



# ARGRAculture

December 2008 Edition

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(Note change of location)

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**ARGRA's Rainbow Riders – Horseback Lessons to Start**

**&**

**ARGRA & Heritage Park "Once Upon A Christmas"**

**Next Dance:**

**January 17<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**"Come Together with ARGRA"**



## AN INTIMATE HOLIDAY Dinner & Comedy Show

presented by:



Entertainment by: **December 6, 2008**

**Joanna - International Comic Impressionist**

Cocktails 6:00 PM

Dinner 7:30 PM, Show to follow

Holiday Roast Beef Dinner

Members \$20.00, Non-Members \$25.00

Tickets Available at The Calgary Eagle, The Backlot, and Online with PAYPAL

at [www.ARGRA.org](http://www.ARGRA.org)

Last day to purchase your

Ticket is December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

### NEW LOCATION:

**The Alexandra Centre 922 9 Ave SE (Inglewood)**

**Calgary, Alberta**

**Parking on Street and in parking**

**lot directly off 8th street beside the centre.**



Join us December 6 2008 for "An Intimate Holiday Dinner and Comedy Show" with International Comic Impressionist – Joanna. ([www.celebrityinsanity.com](http://www.celebrityinsanity.com)). A mouthwatering Holiday Roast Beef Dinner, Get your tickets fast, as only a limited number. Tickets available at [www.ARGRA.org](http://www.ARGRA.org) or at The Backlot and Calgary Eagle. **NO TICKETS available at the door, pre purchase only.**

Thanks to our volunteers that help make these and every event outstanding. If you would like to help out at a dance please contact Ross at [fundraising@argra.org](mailto:fundraising@argra.org) or [volunteers@argra.org](mailto:volunteers@argra.org).



**WE'RE ON THE MOVE !**

The Bud Light Canadian Rockies International Rodeo is moving.

ARGRA has exciting news! We are moving rodeo venues and are proud to announce that the 2009 Bud Light Canadian Rockies International Rodeo will be held at the Strathmore Agricultural Grounds in Strathmore, Alberta (just East of Calgary).

The dates for the rodeo have not changed and remain June 26 – 28, 2009.

ARGRA has been growing over the last few years and our rodeo has out-grown our old venue. So, we are literally taking the bull by the horns and moving to a larger rodeo facility with acres (we're not kidding) of camping available, and a 1<sup>st</sup> class professional rodeo arena with one of the most modern rodeo facilities in the Calgary area. All of the events that help make the Bud Light Canadian Rockies International Rodeo weekend the best rodeo on the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) circuit will be back – and all in one location: Friday Night Cabaret (featuring Gord Bamford); Saturday and Sunday Breakfasts; Saturday Dinner; Saturday Dance; Sunday Awards; fabulous Retail Tent; and of course the Bud Light Canadian Rockies International Rodeo itself. Camaraderie and Wild West fun are included!

Camping details have been confirmed with the Strathmore Ag. Society. The number of serviced sites available are limited and will accommodate IGRA Officials, ARGRA Executive and ARGRA Rodeo Committee members only.

All other sites will be un-serviced and should be booked in advance. The camping price is an awesome flat rate of only \$45 covering Wednesday June 24 – Wednesday July 1. Campsite bookings are available through ARGRA's own online booking system using PayPal or by mailing a cheque to ARGRA. Detailed information can be found on the ARGRA website at [www.argra.org](http://www.argra.org) listed under CRIR Rodeo-Camping.

Please refrain from contacting the Strathmore Ag. Society directly regarding camping as they will NOT be able to assist you with campsites.

As of this date the information regarding camping deposits at Symons Valley Ranch is that the campground office will re-open March 1, 2009. Any new information will be posted on the website, Yahoo Group email, ARGRA members email as well as the ARGRA Newsletter in order to keep everyone informed.

This is a very exciting time for all of us and as a Board we ask for your support and assistance in allowing us to work with the Strathmore Agricultural Society to make this the best rodeo in the history of the CRIR.

Join ARGRA as we continue to grow. Now we have room to become even better !

[www.ARGRA.org](http://www.ARGRA.org)

ARGRA Communications Director  
Judy Munson

**Country and Western  
Dance Lessons  
Are COMING January  
14, 2009!!**



Ever wanted to two-step but were afraid to try? Missing out on the dances because you don't know how? ARGRA will be holding beginner and "refresher" Country and Western dance lessons early in the new year!

