

ARGRA *culture*

April 2007



2007 Spring Dance Dates

April 21, 2007
May 26, 2007

Dances held at:

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

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

April Dance

**Renew your membership early
and as a bonus get into the May
Dance for free!**

ARGRA Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in volunteering at the April 21st or May 26th dance, please contact Ross Scarrett our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@argra.org or Darrel Reid our Fundraising Director at fundraising@argra.org. There are always a few spots that Ross and Darrel needs to fill.



President's Message

By Heather Murray

Howdy Partners! It is getting close to that time of year again where we break out our boots, dust off our chaps and ask the question, "Am I young enough to compete one more year"? Well the answer is of course you are so giddy up! "What will I wear? What will I do; and what will I ride?" If you need some direction, our community is unique in the amount of rodeo teams it has. They are not hard to find, check your local water hole or ask a friend. The camaraderie and knowledge these teams lend is irreplaceable.

The Canadian Rockies International rodeo number 14 is ready to stampede into Calgary. Our printing press have been fired up with a stunning new poster complete with buck bronc , cowboy and highway signs pointing you in the direction of the best little gay out door show on earth! With a spectacular show comes, great entertainment and we are honoured to have "Emerson Drive" grace the stage as our Friday night cabaret headliner, along with many other talented acts. Be sure to get your weekend packages as soon as

possible, the early bird will save big! Aprils 21st and May 26th the dances will have the rodeos weekend package on sale, which makes picking up these tickets incredibly easy and fun. The packages are also available on line at www.argra.org. Rodeo committee will be on hand (people with the badges on) to answer any question you might have. Remember to renew your membership and save big, new benefits are being added all the time to create privileges for you.

We are always in need of volunteers, if you are interested in volunteering for any ARGRA event we want to hear from you. Contact me at president@argra.org or our volunteer coordinator at volunteers@argra.org, we need you to make the Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association great! So remember the rodeo is only three months away, so start practicing that bull riding and we will see you in the arena.

Giddy Up!

Heather Murray

President ARGRA 2007





**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. Sponsorship packages start from as little as \$300.

**Rodeo Committee
Next Meeting**

Thursday April 26th, 2007 @ 7 pm
Old "Y" Boardroom
223 12th Avenue S.W.



A Founding Member...

in Memory of Gordon John Woima by Bruce Chudobiak

The first ARGRA Trustee to the International Gay Rodeo Association, Mr. Gordon John Woima passed away on February 23, 2007. Gordon was born on March 26, 1951 in Eckville, AB, the last child of Walter and Ellen Woima. Gord was raised on a farm near Sylvan Lake until age 9 when his father passed away and his mother moved them to Calgary. Gord attended various schools in Calgary and began a degree program at the University of Calgary. This did not suit Gord's well being so he left school and took a job with Canada Post where he remained until retiring in 2004.

Gord was an avid musician, playing instruments such as piano, guitar and drums. He loved to sing as was witness to his karaoke performance, at Trax and the Texas Lounge.

In 1989 Gord along with his partner, Bruce Chudobiak and a few other friends began the Calgary Lesbian and Gay Political Action Guild (CLAGPAG) to gain equal rights for members of the gay, lesbian, and transgender communities.

In 1991, a poster was put up by Richard O-Sullivan seeking people interested in starting up a Gay Rodeo in Calgary. Originally, Gord

was not in favour of joining but Bruce prevailed and as was Gord's way in life, he threw himself into the project. It was not uncommon to see Gord out at night continually chatting up the rodeo concept to anyone who would listen, and a few who didn't want to hear this. Late 1991, the Alberta Gay Rodeo Association was formed with the intent of creating a gay rodeo here in Calgary. In 1993, Gord and Bruce traveled to Billings Mont. to see the International Gay Rodeo Association and determine if we wanted to join. Buy this time, the Association had already put on a trial rodeo, the "infamous" Canadian National Gay Rodeo (CNGR). Gord's attendance at the IGRA convention convinced him that this was the way to go so we anted up the money, provided the membership list and we became the first association recognized outside of the United States. Gord continued to work for the associations principles serving as President, Vice President and Trustee until 1997. Gord always felt close to the association and provided his vision and spirit to improve the community in whatever way he could. He will be sorely missed by all his friends and acquaintances he made through the rodeo association.

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. The cost is \$20 per newsletter issue for a business card ad.

ARGRAculture is produced 5 times a year as a communications to the membership. If you have any questions, concerns or feedback, we would love to hear from you. You can reach any of the executive via their contact information at the back of the newsletter.

Ask Jason

by Jason Baker

ARGRA seems like a pretty big organization, how many members belong to ARGRA and how do we compare to the other rodeo organizations in IGRA?

Jeff

Presently ARGRA membership is over 300 active member's, and that does make us one of the larger organizations within IGRA. At the time of the 2006 Convention ARGRA had the single largest membership in IGRA. The only other organization that is bigger is GSGRA which includes 4 Associations and there was a difference of only 26 members.

When Executive Board members go to Convention or other rodeos does ARGRA pay for the entire trip?

