

The Branding Iron



From the President...

December Birthdays

- Bob Pimentel 12/06
- Jason Gardea 12/10
- John Carpenter 12/20
- Gary Hatterman 12/27
- Terry Bar 12/28

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HAPPY HOLIDAY'S FROM THE PRESIDENT

First let me start by saying congratulation's to Charlie's on their 19th anniversary.

I would also like to welcome Mr. John King as the AGRA Trustee. I look forward to working with you on the board of AGRA for the rest of my term as President.

At last months board meeting we voted on where to have the Annual Meeting and banquet, which will be held at Beefeater's Restaurant. The date for the annual meeting and banquet will be the last Saturday in January. You will be receiving invitation's to RSVP from Ric very soon.

The rodeo is quickly approaching also, it will be held at Rawhide once again on January 16th – 18th. Richard Tally is looking for volunteers for the rodeo for many different areas. Please contact Richard or myself and I will forward the information to him if you are interested in volunteering.

Gary Rushton is in charge of buckle sponsorships and I am doing ribbon sponsorships if anyone is interested please contact us.

At this time I look back at the year 2003 it has been rewarding and I have learned a tremendous amount as President for the second year in a row. I do hope I have served AGRA to the best of my ability and look forward to next year if I am re-elected. I would like to say thank you to all AGRA members who voted for me this year and supported me as well. I hope I have your support again next year.

I would like to wish all members of AGRA and their partners, and families a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Thanks,
Glen
AGRA President



AGRA MEETINGS

Dec.—Jan. 2003-2004

DECEMBER MEETINGS**Monday 12/08/03—6:00 p.m.**

AGRA Board of Directors Meeting

Sunshine Inn

2nd Ave and Osborn

Sunday 12/14/03—7:00 p.m.AGRA General Membership Mtg.
Charlie's

727 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix

Phone # 602-265-0224

JANUARY MEETINGS**Monday 01/05/04—6:00 p.m.**

AGRA Board of Directors Meeting

Sunshine Inn

2nd Ave and Osborn

Sunday 01/11/04—7:00 p.m.AGRA 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.

Ric Leone, AGRA Secretary

A Note from the Secretary

Hello everyone.

It is hard to believe that the year is coming to an end. The RoadRunner Regional Rodeo will be here next month and there is still so much to do. Anyone who has the time to jump in and help out with Volunteering. PLEASE feel free to do so.

I want to thank all of you who responded to the Email I sent out last month on behalf of Denise Crawford whose last wish was to get on a horse again. Thank you Sharon Starks and Marty Wolfe for making her dream a reality. And thank you to Scott Darnell who also contacted me to make sure Denise got her wish. On page 7, Denise has written a great thank you letter to AGRA, Sharon and Marty. Again Sharon and Marty, thank you for the wonderful act of kindness.

The Ballots for the election of the 2004 AGRA Board have been mailed out.

The Annual AGRA Banquet will also be upon on the last Saturday in January, which will be January 31, 2004. This years banquet will be held at Beef Eaters Restaurant at 3rd Ave and Camelback.

It will be a great time, as it was last year. I will be sending out invitations which members can RSVP so we can have an attendance count. The banquet will be a buffet style with three great entrée's to choose from along with Salads, Vegetable dishes, and deserts.

I would like to extend warm holiday greetings to all of you and hope you all have safe holiday and a fantastic 2004.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you Jan 16-18, 2004 at Rawhide in Scottsdale for the 2004 RoadRunner Regional Rodeo.

Sincerely

Ric Leone

AGRA Secretary

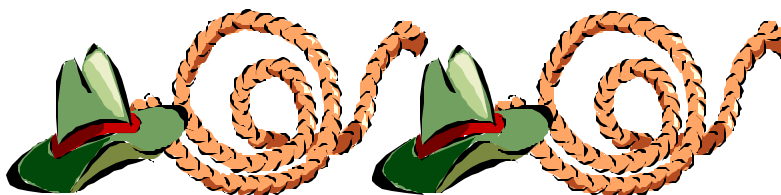
JANUARY 2004**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:****THURSDAY, DEC. 25, 2003**

Send submissions to:



BrandingIron02@cox.net

or mail to:



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



Upcoming Rodeos & Events...

