

The Branding Iron



Congratulations & Thanks from the President...

May Birthdays

- Ric Leone 05/01
- Steven Hennessy 05/05
- Pamela Dunn 05/08
- Kim Dawson 05/13
- Pete Hanlon 05/20
- Brian Helander 05/20
- Scott Perkins 05/22
- Randy Herrera 05/27/
- Wally Straughn 05/31

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First I would like to start off by saying congratulation's to Chuck Browning who won All Around Cowboy at both Las Vegas and the L.A. Rodeo's. Will Lann finished 2nd in Vegas and third in L.A. in the All Around category as well.

I would also like to recognize Keenan Allen, Brian Stranghoner and Brian Helander who did an excellent job as well.

I was not able to attend either rodeo but stayed to help with the Arizona Central Pride parade and festival. Jason Gardea did a spectacular job as Pride Float Committee Chair. He arranged to borrow the flat bed and organized the float. Jason also arranged with Kachina Volvo for two beautiful convertibles for the current royalty to ride in the parade. Jason great job...

I would like to say thank you also to Scott Darnell for lending AGRA the flatbed that he has donated for the past several years.

Richard Tally what can I say, he built the background and when it got damaged right before the rodeo he stepped right up to the plate and rebuilt the damaged parts. Richard came over on Friday before the parade and helped Jason assemble it. Richard you give so much time and effort to this organization and I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Thanks to Keith and his partner Patrick for pulling us down Central Avenue. Keith and Patrick just purchased and donated to AGRA a new official banner. It looks wonderful and thank you so much. There were also some non-members supporting us on the float and thanks to them as well for their support. It is great when volunteers step up and support AGRA.

Pussy Le Hoot did a superb job as Fundraising at the festival. The AGRA booth did really well selling Raffle tickets by Pussy, Suzanne, Novia, Marty, Ric and myself. Then after the AGRA meeting we continued to sell raffle tickets and made over \$ 350.00 combined festival and meeting for AGRA. Congratulation's Pussy...

I do know that Puss has a lot of fundraisers lined up for the remained of the year so make sure and watch the Branding Iron for upcoming events and please try to attend and help support AGRA.

All together between the Rodeo's and the festival it seemed like AGRA had a great weekend(s) between the AGRA Contestant's and the people that attended / volunteered Pride 2003.

Also please watch for updates on the IGRA Convention 2003 to be held in Phoenix at the Biltmore Hotel. Mr. John King is now the Convention Committee Chair and helping him is Tim Dougherty. Thanks to you both and I am sure it will be a great convention.

AGRA President 2003 – Glen

AGRA MEETINGS**May—June 2003****MAY MEETINGS****Monday 05/05/03—7:00 p.m**

AGRA Board of Directors Meeting

Sunshine Inn & Suites

3600 N 2nd Ave, Phoenix

Phone: 602-248-0222

Sunday 05/11/03—7:00 pmAGRA General Membership Mtg.
Charlie's

727 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix

Phone # 602-265-0224

JUNE MEETINGS**Monday 06/02/03—7:00 p.m**

AGRA Board of Directors Meeting

Sunshine Inn & Suites

3600 N 2nd Ave, Phoenix

Phone: 602-248-0222

Sunday 06/08/03—7:00 pmAGRA General Membership Mtg.
Charlie's

727 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix

Phone # 602-265-0224

All members are welcome to all AGRA Board of Directors meetings. We encourage members who wish to attend to do so.

Thank you.

Letter from you're A.G.R.A Secretary...

Hello all.....so much for my retirement from the Board of AGRA in the capacity of Secretary. Although things did not work out for Tom Ziegler, I want to thank him for giving it a good shot.

I would also like to thank all who voted for me to once again be your AGRA Secretary. Your support is very much appreciated.

Our membership grew by 2 more in the month of April. Welcome to Casey Reagan and Stefan Henkel.

April proved to be an excellent month for AGRA contestants at both the Las Vegas and LA Rodeo's. Chuck Browning, Brian Helander, Will Lann, Keenan Allen, CJ, and Brian Stranghoner are all to be congratulated.