Joyce

Last year some of our members went to the IGRA convention in Nashville. Some of the Executive went but not all of our delegates were Executive members. We had members of the rodeo committee attend as well. ARGRA only pays a small honorarium to each of these delegates and the rest of the money came out of their own pockets. I know that there has been a perception that ARGRA pays for the entire trip so I was really glad to see this question pop up. For the convention in Nashville in all honesty, the money given to each delegate didn't completely cover the price of the airline ticket. The rest of the costs, including hotels and food was paid by each member. Earlier on I mentioned the passion and commitment of the ARGRA members and here is another example. Any member in

good standing can be a delegate and if you are interested in Convention please contact Pierre, our Trustee (trustee@argra.org) who will tell you all about it. As for the other rodeos that are in the circuit that is purely up to the member to pay for their own way. While ARGRA is proud of our members attending and competing in other rodeos the cost of their participating and attending is a cost that they take care of themselves.

I want to hear from YOU! At the April 21st dance there will be a membership table set up so I can talk directly to you face to face. Heather (President) and Del (Vice President) and myself will be there to hear, face to face, any comments, compliments, concerns from you. If you have suggestions about the dances, the rodeo or any other facet of ARGRA we want to hear about it! Don't forget about all those discounts your membership card gives you around town. We are looking forward to chatting with you on the 21st!

Jason Baker

Membership Director, 2006-2007
membership@argra.org



ARGRA moves up to Pay Pal

The Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association is adding another new wrinkle to our already efficient and growing organization. We are in the process of adding Pay Pal as a method of payment for Rodeo Tickets and Packages, and in the future for areas such as sponsorship, advertising, merchandise, and special events.

The benefit of Pay Pal is that we will not be limited to accepting only Visa and MasterCard but will also accept American Express, Discover and Pay Pal account payments. The Board is very excited about the new opportunities this will open up and also about the ease of payment for our members and attendees for various events.

Although we are in the middle of the transition we anticipate that it will be up and running before the rodeo arrives this year. So please be patient as we look forward to this new advance.

In the meantime you can get your Rodeo Packages in one of the following ways:

1. Locally buy Packages at the April 21st dance, the May 26th dance at Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Hall or at Money Pennies, The Eagle, or Priape.
2. Print the Ticket Order Form from the website (www.arga.org) and mail it with a cheque or Money Order to:
ARGRA 223-12 Ave. SW Calgary, AB T2R 0G9
3. For Credit Cards temporarily call 403-938-7329.

See you at the Rodeo.
Judy Munson

ARGRA Communications Director
2006-2008

ARGRA Rainbow Riders

Greetings from the Rainbow Riders Horse Club. We are anxiously looking forward to the warmer, drier weather so we can begin our 2007 horse club activities. Our first order of business will be to start preparing and practicing for the 2007 ARGRA Rodeo by putting together some very welcome lessons in barrel racing, pole bending and flag races as well as some basic horsemanship skills. Plan on coming out even if you don't anticipate competing at the rodeo this year. We will also be planning a number of trail rides in Kananaskis Country and possibly a weekend group horse camping in

Mesa Butte. Does this sound like fun and would you like to join us? If you are a member of ARGRA and have a horse we would love to hear from you and give you more details on our various activities.

So, as spring warms the earth and our horses shed out their winter coats, we look forward to spending lots of time with horses, friends and mother nature.

Linda Dick and Skeeter Day

Email: linda.skeeter@shaw.ca



Charlie's
Chicago
Phoenix
Denver
Las Vegas





Calling All Dancers!

ARGRA is looking to run another set of dance lessons and are looking to hear from people interested in learning as well as furthering their dancing skills. Please feel free to contact Del at vicepresident@argra.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Rodeo Silent Auction

We are looking for items for this year's silent auction at the rodeo. If you have something to donate, or know of someone who might, please contact Darrel at fundraising@argra.org. He'd love to hear from you.

Volunteer's

Are you interested in volunteering at the rodeo or one of the dances? The opportunities are numerous and always a great way to meet and make new friends. If you would like to know more, give our coordinator Ross a shout at volunteers@argra.org, or visit with him at the April and May Dances.

Rodeo Tickets

Rodeo Tickets are now available, get yours early. Weekend packages start as low as \$79. To order online, go to www.argra.org or, also available at Calgary Eagle, Money Pennies, and Priape.



**Break Out Those
Pumps It's Time To
Kick Up Your
Heels!**

April 21, 2007

**COME OUT AND BE PART OF
OUR AMAZING
MEMBERSHIP, IT DOES HAVE
ITS PRIVILEGES!**

Where: Hillhurst-Sunnyside
Community hall, 1320 5th Ave. N.W.,
Calgary, Alberta
Doors open at 7:30pm,
\$6 members/ \$10 non-members.
Memberships are available
for purchase.

Private function



Title Sponsor



ARGRA Platinum Sponsors



ARGRA Gold Sponsors



Contact ARGRA

Website:

www.argra.org

Telephone Hotline:

403.541.8140

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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.