<p>Road Runner Regional Rodeo Phoenix, AZ January 16-18, 2004</p>	<p>IGRA University St. Louis, MO February 13-15, 2004</p>	<p>Cowtown Rodeo Fort Worth, TX March 5-7, 2004</p>	
			
	<p>Bighorn Rodeo Las Vegas, NV April 2-4, 2004</p>	<p>Rodeo in the Rock Little Rock, AR April 30-May 2, 2004</p>	<p>Comstock Stampede Reno, NV May 14-16, 2004</p>

December 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 AGRA Board of Directors Meeting—6pm—Sunshine Inn	9	10	11	12	13
14 AGRA Gen. Membership Mtg.—7pm—Charlie's	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31 			

2004 RRRR Rodeo Director's Report

As I reported in the November issue of the **BRANDING IRON**, the 2004 RRRR committee would be meeting twice a month. On Tuesday, November 4th we had fifteen committee members present. Neil Carpenter was able to get 1000 of our posters printed and I mailed them to IGRA to be included in the contestant mailings. Bob Pimental offered to contact Southern Comfort about corporate sponsorship. On Thursday, January 15th, a committee will be formed to tape off the vendor booths in the pavilion at Rawhide. All of this will be done after 12:00 AM. Rawhide will be providing those volunteers present with pizza, sodas, water and hot chocolate. Discussion was held on buckle sponsorships. Everyone was reminded that a buckle is sponsored ONLY when we have "cash in hand". Once that has occurred, you MUST let Bob know so he can make the necessary changes to the web page. Glen May updated us on the ribbon sponsorship. The same policy applies. Payment guarantees your sponsorship. Glen will be ordering 750 rodeo poster pins this year. Panda informed us that actually only five chutes are used during the performances. We will be selling chute gate sponsorships for \$300.00 each for those five chutes. Other chute gates will sell for \$200.00 each. All chute gate sponsorships will be announced by our rodeo announcer! For anyone interested in multiple sponsorships, we will "package" items for a better price. Our contract with Rawhide was discussed. We will be required to hire "official" off-duty police officers to patrol the grounds during certain hours. Pussy reviewed her itinerary for the entertainment. I met with Jack of IONAZ to discuss printing of our program. After much discussion we decided that we would be selling the "ads" ourselves. It was originally suggested that we let IONAZ sell the "ads" for us. Again, a "package" sponsorship deal was encouraged with Panda the contact for the chute gates, Glen for the ribbons and Gary Rushton for the rodeo buckles. We agreed that the stock contractor company that we choose will be required to pay any fines that might be accessed if "they" don't meet all of the IGRA requirements. Richard Tally has made contacts with some groups and has received great responses for volunteers. Glen will get the volunteers for the AGRA booth. Richard has also volunteered to be the contact person for collecting donated items for our volunteers. Discussion was held on the shuttle bus service. Contracts and prices were reviewed. We know that we will be providing the service, we just don't know the pickup/drop-off locations yet. We did decide that we will have an added purse of \$2500.00. There is a possibility of an additional amount added to this at a later date. Discussion was held on a rodeo clown. It was decided to contact two men and see what it would take to bring either one of them to Phoenix.