AGRA had an impressive entry in the AZ Central Pride parade held July 12, 2003. Thanks to Jason Gardea, Pride Float Committee Chairperson, and all his hard work, AGRA's entry was a stand out. 2 classy Volvo convertibles chauffeured our Current 2003 Royalty present, Miss AGRA Suzanne Targ'et, Mr. AGRA Kelly Bascue, MS AGRA Marty Wolfe and 1st Runner-Up to MR AGRA Michael Butts. Following the Royalty was the AGRA flat bed, donated by Scott Darnell, complete with hay, the AGRA Logo and upbeat blaring country music that the crowds along the Parade route really got into. Thank you Richard Tally for making sure the logo looked as fantastic as usual and stayed on the flat bed. Thank you Brian, of Charlie's, for burning such great music on the CD. Thanks you to members Sharon Starks, Jon O'Dowd, Woody Howard, Glen May, Jason Gardea, Keith Carson, Patrick Nichols, Richard Tally (and myself) and friends of AGRA, Pete Yazzi, Matildi, Melissa, Larry Cutting & his partner Terry for meeting at Jason's Friday night to help build the float. Thank you to members Sharon Starks, Glen May, Bob Hitchcock, Jason Gardea, Jon O'Dowd, Keith Carson and Patrick Nichols, who drove their F150 which pulled the float, and myself along with friends of AGRA Pete Yazzi, Matildi, Melissa, David,Barrett, Matt Keliher and Jerry for riding on the float with AGRA in the Parade. It was great to see so many "non-members" supporting us.

The Parade was followed what may be the best Phoenix Gay Pride festival ever, held it a new location at Steele Indian School Park. Our AGRA booth was a great success thanks to Fundraising director Pussy LeHoot and a little help from her friends like Melody ,thanks setting up the booth, Sharon Starks, Suzanne Targ'et, Novia Gina, Glen and myself. AGRA raised over \$170.00 dollars on raffle ticket sales, t-shirts & rainbow C&W bumper stickers. Thank you to MS AGRA 2003 Marty Wolfe for donating one of the raffle items, a ceramic chess set crafted by her.

All in all April was a good Month for AGRA.

Sincerely

Ric Leone

AGRA Secretary

*****MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE CHANGES*****

MOVING AGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING FROM
07/13/03 TO 07/20/03

MEMBERSHIP WILL REVOTE FOR MOVING MEET-
ING ON 08/10/03

AGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON 05/11/03

**JUNE****NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:****SUNDAY MAY 25, 2003**

Send submissions to:

BrandingIron02@cox.net

or mail to:

**P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ
85067-0465**

Upcoming Rodeos & Events...

<p style="text-align: center;">Great Plains Rodeo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oklahoma City, Oklahoma</p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 23rd, 24th, 25th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">405-947-2351 ext. 100 <NEW!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.okgayrodeo.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Best Buck in the Bay</p> <p style="text-align: center;">San Jose, California</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 20th, 21st, 22nd</p> <p style="text-align: center;">415-561-9228</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.bayarearodeo.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Heartland Rodeo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Omaha, Nebraska</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 27th, 28th, 29th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">402-203-4680</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.hgra.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Canadian Rockies Int'l Rodeo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Calgary, Alberta, Canada</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 27th, 28th, 29th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">403-541-8140</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.agra.org</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">North Star Regional Rodeo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p style="text-align: center;">July 4th, 5th, 6th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">612-82-RODEO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.nsgra.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rocky Mtn. Regional Rodeo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Denver, Colorado</p> <p style="text-align: center;">July 11th, 12th, 13th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">303-839-8810</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.cgra.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19th IGRA Annual Convention</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Phoenix, Arizona</p> <p style="text-align: center;">July 31st—August 3rd</p> <p style="text-align: center;">602-265-8166</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.agra-phx.com</p>
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May 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 <i>Chili Verde Days—Charlie's Patio 7pm</i>
4	5 <i>AGRA Board of Directors Meeting 6pm—Sunshine Inn</i>	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>AGRA General Membership Meeting 7pm—Charlie's</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 <i>AGRA Hoe-Down—Charlie's Dance Floor—9:30pm</i>	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

COME PARTY ON THE RIVER!

