



ARGRAculture

August 2008 Edition

Annual General Meeting

Monday
September 8th
@ 7 pm
Old Y
223 12 AVE SW
Main Floor
Common Room



Next Dance:
VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION
DANCE
ALL this...
Because of
YOU!!!!
September
27th

Striving for excellence in ARGRA is of utmost importance to all that are involved.



ARGRA has worked hard in supporting community donations, putting on extra events and creating awareness of the western gay lifestyle. ARGRA continues to strive in a leadership role to promote the businesses that support us as a community. I would also like to thank those sponsors who without their support this production could never have become as amazing as it is.

As members you know we have a great deal of activities that are held outside the anticipated monthly dances, there are dance lessons, a horse club and sky the limit for our fund raising coordinator. Our Horse club is becoming more and more popular, the word is getting out and people are joining up. We saw the over whelming growth the amount of local competitors this year at the 15 annual Canadian Rockies International Rodeo. We have had many members don their cowboy hats and head south to compete in one, two or multiple rodeos of the twenty-eight International Gay Rodeo Association. For more information you can be visit www.igra.com about these different events.

In this years activities ARGRA also will be involved with the Apollo, International GLBT Film Festival, June Pride activities, parade and festival and many

more international community driven involvement.

There are many facets to putting on a jaw dropping event. The Canadian Rockies International Rodeo 2008-09 is a result of dedicated individuals. The ARGRA Executive lead by myself and the Rodeo Committee led by Rodeo Director Lorrie Murphy have spent hundreds of hours organizing and planning the upcoming rodeo as well as monthly activities of 2008 and plan to do the same in 2009. Watch ARGRA activities in many different aspects and please come out join the fun new faces are always needed! Giddy Up,

Heather Murray
ARGRA PRESIDENT



October 10-12, 2008



Title Not Needed

– By Billy Loiselle
2007-2008 Membership
Director



I'll reference my favorite author, Anonymous... "Anyone can build a house but it takes a family to make it a home".

There's so much to say, and I have no clue where to start!!! Forgive me for seeming all over the map...I blame Lorrie Murphy and Judy Munson (ARGRA members and *Triple Crown Rodeo Directors!)

Lorrie for directing a rodeo that still has my adrenaline running, still has me excited and has me proud to say something along the lines of "It's Shakin' Bake. And I HELPED!!!"

I blame Judy a little bit too. She introduced me to a cute young reporter and asked if I would escort him into the media booth. This was the first I'd heard of a "media booth" but one look at the reporter and I think "HELL YEAH!!!" was my response. Someone was playing match maker, and let me tell y'all something....Cupid's got nothing on Judy!

My point there is...Lorrie and Judy had me frazzled. I don't know, maybe it was the heat.

It was frickin' hot, there was hardly a breeze to cool us off or any cloud cover to escape the sun. Even Michael Kaplan (ARGRA member and one of IGRA's certified Secretaries) whom, in previous years, has threatened to set the grand stand on fire to generate heat was quite content and rather pleasant. "You seem almost chipper this morning. Did you run over a small child or something?" He begrudged a smirk at the line from Steel Magnolias before soaking me with my own full bottle of water.

I was more upset about not having a cold drink than I was about being wet. The instinct went away as I remembered that Margaret Booth (ARGRA member and this year's CRIR Rodeo Grounds Coordinator) would be by any minute on another round

to offer an ice cold bottle of water to the officials and volunteers. It seemed that at every turn, she was there to keeps us cool and offer pleasantries to the hard working and much deserving volunteers behind the chutes and in the rodeo grounds. An unsuspected hero!!!

I watch Margaret for a moment as she approaches Jordan Hristov (ARGRA member and hard working Arena Crew volunteer). He's EXTREMELY easy on the eyes and always has a smile on his face...except, at this moment, he's exhausted. I see him as he glimpses the bottles of water nearing out of the corner of his eye. Pure love and raw lust fill his face. I've seen this look on a man's face before...being the gentleman that I am, I look away and let him have his moment. I can imagine that after the hard work in the arena, raking, bending, chalking, lifting, bending, pulling, bending.....uhm....I can only imagine. I know for sure though, that he deserved that bottle of water. Yeah....that's were I was going with that.