The RRRR committee met again on November 18th with thirteen members present. Ron Lindblad offered to contact all of our rodeo officials and coordinate their arrivals and where they will be staying. Bob has met with the Hensleys and received a verbal agreement on their sponsorship for our Friday night Royalty presentation, as well as the signage needed during rodeo weekend. Bob also has contacted Southern Comfort and will provide more information as he receives it. Bob will also get the ACP vendor list to Ric Leone. The buckles have been ordered and will "not" be gender specific. Again discussion was held on the "cash up front" first before a buckle, ribbon, arena banner or chute gate can be guaranteed! Ron reported that the host hotels are getting bookings. The contract with Rawhide was discussed...it still hasn't been signed due to some verbiage. Discussion was held on Will Land holding his IGRA training session on Thursday and Friday of rodeo weekend. We are all agreeable that this is a good opportunity and we are supportive of this event. All we require is that "funds" between the two events be kept separate. Pussy was asked to get more information to Bob for the web site. I am to get a picture of our weekend live entertainment **DESERT HEART BAND** to Bob also. Ron has located 90 feet of donated black pipe and drape for the Royalty presentation. Panda will be doing entertainment packets for associations. After much more discussion, we changed a decision we made two weeks ago and decided to let IONAZ sell the "ads" for our program and then they also will do the printing of the 3000 programs. Discussion was held on the "quality" we wanted for our program. Will and Panda will be meeting to check out our rodeo equipment. We voted to accept Ronnie Mead as our stock contractor...pending his agreement to abide by all of IGRA requirements. Ron reported that T.O.W., a national gay motor home/travel trailer group has listed the Rawhide RV park, during rodeo weekend as a location for their January meet. Claire Miller has notified us that rodeo t-shirts are available to be picked-up. Glen will be making arrangements to get these shirts to the office. The date of January 24th was set for our rodeo volunteer party at Charlie's. 7:00 PM on the patio. Wayne Jakino will be asked to be our rodeo announcer with his assistant being of his choosing. Richard will be producing the area map that is needed. Panda will be working on the contestant packet. EMT has been contacted to get a new rodeo contract. We found out that **ELBOW GREASE** is no longer an IGRA sponsor. Glen will talk with WET to see if they would like to be a local sponsor. All of the IGRA deadlines have been met to date. More discussion was held on the shuttle bus schedule. No decision was made as we needed more information.

The next 2004 RRRR committee meeting will be held on December 9th at 7:00 PM on the patio at Charlie's. (We skipped a week as I will be out of town). Hope to see all of you there. Rodeo will be here before we know it! Thank You!

Dan Iversen,
Rodeo Director

2004 Rodeo Ribbons

ROADRUNNER REGIONAL RODEO 2004

At Rawhide

The 2004 RRRR is quickly approaching, and I am currently seeking sponsors for the ribbons. The cost will be \$25.00 per event for the weekend. If you would like to sponsor a ribbon or know of someone who is interested, please E-mail me or call.

The events are listed as follows:

Men & Women's Bull Riding
Men & Women's Steer Riding
Team Roping
Women & Men's Calf Roping
Women & Men's Pole Bending
Goat Dressing

Men & Women's Bronc Riding
Men & Women's Chute Dogging
Women & Men's Breakaway
Women & Men's Barrel Racing
Women & Men's Flag Racing
Steer Deco

Wild Drag
All Around Cowboy & All Around Cowgirl

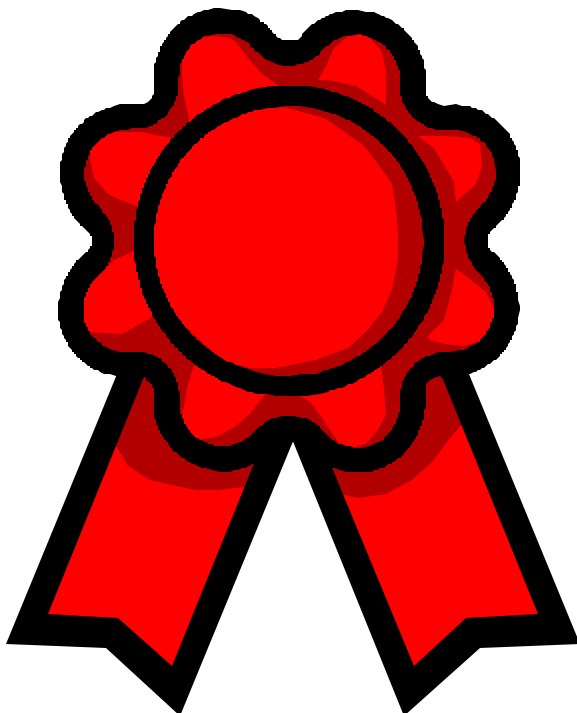
glenmay@cox.net

602-368-4253

AGRA

P.O. Box 40465

Phoenix, AZ 40465



2004 RRRR Rodeo Information

GENERAL INFORMATION

You must be 21 years of age *WITH VALID I.D. IN YOUR POSSESSION* to purchase and/or consume alcoholic beverages. *NO*