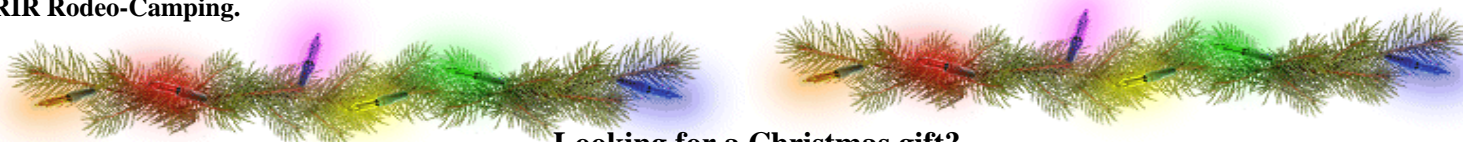
Lessons will include a total of 6 hours of instruction broken down into 1-1/2 hour classes for a 4 week period. They will be on Wednesday evenings from 7:00PM to 8:30PM, starting January 14, 2009 and finishing on February 4, 2009.

This is a GREAT way to learn Country and Western dancing in a low stress, fun atmosphere. You can come by yourself or with a partner...all are welcome!

Location and final cost are yet to be confirmed but will be communicated shortly through member Email and the Yahoo Group Email.

If you are interested in signing up, or have any questions, Email Rob Somers at [vicepresident@argra.org](mailto:vicepresident@argra.org)

Space is limited!!



**Looking for a Christmas gift?**

Check out some of the merchandise available from ARGRA. We have t-shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, nylon jackets, and CRIR melton leather jackets. A selection will be available at the December dinner & comedy show for purchase.



### Saddle Up Folks...We're On The Move!!

WOW and OMG – What an exciting year to be Rodeo Director!!!

I would like to start off by saying congratulations to the “Relocation Committee” spearheaded by Pierre. His committee worked many long hours to bring this move to completion and they deserve a big ‘Thank You’ from all of us! Remember however that “Rome wasn’t built in a day!” - Nor did ARGRA become one of the best rodeos on the circuit in a year!! There are many, many details to work out and we need everyone to please be patient with us. We will keep you informed of our progress as we move through the year and there will be continuous updates on our web page [www.argra.org](http://www.argra.org) so check back often.

The Rodeo Committee has had a few planning meetings already and we are well on our way to putting on another great rodeo. We also went on a “road trip” to the Strathmore Ag Society on November 22<sup>nd</sup> to check out our new home.

It’s an absolutely amazing facility, the rodeo grounds are world class and there are acres and acres (23 to be exact) of land to host our best rodeo yet! Everyone on the Committee is really excited and we have come up with some great ideas about



how things will work this year. Firstly, we want to let everyone know that the basic format of the CRIR will NOT be changing. There will be tons of camping, tons of entertainment, tons of great rodeo action, and of course, tons of partying!!!



As in the past, everything will be held in one great location!!! There are lots of buildings that will accommodate all our needs from registration, dances, dinner, breakfast, awards, retail, and just about anything else

you can think of. Although there are no permanent barns on the grounds there are buildings that will accommodate the portable stalls again this year to allow our four-legged competitors a safe and secure resting area. A first for CRIR, and a bonus for the horse people, is that we now have a warm-up arena too!



Strathmore Ag. Society Grounds (Map courtesy Google Maps)

We are hoping to get back to our western roots this year and the theme for rodeo weekend will be **Wild West Fun**. There will be a saloon, a dance hall, a dry goods store, and a livery, just to name a few of our attractions.

If you are interested in getting more involved with ARGRA or the Rodeo Committee please feel free to drop me a line at [rodeodirector@argra.org](mailto:rodeodirector@argra.org). The more involved you become the more fun you will have, and that’s a promise!

Happy Trails,  
Janie  
CRIR 2009 Rodeo Director



# International Review

Hello everyone... It's hard to believe the snow is here, curling has started, and the ARGRA executive board, and rodeo committee, are already hard at work planning the 2009 (CRIR) Canadian Rockies International Rodeo!

Just a couple of things to report from the international side...

I and seven other ARGRA members had the great pleasure of attending the 24<sup>th</sup> annual IGRA convention in New Orleans LA last month...

First let me start off by saying it was a wonderfully planned event. The folks from the Louisiana State Gay Rodeo Association (LSGRA) did a great job. From the meetings that were scheduled during the day; to the fun and exciting parties that were held each night. I want you to know that ARGRA's delegation and I enjoyed ourselves very much, and were proud to serve as ambassadors for ARGRA, Calgary, and our CRIR. Their convention happened to be scheduled in New Orleans, over the Halloween weekend. Naturally our



Another thing that made the convention in New Orleans special was the fact that for the first time ever IGRA Royalty competition was held at convention.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank last year's royalty team members:

Miss Janet Jenkins (aka James Jenkins)

Mr. Gary Rushton and

Mr. Randy Edlin 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up

The three of you did an incredible job this year; ARGRA thanks you for all that you do for IGRA and Gay Rodeo.

