

# ARGRA *culture*

## December 2006



### 2006-7 Winter Dance Dates

**December 9**

January 20, 2007  
February 17, 2007

#### New Location for Dances

Hillhurst/Sunnyside Community Hall  
1320 5th. Avenue N.W.

Please remember  
Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Hall  
is a Non-Smoking Facility

### ARGRA Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in volunteering at the December 9th dance, please contact Ross Scarrett our Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteers@argra.org](mailto:volunteers@argra.org) or Darrel Reid our Fundraising Director at [fundraising@argra.org](mailto:fundraising@argra.org). There are always a few spots that Ross and Darrel needs to fill.

## Canada Goes to the IGRA Finals in Reno

This year's International Gay Rodeo Association Finals held in Reno, Nevada had the largest contingent of Canadian competitors ever qualified and attending. The Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association was represented by 4 women and 3 men competitors and 2 fans and unofficial photographers. The weekend was a competitive and fun filled experience and for most of the ARGRA competitors their first Finals. The arena was indoors and at one point horses and stock were all brought inside due to the cold wind and blowing rain and slush. However, most of the weekend was comfortable and for the Canadians almost downright balmy.

#### The results are as follows:

Woody W. Steer Riding Saturday 2nd Place,  
Sunday 2nd Place.

Rob S. Chute Dogging Saturday 6th Place, Goat Dressing Saturday 15th Place, Sunday 6th Place  
Hank J. Steer Deco Saturday 3rd Place, Sunday 11th Place, Wild Drag Race Saturday 3rd Place  
Lori A. Steer Deco Saturday 3rd Place Sunday 11th Place, Wild Drag Race Saturday 3rd Place  
Janie V. Chute Dogging Saturday 8th Place  
Jo B. Calf Roping on Foot  
Tammy H. Calf Roping on Foot, Pole Bending Sunday 12th Place Wild Drag Race Sunday 10th Place

Our competitors represented ARGRA extremely well and we look forward to next years Finals in Denver with even more ARGRA competitors qualifying. A special thanks to Team Money Pennies for their sponsorship.

Judy Munson

ARGRA Communications Director





**Sponsor the 2007  
Bud Light  
Canadian Rockies  
International Rodeo**

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor to one of western Canada's largest GBLT events and promote your company to over 4000 rodeo weekend attendees, please contact the ARGRA Sponsorship Director, Greg Holsworth, via email at [sponsorship@argra.org](mailto:sponsorship@argra.org). Sponsorship packages start from as little as \$300.

**Rodeo Committee  
Next Meeting**

Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 @ 7 pm  
Old "Y" Boardroom  
223 12th Avenue S.W.



# Dear Jason

by Jason Baker

Hello everyone and welcome to the first Dear Jason column where you get to ask the questions and I will get you the answers! I have had a few questions come my way and I am looking for more! You can email me at [membership@argra.org](mailto:membership@argra.org) anytime!

**1. Why should I pay \$20.00 for an ARGRA membership? - Andrew**

**Andrew:** I'll be honest that is one of the very first questions I asked when I joined ARGRA. If I am going to pay \$20.00 I want something in return, perhaps that is my Scottish background speaking up! First of all your membership gives you a discount on every dance, a discount on our prices for the CRIR Rodeo sponsored by ARGRA (June 29th to July 1st, 2007) as well as discounts at a growing number of businesses here in Calgary. In my first article I let everyone know that Priape (10% off) and Moneypennies (10% off entrees on Sunday and Thursdays) were kind enough to offer our members discounts. Since our last newsletter I was pleased to receive an email from the owner of Russell's Cobalt Hair & Aesthetics who is now offering all ARGRA members 10% off when you show your membership card (who wouldn't love a little spiffing up before the next dance?). For all you outdoor people Alexander Creek Lodge ([alexandercreeklodge.com](http://alexandercreeklodge.com)) have also offered our members a \$1000.00 discount when booking an Alaskan adventure with them. Bootboys Bathshop is also hosting a shopping day on Sunday, December 3rd at which all ARGRA members are invited (email them at

[theboys@bootboysbathshop.com](mailto:theboys@bootboysbathshop.com) for more info). We are working with businesses in town to keep this list growing so if you know of any one that might like to offer our members a discount we would love to speak with them! With these discounts you can see that it doesn't take long for your membership to be paid for!

**2. When do services required by ARGRA come up for tender so that businesses can bid for them? - Anonymous**

ARGRA is always open to businesses bidding for services and supplies that we need to run the organization and of course the Rodeo. If you have a business and would like to bid on any of the services or products that ARGRA uses please contact the appropriate Board member. i.e. for such things as Rodeo supplies or services contact the Rodeo Director (listed in this newsletter), dance products or services contact the Fund Raising Director, and if you're not sure of the area contact the ARGRA President.

**3. There are times I don't get my newsletter until after the dance has already occurred. What can you do to change that? Sue**

**Sue:** while I live in Calgary and get mine the week before the dance I have heard by more than one person that in the out lying areas this has happened in the past and still happens. We are looking at producing the newsletter earlier so that it can be mailed and in your hands well before the dance if you would still like to receive your newsletter

through the mail. ARGRA however loves technology we are emailing the newsletter out to all members that request it. In your last newsletter there was a notice that if you would like to receive ARGRAculture through email to let us know and we will put you on the email list so that you don't have to wait for the mailperson to bring you all the latest ARGRA news!