(insert break here for me to relive the moment...and perhaps grab another refreshment of my own. I'd like to thank Heindricks Gin for this moment...and maybe perhaps the no name brand Tonic)

As I sit and consider my next paragraph, I wonder to myself "where were Pierre Cadieux (ARGRA member and IGRA finals committee chair) and Brent Zuber (ARGRA Member and Association Treasurer)on rodeo weekend? I hope they found somewhere to stay cool. Speaking of refreshments, (was I speaking of refreshments?) I noticed **Claudia Gauvin (ARGRA member and CRIR attendee) may have enjoyed a beer or two, or three or four...there isn't much more to say on that note, except maybe "THANKS BUDLIGHT, for being part of another CRIR!!!"

WOW, another CRIR!!! It was the 15th Canadian Rockies International Rodeo. I wonder how many Bud Lights have been drank?...drinked?...drunk? (I think I might be) over the years. Alec Massee (ARGRA member, Association Secretary and statistical guru) might have that info. He has all kinds of use~~less~~ full information. He's our keeper of keys (even though we don't lock anything) Know what I'm saying?

No more doubles for me, I'm getting myself into trouble and likely to promise a table dance if I continue! Perhaps I can save face by saying what I mean, which is what I'm about to say, visa vie, the following:

Every single ARGRA member contributes. As a family of 400 members, we create an atmosphere that is safe, that is fun and that represents something greater. We give thousands of people a retreat from their lives for one weekend. We are able to make that energy last for a full year and as part of the ARGRA family, you can honestly say "I helped create that!" And you should all be very proud of yourselves!!

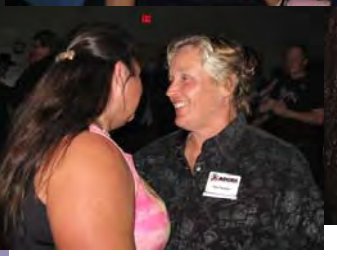
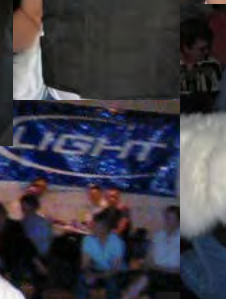
Thank you for letting me represent you, Billy Loiselle (ARGRA member and CRIR Volunteer Coordinator)

*suckers!

**Name has been changed to protect the real identity of the ARGRA member at large.



MAY DANCE & MINI-RODEO



Howdy Cowboys and Cowgirls

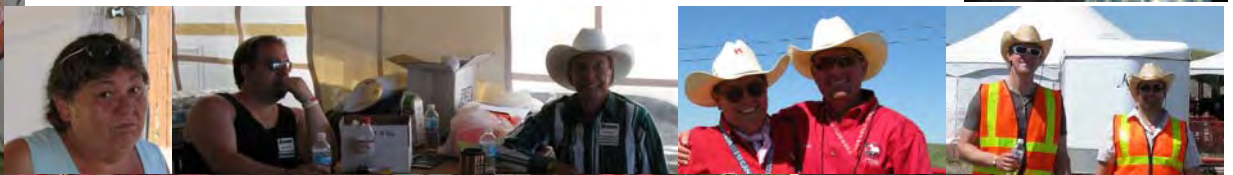
Well we are all rested up after the Ride'em in the Rockies Bud Light CRIR 2008. It has been my extreme pleasure to have served as the Rodeo Director for the past 3 years. I have had the privilege of working with some great people. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all your hard work and all your support.

The 2008 Rodeo was HOT!! And by hot I mean weather, rodeo, and parties. We all had a great time. We had a couple of minor injuries to contestants and once again zero injuries to the animals.

ARGRA celebrates and lives the Western Lifestyle and we invite everyone to become involved with this great organization. If you have some extra time on your hands why not get involved with the Rodeo Committee. They are the group who plan and produce the rodeo and they invite you to attend the meetings which happen once a month. Watch the newsletter for times and dates. **Don't forget the AGM which is coming up on Monday September 8 at the OLD Y 7PM. This is your chance to have a say in your elected directors and to hear what the board did the past year.**

See you all next year.

Lorrie Murphy
Rodeo Director
Ride'em in the Rockies



Remembering Wayne...

Wayne Jakino passed away July 16, 2008 in Denver, Colorado. Wayne was one of the founding members of Colorado Gay Rodeo



Association (CGRA) and was instrumental in the development of the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA). He was strongly involved with ARGRA from its beginning and very proud to be a part of our Association.