**THE Lariat Saloon/River Palms Resort and
Pussy LeHoot Present**

“Springtime in Laughlin”
Another Legendary Bus Trip!
A Fundraiser for A.G.R.A.
Fri May 30—Sun June 1

\$75 per person based on double occupancy

Includes:

- 3 days/2 nights at the River Palms Resort
- Round trip transportation from Charlie's to Laughlin on Coach USA tour bus
- 1 breakfast buffet ticket (River Palms)
- 1 ticket to Debbie's party @ River Palms (Friday mid-night to 5am)
- A western buffet dinner Saturday evening at the Lariat.
- Shuttle service between the River Palms & the Lariat
- Pussy & the girls entertain nightly
- More fun than you can stand

News from the Fundraising Director

Hello,

What a busy month April was. We have had 3 events.

April 12th - Gay Pride Booth raised \$206.00

April 16th- AGRA Jamboree raised \$126.00

April 20th- AGRA Meeting raised \$176.00 in show tips and \$170.00 for the Raffle (Special thanks to Kevin and Jon for selling all these tickets)

Total for the Month was \$678.00.

Thanks to everyone who helped out at the Gay Pride Booth. We all worked hard! You all should be Proud! Special thanks to Chuck & Brian, Marty and Glen for their donations.

Our AGRA Jamboree was a lot of fun on April 16th. Only 5 entertainers were on hand. Thanks to Suzanne, Kelly, Marty, Gaylia and then there was me. We Raised \$126.00 and had a great time. We invite you all to come down and play with us on May 16th. Just a note (We are changing the name of the fundraiser to the "AGRA Hoe-down" and that doesn't mean you can trip the Drag Queens!!!)

By the way, Bud Light has agreed to be our Sponsor on the Hoe-down nights. From 8:20pm until 10:00pm we'll have \$1.50 Bud Lights. They are also making promotional signs for these events.

Don't forget to get your seat reserved for the Laughlin Trip May 30th thru June 1st. We all hope to see you out on Charlie's Patio for our Chili Verde Day this Saturday May, 3rd!!!

Until next month, lets keep those dollars coming in!!!!!!

Pussy LeHoot

So much to say (Big Surprise) and so little space in the average size news-letter. Either way there's only one way to get started and that's to just jump in; so, here goes.

First of all, BIG Thank you's and Congrats go out to NGRA on a great rodeo. Casondra, Michael Butts, Kelly Bascue, and I had a fantastic time and were all treated like royalty (ha ha.) Judy Sheppard, Matthew Sheppard's (the gay college student slain in Laramie, Wyoming) mother was a gracious and beautiful Grand Marshall. I was only able to spend a moment with Mrs.. Sheppard but I was touched by that moment and impressed with NGRA for choosing such a worthy Grand Marshall.

Barley a moment for the Royalty team to catch it's breath and BAM!! it was time for Arizona Central Pride. Jason Gardea (AGRA member and Charlie's newest employee) did an outstanding job making sure our association was well represented. His hard work along with that of the volunteers who constructed the float, Richard Talley's artistic interpretation of our logo and all of you who participated, help in our continued effort to elevate the image of women and men in rodeo. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!

Your Royalty Team has been hard at work and I am so proud of them. With the many events like; Pride Parade Booth, Shows, and Raffles, by my estimates in April we raised in the ballpark of \$700. We didn't do it alone though and many thanks to Pussy LeHoot, Patrick Lose, Gaylia Young, Victoria London, Erika Alexander, Bill Travis, Kirk McGregor, and all the past AGRA Royalty for the continued support and direction of your 2003 Royalty.

Chile Verde Days are on the way the first weekend in May. We'll be serving up hot food, Jell-O shots, entertainment and yes Lady Casondra will once again be our Sheriff, arresting people for offenses big and small. Join us for the Party on The Patio at Charlie's.