OUTSIDE BEVERAGES PERMITTED. FIREARMS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE GROUNDS. The *RAWHIDE WILD WEST TOWN* is located at Scottsdale and Pinnacle Peak Roads in Scottsdale, Arizona. The telephone number is 480-502-1880. The *RAWHIDE WEB* Site is located at www.rawhide.com AGRA WEB site is located at www.agra-phx.com.

TICKET INFORMATION

\$15 per day for *RODEO ADMISSION*. Children under 12 years of age admitted free to the Rodeo. No Advance Sales. Monday Brunch Admission is \$5.00. *TICKETS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE*

VOLUNTEERS

Anyone wanting to volunteer to help at the rodeo can contact Richard Tally by email at "2004AGRARODEO@cox.net"

SHUTTLE SERVICE

No need to rent a car!! AGRA is planning on providing free shuttle bus service to and from the host hotels, Rodeo Grounds, and some bars. Bus schedules will be announced just before events.

HOST HOTELS

Hilton Garden Inn Scottsdale - \$99.00/night - Scottsdale (Nearest to Rawhide) 7324 E. Indian School Rd, (480) 481-0400

Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix/Midtown - \$99.00/night - Downtown Phoenix - 4000 North Central Ave., (602) 279-9811

WEB links and maps to both hotels and Rawhide can be found at AGRA's WEB site www.agra-phx.com. **Please support AGRA by using one of our host hotels and mention AGRA when making reservations to receive these rates.**

RV PARKING

RV Parking is available at the Rawhide Wild West Town with hook-ups (water & electricity) for \$15.00 a day. To reserve a space, contact Rawhide directly at 480-502-1880. Contestants planning on staying in horse trailer living quarters do not need to make RV reservations. AGRA will provide contestants with an area for staying in your rigs.

CONTESTANT INFORMATION

This is an IGRA -sanctioned rodeo-all 2004 IGRA Rodeo Rules apply. Entries/fees accepted in accordance with IGRA Rules-all rules enforced. Buddy passes will be available at contestant registration for \$35. *CONTESTANT REGISTRATION WILL BE FROM 6-9PM on Friday the 16th at Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix/Midtown, 4000 North Central Ave. Horse check-in will be available starting at 12 noon*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JAN 15 (CHARLIE'S) SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JAN 17/18 (RAWHIDE) 7:00pm Royalty Competition n 8:00am Gates/Ticket Office Open, Rodeo Events Begin

NOON Parade/Grand Entry

FRIDAY, JAN 16 (Hilton - Phoenix/Midtown) 1:00pm Entertainment/Dancing Begins

8:00am - Vendor & Grounds set-up 6:00pm - 9:00pm Show/Entertainment/Party

6:00pm - 9:00pm Contestant Registration

6:00pm - 12:00am Entertainment

Royalty Competition/Step Downs **SUNDAY, JAN 18 (RAWHIDE)** & 2004 Royalty Crowning 8:30pm Rodeo Awards Ceremony/Party Continues

MONDAY, JAN 19, 11am-2pm (CHARLIE'S) POST RODEO BRUNCH - Pussy LeHoot show starting at 2:00 PM

FOR BUCKLE & OTHER SPONSORSHIPS, PROGRAM/ARENA ADVERTISING, DANCE/ENTERTAINMENT AND VENDOR BOOTH INFORMATION, CALL THE AGRA RODEO HOTLINE at (602) 265-0618 or VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.agra-phx.com.

On Thursday, Jan. 15th from 12PM to 9:00PM. Hay & shavings will be available for sale. Contact persons are Will Lann / 623-203-8765 and Alan Tomalavage / 602-538-8704

AGRA Royalty show sponsored by BUD LIGHT to begin at 7PM in the Towers Ballroom **Phoenix/Midtown** or call 602-265-0618 & Leave Message.

