.O. Box 40465
Phoenix, AZ
85067-0465**

Deadline for the January issue is December 26th

NOTICE

Both AGRA Boards and the Membership wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the families of Chris Lyman Of Thunderbird Trophies, Tommy Pina (aka Noel Christine) and Patrick Terry (IGRA Administrative Assistant for their recent lose of family members

Seasons Greetings

Well another 12 months have come and gone in what seems to be 3 or 4. Another year gone fast.... but what a year it was.

It was a year that AGRA's Miss 2000, Victoria London, Miss IGRA 2001, traveled from one coast to the other attending umpteen Rodeos and who knows how many Pride Celebrations and Fund Raisers. What association could ask for a better representative than Vicki.

It was a year that saw our membership soar to 143 members strong.

It was a year that at every monthly general membership meeting there were more than enough members present to constitute a quorum.

It was a year that saw our president Woody Howard achieve one of his goals as president, to bring an IGRA convention to Phoenix. With the help of the AGRA Alternates and Delegates at the 2001 Convention, AGRA will be hosting the 2003 IGRA convention.

It was a year that, because of the work of members Richard Tally and John Voyton, saw AGRA enter an incredible entry in the 2001 Gay Pride parade that won the Best Entry for a Non Profit Organization.

It was a year that, through the hard work of our State President, Trustee and 2002 Rodeo director, Bob Pimentel, Jr. saw the Road Runner Regional Rodeo move to a new venue. With the help of Will Lann, Rawhide, Wild West Town will be a new home to AGRA's annual rodeo. It was a year that I got to witness a large contingency of AGRA members and contestants in Grand Entry at 2 out of state rodeo's, San Diego and most recently in Palm Springs at Finals Rodeo. It was a great sight to see.

It was a year that saw our Vice President, Glen May, all of a sudden filling the shoes of President Woody Howard (not the pumps of Suzanne Target mind you!) and doing an excellent job.

It was a year that saw a lot of hard work being done, of goals being achieved by an organization working together for the good of all.

It was a year that will lead us into the year 2002, that will be a fantastic good fun year if we all continue to support each other and continue to work together to keep AGRA the great organization we all know it to be.

Yes my fellow members, it was a year.... that it was!!!!

Happy Holidays to you all and the best of a New Year.

Ric Leone

AGRA State Secretary
AGRA Chapter Public Relations Director.



State Secretary, Ric Leone

A Report From the Rodeo Director

I am very happy to be able to report that the 2002 RoadRunner Regional Rodeo Committee is on track and ready to shift into high gear. Some of the things that are happening are: On Nov. 27th I had a meeting with representatives from Hensley, Gray Line, AGRA to map out a route and schedule for the shuttle service that will be provided from the host hotels and park n ride locations to the rodeo grounds and back. This schedule is to be completed by Dec. 6th at which time Hensley has offered to print the schedules to be passed out locally and signs made up for shuttle stops. This meeting was followed up with our Gray Line contact and I getting in a 52 passenger coach and timing the runs. Hensley has also volunteered

to help with the on board refreshments.

D & E continues to follow up on the commitments they have made and they are doing so while coming in way under budget. I can't say enough good things about this team.

Vendors are going extremely well. Ric continues to push the contacts and collect money and deal with all the headaches of who should be where. Ric has a huge goal to try and meet as we are trying to bring in at least 100 vendors. If anyone knows of a vendor looking for a place to sell his/her wares, contact Ric ASAP.

Buckles and Ribbons, Glen has finished the design and ordering phases of the buckles and ribbons. Now it's time to get them all sold. Glen has sold quite a few but we still have several left. If you know of a potential Buckle Sponsor give Glen a call ASAP.

Certified Officials, We have heard back from all the officials we invited except for one. They are all coming and excited to be invited to the first rodeo at the new venue. The officials are as follows:

Arena Director (Main)	Frank Elam Jr.
Arena Director (Horse)	Erin Eaton
Chute Coordinator	Kim Dawson
Scorekeeper	Patrick Terry
Judge 1	Rick Jones
Judge 2	Tom Sloan
Judge 3	Terry Bartlett
Judge 4	Amy Griffin
Judge 5	Ashley Anderson
Rodeo Secretary	TBA
Rodeo Auditor	David Hill
Announcer	Wayne Jakino
Announcer (Horse Arena)	Scott Tickler

At our next Committee meeting we will determine the stock contractor based on bids received.

Will has negotiated and we are waiting on a contract for the Farrier. Will is also negotiating a Vet to be on site.

Our Grand Entry will be headed up by David Medzerian, David will be visiting us and going over some great ideas for a unique show.