I'm happy to say that IGRA has a much bigger royalty team this year and I know that these new royalty team members will be at rodeo near you, working hard to raise money for charity and IGRA.

The rest of the convention was filled with intense and interesting meetings; consisting of by-law change requests, and Rodeo Rule change conversations.

I don't want to bore all of you with Rule and By-law conversation, but if you have any questions please feel free to get in touch with me.

That's about it for now from IGRA. I'll be providing additional updates as we get closer to the CRIR this summer.

But in the mean time...  
Happy Holidays!  
And Rodeo Safe!

Pierre Cadieux



Pierre receiving IGRA appreciation award



Heather receiving IGRA appreciation award



ARGRA delegation had to dress up in true Canadian Fashion so all eight of us plus our partners, totaling eleven went as "Canadian Mounties *Gone Bad*" We were the hit of the convention and pretty popular on Bourbon Street as well...

I'm proud to say that ARGRA won the International Web-site award. That's right we have the best web-site in all of IGRA, and we should be very proud of that. If you haven't checked it out please do at

[www.argra.org](http://www.argra.org)



Judy accepting IGRA Website Award



Rob receiving IGRA appreciation award

## Rodeo Competitor's Corner...

Well, the rodeo season for 2008 has come to an end. ARGRA had a good year, and with the move in 2009 to a first class rodeo facility in Strathmore will be even better!

### 2008 IGRA Finals

ARGRA had four competitors attend the 2008 IGRA Finals in Denver, Colorado on October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008. All represented the association very well! Results down to the eighth place are as follows:

**Janie V.**

Chute Dogging

First Go 5<sup>th</sup> place 7.24 sec

**Mitch C.**

Steer Riding

First Go 8<sup>th</sup> place 59.0 score

**Woody**

Steer Riding

Second Go 1<sup>st</sup> place 73.0 score

**Rob S.**

Chute Dogging

First Go 5<sup>th</sup> place 4.84 sec

Second Go 3<sup>rd</sup> place 4.53 sec

**Wild Drag**

First Go 6<sup>th</sup> place 23.33 sec

**Goat Dressing**

First Go 3<sup>rd</sup> place 10.65 sec

Honorable mention has to be made to those competitors that were invited but were unable to attend Finals for one reason or another. Congratulations go to Darcy S., Jamie C., Simone and to anyone else that I may have missed from this list!

Also, congratulations to all the ARGRA volunteers that worked the Finals Rodeo and made it what it was.

(Continued on page 5)



**News  
From  
CCGRA**

At the beginning of November the IGRA annual convention was held in New Orleans. This was only the 3rd convention Canada's other gay rodeo Association: CCGRA has attended. Still very green compared to ARGRA we have taken on the task of hosting next years IGRA convention in Toronto. It will be a huge undertaking for our new and small group. Three of our Board members participated in New Orleans as delegates representing CCGRA this year. Our focus wasn't so much on the convention's business of passing bylaws and debating rodeo rule changes as it was on witnessing how LSGRA (Louisiana State Gay Rodeo Assoc) put on the convention. Any insight we gain could help us next year when it's our turn to host the convention in Toronto November 2009. If nothing else it made us keenly aware how big our task will be hosting the world's largest annual gathering of gay cowboys (and cowgirls of course.) We know we'll need help from lots of volunteers, and sponsors and from our experienced brothers & sisters in Calgary, to make it a success. One thing they don't expect is for us to be able to compete with the friendly folks and party atmosphere they had on Bourbon St in the French Quarter. But then they don't know Canadians! Nor do they know how vibrant and open Toronto's Church St is, and how large and welcoming our gay village is.... Yet! In fact most of them have never visited outside the USA so don't know what to expect. (We are already fielding questions on if they will need passports and how far from Buffalo & Niagara Falls we are.)

The clock has started, we have exactly one year to prepare to host our first International Gay Rodeo Association event. One thing that might help get our 'CCGRA brand' more known State-side as we approach convention, happened! In New Orleans we won our first international award;

The IGRA Media Award for our newsletter "The Hitching Post." This annual award is presented to one recipient that exhibits

exemplary communication about their association; promotion of the country/western lifestyle; rodeo; and /or IGRA's mission; to their membership or the general public.