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment will be provided inside the pavillion both days from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM with live performances on Saturday and Sunday at 5:00 PM from the five piece all-female band "The Desert Heart Band".

Thank You Letter...

November 22 was a truly special day for me!! It was to be a day made just for me. It was a day that I wanted, a day that I had wished for and prayed that would come to be. Just 11 months and 22 days earlier, Jan 1st was the day that my world about came to an end. But it was the hope and fight that kept me till this great Arizona fall day. The day that with the help of AGRA (Arizona Gay Rodeo Assoc.) and Sharon Starks and Marty Wolfe and even Rooster all made come true for me. This day was to be when I was granted my "Last wish", to get once more on a horse and ride! The only thing I wanted to do or see was to happen on this day! On Jan 1st of this year, I lay in a hospital bed in Mease Dunedin Florida, when the Dr. walked into my room walked to my side and said " Happy New Year!! You have Leukemia!!", then turned and walked out of the room! My world just seemed to end that day. All that I had worked for, all that I had lost, all that I hoped for just vanished!!

I am a Trans Woman. I grew up in Wyoming; I lived most of my life in Wyoming. I was forced to leave Casper Wyoming on May 20th 2002. Even an agency of the Wyoming Gov. paid to get me out of the state. And they paid for me to drive a 26 ft Uhaul truck to Florida. Now here I was in a hospital, and given the diagnosis of death by cancer. I cannot tell even what that shock was like to me. On Jan 6th, the hospital sent me to the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa Florida,, and there I was given even more not so great news; not only did I have leukemia, but it was AML (Acute Myelogenous Leukemia) and I had also a second cancer of the blood/bone marrow MDS (Myelodysplasia). Both cancers affect the blood and bone marrow and are fatal. I was given some time to think about treatment, about going through Chemotherapy, or what I wanted to do! I was afraid to take on chemo, but I also wanted to do just one more thing, one more thing that have done most of my life, and the last time I had done so was in Oct of 98. The day that news came out about Matt Shepard, I wanted to get back on a horse and ride, but I knew that my condition would never allow it to ever happen. Then my sister told me that once I had gone through Chemo, that I was welcome to come to Phoenix and she would help me. The one thing that I wanted to do was to get back on a horse and ride. Was the most powerful force that got me into and past Chemo.

The last time I had ridden was in Oct of 98. I had just came from the ranch in Lonetree Wyoming, a very small town, but it has a parking meter, and a population of 5 , but a person can find the town on a Wyoming State map, but on some Wyoming maps Casper is not there !! (But for the GBLT community, may be best if kept off the map). But before i returned to Casper i had stopped over at my folks place and was spending some days there, when news came forth about Matt, my parents got real cruel and hateful. Tears holding back, i went to the barn and saddled up Smoky, and took off riding, and crying!! After some time, i returned and got Smoky back to the barn, and i went into the house,, and gathered up my things ,, and took off to Casper , the trip back home to Casper was a long hard run , as being trans and seeing my family behave the way they did ,,and hearing about Matt ,, and all , it was a tiring trip back !