If you have ever attended the Canadian Rockies International Rodeo (CRIR) you would recognize Wayne as our announcer with his deep, clear voice carrying across the arena. He has been called the “voice of rodeo” and all those who compete on the Gay circuit grew to know his voice and his sense of humor. He had a way of filling in the slow times of the rodeo with banter with the local bull fighter and interesting bits of information. He knew all of the contestants who compete in the gay circuit personally and often told anecdotes about them, as well as commented on the improvements of our local CRIR competitors.



Wayne was the Canadian Rockies International Rodeo’s 1st Grand Marshal

In 1994. That was ARGRA’s first IGRA sanctioned rodeo and he was our announcer for 13 of our 15 year history. He missed the last 2 rodeos due to illness but even when he anticipated retiring from announcing on the circuit he continued to announce at the CRIR.

ARGRA honored Wayne in 2005 by presenting him with the official Calgary White Hat Ceremony at our

Sunday night awards ceremony. A standing ovation occurred that lasted 10 minutes. He was proud and very touched to be the first openly gay man to receive the Calgary White Hat and told everyone back in Denver about the ceremony and how special it was. We also awarded him with a CRIR leather jacket which he was seen wearing proudly as he announced the 2006 Finals in Reno.

Wayne was Grand Marshal at IGRA Finals in 2007 in Denver. Here is what one of our ARGRA members said about that event. “I only had the privilege to meet Wayne once, and I hope I can share that experience...Wayne was chosen to be Grand Marshal and came into the arena in a carriage pulled by a team of drafts. As his accomplishments were shared with the crowd, Wayne circled



the arena and waved to the cheering crowd. When he recognized the little contingent from ARGRA, he reached up and tipped the white wool blend

hat to honor us...much the same way we honored him by giving him that hat. That’s what I’ll remember.”

Roger C. the Trustee for CGRA sent a note to the ARGRA Board and wanted us to forward it to our Association members; “Out of ALL the buckles Wayne had, Dan (Wayne’s life mate) chose this one to set out at the Church service.” The buckle was his CRIR 1994 Grand Marshal Buckle and in the background was his Calgary White Hat.

Wayne has always been part of ARGRA’s family; as our Grand Marshal, sponsor (he owned Charlie’s bar in Denver and always sponsored a CRIR buckle), announcer, mentor and most of all our friend. Those of us who had the opportunity to get to know him will forever consider ourselves blessed.

Judy Munson
ARGRA Communications Director



Contact ARGRA

Website:

www.argra.org

Telephone Hotline:

403-541-8140

Fax:

403-26-ARGRA

(403-262-7472)

Boardmembers

Trustee

Pierre Cadieux 403-275-4544
trustee@argra.org

President

Heather Murray 403-472-7499
president@argra.org

Vice-President

Rob Somers 403-512-4954
vicepresident@argra.org

Secretary

Alec Masee 403-238-7520
secretary@argra.org

Communications Director

Judy Munson 403-938-7329
communications@argra.org

Membership Director

Billy Loiselle 780-779-6530
membership@argra.org

Sponsorship Director

Darrel Reid 403-720-0687
sponsorship@argra.org

Fundraising Director

Ross Scarrett 403-370-4390
fundraising@argra.org

Rodeo Director

Lorrie Murphy 403-470-7411
rodeodirector@argra.org

Treasurer

Brent Zuber 403-802-1263
treasurer@argra.org

ARGRAculture is produced 6 times a year (Aug, Oct, Dec, Feb, April & May) 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.

**Volunteer Appreciation Dance
Saturday Sept 27, 2008**

Rodeo & Dance Volunteers Get in FREE!!!



**ALL this...
Because of YOU!!!**



Wet your Whistle with great drink prices! Late Night Buffet!

Where: Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community hall, 1320 5th Ave. N.W., Calgary, Alberta
Doors open at 8PM. Membership available for purchase, Admission Members \$6 - Non Members \$10.



ARGRA.ORG

DANCE DATES 2008 -2009

- September 27, 2008
- October 18, 2006
- November 15, 2008
- December 6, 2008
- January 17, 2009
- February 14, 2009
- March 21, 2009
- April 13, 2009
- May 30, 2009

THE BUDLIGHT CANADIAN ROCKIES INTERNATIONAL RODEO June 28-June 29, 2009