*Jason Baker*  
ARGRA Membership Director

## eNewsletter

ARGRAculture is now formally available in an electronic version, and thanks to all of you who have provided feedback and comments these past couple of months. For those of you who are still receiving ARGRAculture in the printed format, you do have the option to switch to an electronic version, just send us an email at [secretary@argra.org](mailto:secretary@argra.org), and you will be added to the electronic distribution.

We have now moved over to an electronic distribution for the newsletter, but rest assured those that still wish to have the printed version, that will remain. For those concerned about your personal information getting added to a mass email distribution list where other might be able to find out your email, this is not the case. All emails are generated on an individual basis (over 160 at this time, out of just over 300 active members), so your information is kept secure.

## Advertise with ARGRA

If you are interested in taking out a business card ad with ARGRAculture, please contact the Communications Director at [communications@argra.org](mailto:communications@argra.org). The cost is \$20 per newsletter issue for a business card ad.

## Need a Christmas gift for that special someone?

ARGRA will have t-shirts available at the Christmas Dance and also a good selection of sizes in our striking Blue CRIR Jackets. \$85 for members \$95 for non-members. Check out the retail table Dec. 9th at the Reindeer Rock.

If you have any questions or comments about the electronic version of the newsletter, please send us your feedback at [secretary@argra.org](mailto:secretary@argra.org).

## Members at Large

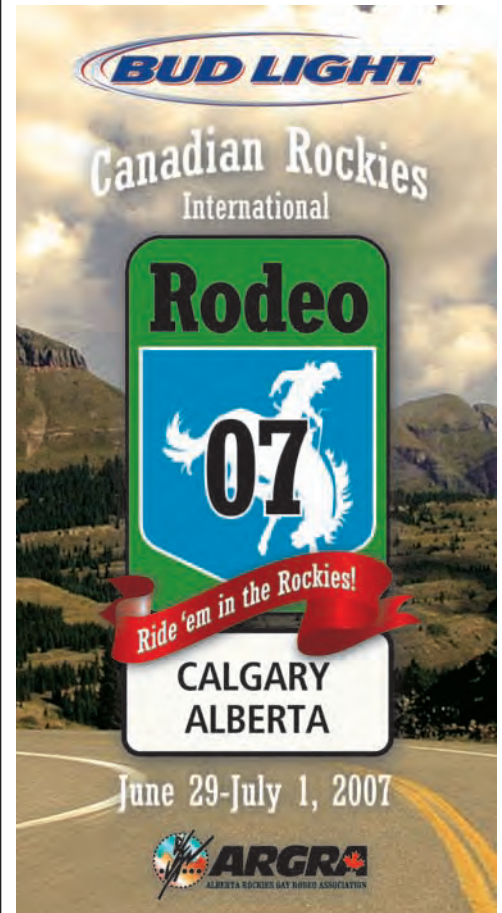
This month I'm going to take a bit of a break from featuring an individual within ARGRA to take a look at our membership as a whole and how we are all Members at Large.

Throughout the year I hear compliments about ARGRA and the events that we hold, and a lot of that has to do with the many ambassadors of ARGRA, and that is you the members. From those that attend the many rodeos throughout the year, to our very own rodeo officials, and those that make our own rodeo and events such a success. Each and every one of us make ARGRA what it is and contribute to the success of this organization.

So, as we go into this holiday season, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for being members at large and for making ARGRA what it is today. To everyone, a happy and joyous holiday season, and a Happy New Year to everyone.

*Alec Masee,*  
Secretary

*Do you know of someone who makes a difference within ARGRA and should be recognized as a "Member at Large" Submit your ideas and suggestions to Alec at [secretary@argra.org](mailto:secretary@argra.org), we'd love to hear from you.*



# Rodeo Director's Report

by Lorrie Murphy

## ARGRA Needs You!

**Hey! Are you computer literate?  
Love to write? Like to research?  
Interested in helping put  
together a monthly newsletter?  
If ANY of the above describe  
you... ARGRA is looking for  
you! Contact Judy regarding  
the monthly ARGRA newsletter  
and how you can get involved.**

*Email: [communications@argra.org](mailto:communications@argra.org)*



## What's up with the Rodeo Committee

The rodeo committee has started planning for Ride 'em in the Rockies 2007. Each area of the rodeo has a coordinator who takes responsibility for their particular area of the rodeo. Ed the Entertainment Coordinator has been busy in negotiations for the headline entertainment this year. We can't tell you who yet, but I can tell you "Buy your tickets as soon as they go on sale". Each year Stuart

Akins provides us with a list of entertainers who are available for our rodeo. Stuart has not disappointed us in the past and will certainly not disappoint us this year. We are also busy working on the budget for the CRIR Ride 'em in the Rockies 2007 rodeo. Over the next few months the budget will be finalized and we will work to keep all areas within their budgets.