But back in the hospital in Tampa, i accepted the Chemo,, and started treatment on the 22 of Jan , it was real hard on me . Then kinda like to late, we all found out that i was allergic to IV antibiotics. My body temps went up into the 104's and very close to 105 degrees , for a long period of time!! i about died in treatment , and ever since then i have been in a wheelchair ,, thanking my lucky stars that i did not end up brain dead !! But the one thing,, the only thing i wanted was still in my mind !! To ride a horse, be free once more! To feel a powerful animal move me through the open air!! And on this November day!! It was to happen!! Sharon had gotten my Email asking AGRA, to help see my last wish come to pass. She and others had talked, and Marty, said that i could ride her horse Rooster, plans were made and all was set, it was to be on the Sat of the 22nd. Sharon came to pick me up at home, and she took me and my wheelchair up to where Marty was waiting with Rooster. When we got there, i really did not know what was really going on. i could see a lady with a beautiful black horse , that had some great white markings on him .then After we got me back into my wheelchair and through the gates to the place .. We approached the horse. But being careful not to upset him as the wheelchair was kinda out of a horses typical world ,, i pulled up fairly close ,, then they brought him slowly up to me . Then after few min,, he was like a great brand new buddy !! And he was!!! A little bit later they got the saddle on him, and another lady had gotten on Rooster, and something spooked him. He went into a bit of a dance!! Seeing this,, the first thing that came to my mind was RODEO !!! But not quite a scoring run!! We all talked as Rooster was given a warm up ride. Then came my time!!! We all headed to the arena. They had grabbed some steps to help me get upon him. But when i could see that, that idea looked to much like a wreck, i asked that he be brought close to my chair. i was able to stand a bit ,, and thought that with what energy i did have left and a bit of help .. i could just get into the saddle with out the steps .. It was hard work,, but i did make it into the saddle with help . And off we rode!!! The lady that had ridden Rooster first,, was in the arena with me ,on another horse to make sure that if i had gotten into trouble ,, she could hopefully bring control back into order ,, but Rooster and i had no problems !! except the transmisson would not shift into reverse !! But we got along great!! i got rooster up into a trot ,, then into a lope . The time was here at last,,i was back on a horse !! Now i have had 7 hernia repairs done and an orchadectomy (in horse person terms, guided), i also have a bladder problem, so a trot gait hurt!! And finally i had to get back to my chair,, i rode for about 10 - 15 min ,, not along time ,, but for me time did not matter ,, i had gotten back on a horse and rode ,, that i what mattered for me .. All i asked for. All i hoped for. And all i wanted while in the hospital. My day and time had come to pass!!! after i had to call it ,, for the pains had gotten to much to bear ,, i had the ladies bring my wheelchair close to me and Rooster ,, i swung out of the saddle ,, had my feet on the ground ,, my plan was to drop into my chair ,,but instead ,, being sore ,, and yes even a bit saddle sore , when i let go of the saddle ,, i piled up right next to the horse !! But they helped me up and into my chair!! We headed back to the tack barn,, as the ladies got the horses back into the stalls ,, they they brought up a farm cart and got me into the cart ,, and the 4 of us went all around to see the other horses .. There was many , and all looked great ,, even a few poked thier noses out far enough that i could pet them !!

Then as all good things, it was time to head back home!! Sharon,, drove me back home .. And i ate a bit, then took a pain pill ,, and went to bed ,, very excited about the day ,, my day ,, my "last wish " coming to pass .. i can not have any more cancer treatments , due to the allergies , so when the cancers return ,,i shall go ,, but there are good people out there ,, and are willing to help a person , how and when they can , and a great organization and there are many others ,, but for me it was AGRA ,, and the ladies of AGRA ,, that helped see my day come to pass , so when the cancers return i can face them and say "i have done all that i wanted to do " As AGRA and all made a difference to me,, i too have tried to put out a hand to others with cancers of the GBLT community ,, i have started GBLT cancer group on line (how ever i have been busy ,, and i have not been to it for a short period of time) it is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gblt-cancer>

But my heart goes out to AGRA, and all that made my day come to be .. i hope to make it to the AGRA rodeo in Jan . And many thanks to all!!
Many thanks!!

huggs

Denise/Cowgirl/Niece

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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JANUARY '04 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
THURSDAY DECEMBER 25, 2003

Send submissions to:
BrandingIron02@cox.net
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Mr. AGRA 2003

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Ms. AGRA 2003

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Mr. AGRA 2003 1st Runner-up

Michael Butts
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AGRA's IGRA ROYALTY

Miss IGRA 1st Runner-up 2003

Pussy LeHoot

Miss IGRA 1st Runner-up 2004

Lady Casandra

Mr. IGRA 1st Runner-up 2003

Patrick Lose

Ms. IGRA 2nd Runner-up 2003

Gaylia Young

Ms. IGRA 2nd Runner-up 2004

Marty Wolfe

A.G.R.A. Board of Directors

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