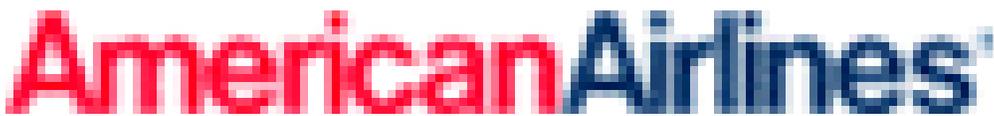
Another Laughlin adventure is planned and this one is going to be an even bigger and better spectacle than before. Parties, food, and shows are all planned for both sides of the river this time. And even though it's hard to tell by the flyers Lady Casondra, Adrian Adair, and me (Suzanne Targe't) will be attending (ha ha.) If you miss this one you'll only have yourself to kick.

Well I warned you there was allot to say and now you know I was serious. So until next time kids remember; your borne naked and after that, it's all just drag. Big Wet Kisses,

Suzanne Targe't

Miss AGRA 2003

INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS



ADVERTISING SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Hey everyone in cowboy land. I just wanted to drop you a line and remind y'all there is still space for your business card size advertisement in the "Branding Iron". A single month is just \$10.00 but if you advance purchase a six month ad it's 10% off but wait there is more if you purchase a whole year in advance it's 25% off making your advertising as low as \$90.00 for the entire year. THAT'S INCREDIBLE!!

So don't forget to place your ad right away.

Keith Carson



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JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
SUNDAY MAY 25, 2003

Send submissions to:
BrandingIron02@cox.net

or mail to:
P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ · 85067-0465

Miss AGRA 2003
Miss Suzanne Targ'et
(a.k.a. Steven "Woody" Howard)
Email: missagra@agra-phx.com

Miss AGRA 2003 1st Runner-up
Lady Cassandra
(a.k.a. Daniel Dold)
Phone: (602) 242-0841
dannyboyinphx@hotmail.com

Mr. AGRA 2003
Kelly Bascue
Phone: (480) 970-3298
Email: mragra@agra-phx.com

Mr. AGRA 2003 1st Runner-up
Michael Butts
Phone: (602) 685-1746
Email: bouncetigger@aol.com

Ms. AGRA 2003
Marty Wolfe
Phone: (623) 980-0070

AGRA's IGRA ROYALTY

Miss IGRA 1st Runner-up 2003
Pussy LeHoot
Mr. IGRA 1st Runner-up 2003
Patrick Lose
Ms. IGRA 2nd Runner-up 2003
Gaylia Young

A.G.R.A. Board of Directors

**Glen May
President**

Phone: (602) 368-4253
Email: president@agra-phx.com

**Gary Rushton
Vice President**

Phone: (602) 404-2224
Email: vp@agra-phx.com

**Ric Leone
SECRETARY**

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Email: TBA

**Chuck Browning
Treasurer**

Phone: (602)243-6008
Email: treasurer@agra-phx.com

**Daniel Kelly
Public Relations**

Phone: (602) 595-4669
Email: pr@agra-phx.com

**Pussy LeHoot
(a.k.a. Kevin McSweeney)
Fund Raising**

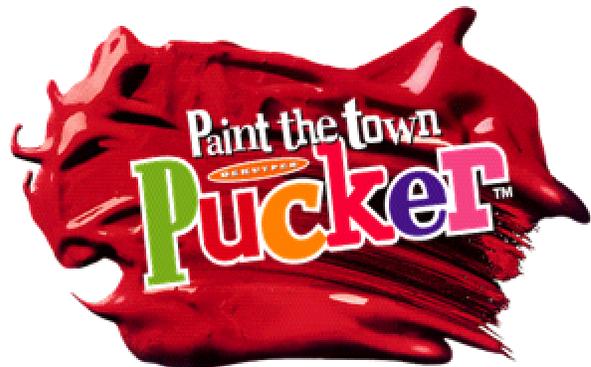
Phone: (602) 518-5064
Email: fr@agra-phx.com

**Will Lan
Rodeo Events**

Phone: (623) 203-8765
Email: eventsdir@agra-phx.com

**Brian Helander
Trustee**

Phone: 602-266-5726
Email: trustee@agra-phx



AGRA

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