*Lorrie Murphy*

*ARGRA Rodeo Director*

## Rodeo Committee Volunteers needed

### Security Coordinator

The coordinator will be in charge of coordinating security volunteers for the 2007 Ride 'em in the Rockies CRIR rodeo. If you are interested in this position please call

Lorrie @ 470 -7411 or  
[rodeodirector@argra.org](mailto:rodeodirector@argra.org)

### Financial Assistant(s)

The position would be to assist the Treasurer at the 2007 Ride 'em in the Rockies CRIR rodeo during the weekend. Some experience in finance or book keeping would be an asset. If you are interested in this position please call

Lorrie @ 470-7411  
or [rodeodirector@argra.org](mailto:rodeodirector@argra.org)



# Fundraising Report

by Darrel Reid

We are well into our new fundraising year. Having now had three dances at our new hall – Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community Association - I wanted to update the membership in on why we made the change and how things are going.

The future Stampede Park will not include Victoria Park Hall. Additionally, costs were going up while the facility seemed to deteriorate. They were becoming increasingly more difficult to deal with and unwilling to accommodate our needs.

Choosing a new hall had become a priority. When I began removing those halls that were the wrong size, charged corkage fees, demanded use of their bartenders or caterers or were too far out of the core; the choices narrowed quickly. One hall did stand out: Hillhurst Sunnyside. They were the right size, the right price and had a history in our community. Having accommodated other groups with positive experiences.

In choosing Hillhurst-Sunnyside we also had some bonuses... We were able to address some of the problem areas that plagued us in Victoria Park.

- > Parking... we have parking for nearly 200 at the new hall as well as street parking (There is a huge lot around back).
- > We are now LRT accessible and are on popular bus routes.
- > Taxi service has improved.
- > Safety – members are feeling safer in this community.

Support from the hall. Being at Hillhurst-Sunnyside feels like being the special guest at a party, rather than a party crasher. The custodians are present for our dances and are there to help. They change light bulbs, empty our garbage's, fill and change our mop buckets... its really amazing! All this being said I know change is hard and it will take some time to feel at 'home' in the new hall. I am optimistic however that we will.

We are listening to comments and trying to make changes as we go to continuously improve. I encourage anyone who has suggestions or feedback to share it with us.

I also would like to take this opportunity to introduce Ross Scarrett. He has been assisting me with the dances, but more importantly he has taken on the position of Volunteer Coordinator. He will be looking after the volunteers for both the Rodeo and the dances this year. He can be contacted directly at [volunteers@argra.org](mailto:volunteers@argra.org).

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions, concerns or feedback. I can be reached at [fundraising@argra.org](mailto:fundraising@argra.org) or you can call me at 720-0687 (day or eve)

*Darrel Reid*  
*ARGRA*  
*Fundraising Director*



# Contact *ARGRA*

**Website:**

www.argra.org

**Telephone Hotline:**

403.541.8140

## Board *members*

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*trustee@argra.org*

**President**

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**Vice-President**

Del Stevenson . . . . . 403.540.3149  
*vicepresident@argra.org*

**Secretary**

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*secretary@argra.org*

**Communications Director**

Judy Munson . . . . . 403.938.7329  
*communications@argra.org*

**Membership Director**

Jason Baker . . . . . 403.651.6879  
*membership@argra.org*

**Sponsorship Director**

Greg Holsworth . . . . . 403.815.5970  
*sponsorship@argra.org*

**Fundraising Director**

Darrel Reid . . . . . 403.720.0687  
*fundraising@argra.org*

**Rodeo Director**

Lorrie Murphy . . . . . 403.470.7411  
*rodeodirector@argra.org*

**Treasurer**

Brent Zuber . . . . . 403.802.1263  
*treasurer@argra.org*



**The Reindeer Rock!**  
**Dec. 9th**  
**ENTERTAINMENT DINNER & DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA!**

Jazz singer with piano accompaniment,  
Cocktails 5:30 - Dinner at 6:15 !  
Members \$20 ~ Non-members \$25  
Hillhurst - Sunnyside Community hall  
1320 5th Ave. NW Calgary, Alberta  
Tickets on sale at Money-Pennies,  
The Calgary Eagle, and Priape.  
Or pay with Visa or M/C  
call 403.938.7329,  
Last day to purchase  
your ticket December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Door will open at 9:30 for dance  
only - admission: \$6 members  
and \$10 non-members

Presented By:  
**ARGRA**  
ALBERTA RODEO GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

**BUD LIGHT** **OUTLOOKS** **5** **Disney Princess** **ARGRA GAG**

VISIT: [WWW.ARGRA.ORG](http://WWW.ARGRA.ORG) FOR ALL EVENTS!

## OVER 18 Policy

Due to our liquor license anyone under the age of 18 will not be allowed into the ARGRA dances. This includes the monthly dances as well as the CRIR Entertainment and dance Friday night, Saturday night dinner and dance, Sunday night awards and dance. All ages are welcome to attend the rodeo Saturday and Sunday. If you look like you may not be 18, then you will need to produce a picture I.D. Thanks for helping us enforce our liquor license obligations.