We have invited Doug Graff to clown for us, he is thinking he will but has not fully committed to us yet. We are keeping our fingers crossed.

Will Lann (Barn Manager) and his trustee side kick, Alan Tomalavage are finalizing the stall negotiations so we should have closure at our next meeting.

Grand Marshall and Program dedication will be voted on at the December General membership meeting.

At our December 9th meeting we will be finalizing our schedules for hitting the local bars and

All In The Family

With the holiday's upon us, I was looking through some old and "not-so-old" pictures, and I came across the one on this page. I looked at it and thought, "how special I am to be in the company of two people who mean so much to me in my life". Having



lost my Father (and my hero I might add) just two months ago, I came to realize how important it is to cherish every moment we have here on Earth and even more importantly, to recognize and appreciate those who are important to us in life.

I have also realized that we don't always get along with people who are special to us every day. It doesn't feel good when we get in that argument with our best friend, or when or when Dad says, "son, I'm disappointed in you", or when we neglect to call a friend simply to avoid them because of some animosity toward them. But I think we fail to realize that all of these emotions are perfectly natural and should take place once in a while. It also does not mean we have to convert these temporary feelings into permanent hatred.

During this holiday time, I challenge everyone who is reading this to take a moment and let those who you cherish know how much you really appreciate them in your life. At the old age of 25, I can tell you I am so thankful I told my Father I loved him every time we talked, because I never would have known life could be so short. So let us all think about more than giving gifts, or holding a grudge for yet another year, and do what makes us all feel good inside, give the gift of love and appreciation for someone you care about.

To the people in my picture, I love you both very much, and appreciate all you have done for me, and I am honored to call you my friends.

Sean Patrick Slattery
Phoenix, Arizona

clubs with rodeo promos, bar crawls, giveaways and advanced ticket sales. Some of the attractions in this area are, a bus-bar crawl sponsored by Gray Line and our traditional partnership with Hensley/Bud Light that include contests and giveaways.

I want to thank all of you that are helping to make this rodeo run smooth. I am excited every time we have a rodeo meeting and so many people attend and commit to one or more of the many projects and follow through.

Bob Pimentel Jr. RRRR Director 2002

Annual AGRA Rodeo Clinic

And
Mini Rodeo

Join us at Rawhide for a day of learning and fun!
Learn how to do some rodeo events that you've always
secretly wanted to do, and get some experience too!

DATE:..... Dec 15th 2001

Schedule:

8 am till 12 noonRodeo Clinic
12 noon till 1 pmLUNCH
1 pm till 4 pm.....Mini Rodeo

COST: \$20.00 per person includes:
Clinic, Rodeo, Lunch and Asst. Beverages

RSVP By Dec 9th
To
Will Lann 602 997-8518
Or
Alan T 602 538-8704

A.G.R.A. Royalty 2001

Miss AGRA 2001

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A.K.A. Woody Howard
Phone: (602) 538-7380
Email: missagra2001@hotmail.com

Miss AGRA 1st Runner-up

Miss Noel Christine
A.K.A. Tommy Pena
Phone: (480) 964-5932
Email: belu10@aol.com

Ms AGRA 2001

Gaylia Young
Phone: (623) 915-1404

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A HOLIDAY ON THE RIVER IN LAUGHLIN, NEVADA December 14–16, 2001

Sponsored by Pussy LeHoot to
Benefit A.G.R.A.

Join us for the fun... Your luxury Party Bus leaves Charlie's at
9 a.m. on Friday, December 14th.

Enjoy two nights at the fabulous River Palms Hotel and Casino.
Each guest receives a complimentary buffet meal and casino fun
book.

Party Nightly enjoying the incredible hospitality of the Lariat Saloon
in Bullhead City. Shows nightly with Pussy LeHoot and Friends,
plus a live DJ and Saturday night Holiday buffet. Shuttle service
provided between the hotel and the Lariat.



AGRA

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RoadRunner Regional Rodeo
January 18th, 19th and 20th, 2002



Check us out on the WEB
www.agra-phx.com



AGRA PHOENIX PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE 2002 ROADRUNNER REGIONAL RODEO
JAN. 18th THRU JAN. 20th



An IGRA & Bud Light Sanctioned Rodeo

Date/Place: Rawhide Wild West Town, Scottsdale, AZ Jan. 18-20, 2002

Road Runner Regional Rodeo

2002

For More Information: AGRA-Phoenix Chapter Hotline - 602.656.0618 www.agra-phx.com

An IGRA & Bud Light Sanctioned Rodeo