It was a great honour to be recognized by our peers; all much larger, established rodeo associations. Now we can officially say our newsletter is an *award winning publication* produced for our membership! It is distributed quarterly as a collaborative effort by many people, but especially John S. (who deserves recognition for his hard work), and myself.



**Peter Dillon (centre), accepting the IGRA Media Award (IGRA Convention 2008)**

Not to forget the many contributors that wrote articles or submitted content for it over the last 2 years (including a few Calgary folks: thanks Judy and Alec!)

Back issues can be downloaded from our website [www.ccgra.ca](http://www.ccgra.ca) if you are looking for additional winter reading on what we in Ontario are up to. And remember we are always looking for any and all support and guidance from ARGRA! Thanks for being such a great role model.

Peter Dillon  
CCGRA VP and IGRA Trustee

**Seasons Greetings  
From Your ARGRA Executive**



**Rodeo Competitor's  
Corner... (continued from Page 4)**

**2008 IGRA Convention –  
Rule Changes**

From October 31 to November 2, 2008 ARGRA was in New Orleans for the annual IGRA Convention (see article in this newsletter by Pierre C.) Among the things that were reviewed were the IGRA rodeo rules. You can preview the revised or changed rules at the following website:

[www.igra.com/Resources/RodeoRules/RodeoRules.htm](http://www.igra.com/Resources/RodeoRules/RodeoRules.htm)

Note that the final official version of the IGRA rodeo rules will be in the new 2009 Rulebook that is scheduled to be mailed to the competitors early in January 2009.

**2009 IGRA Rodeo Schedule**

There are 17 rodeos planned for next year, including the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual World Gay Finals Rodeo in Albuquerque, New Mexico (note that this has moved from Denver, Colorado). There are a couple cities of note that are taking a "break" from putting on a rodeo, but plan on returning in 2010. See website [www.igra.com/Calendar\\_Rodeo.htm](http://www.igra.com/Calendar_Rodeo.htm)

The first rodeo of the 2009 season is the Road Runner Regional Rodeo in Phoenix, Arizona January 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 2009. *They will be putting on a Rodeo School there right before the rodeo...I encourage you to attend as a number of ARGRA members have in the past and found it very helpful – even for the complete beginner!* Check out this web site <http://www.agra-phx.com>

See you in 2009!!  
Rob Somers  
Vice President, ARGRA; Contestant  
Liaison Committee Chair, IGRA

**HORSEBACK LESSONS TO START**

In the New Year ARGRA's Rainbow Riders will be back in the saddle. Organized by ARGRA members Dale Tamblin and Lori Andrews, we are offering more this year than ever before. In the past the Rainbow Riders has been limited to people who own their own horses. Now we will be offering Western Riding lessons to those who have their own horses and also those that don't.

We are looking at a variety of types of lessons, starting at the beginning for some, and more advanced for those who are at higher levels. Please contact Dale Tamblin at [ramblinrosie@xplornet.com](mailto:ramblinrosie@xplornet.com) or Lori Andrews at [runninghorseranch@platinum.ca](mailto:runninghorseranch@platinum.ca)

We will be hosting barrel racing, pole bending, breakaway roping lessons as well. Please contact us and let us know what you are interested in and we can explain further including pricing etc.

**ARGRA is going to Heritage Park's**



**Saturday December 13 at 10:00AM** – Meet outside the main admission gate at the top of the hill. **A limited number of 50% off coupons will be available from the ARGRA representative there (while supplies last - look for the cowboy hat!) between 10:00AM and 10:30AM.**

Want to know what it was like to live in the West 100 years ago – at Christmas? Guess what – you can! If you have never been there, Heritage Park here in Calgary is an incredible recreation of a small western town as it was about 100 years ago.

A bunch of us are going and it should be a great time! Come by yourself or as a group – we will be touring around the park the same way!

Regular admission is \$6 for Adults, \$4 for Children (3-17) and free for Children 2 & under; Heritage Park Annual Pass holders are free as well. **ARGRA has a limited supply of 50% off coupons! You can get these at no cost, while supplies last at:**

**The merchandise table at the ARGRA December "Dinner and a Show"**

OR

**Outside the main admission gate at the top of the hill of Heritage Park from the ARGRA representative (look for the cowboy hat!!) between 10:00AM and 10:30AM on the Morning of December 13.**

**Hope to see you there!**

**Rob Somers, Vice President ARGRA**

**Contact ARGRA**

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Fax: 403-26-ARGRA (403-262-7472)

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**Shop for Christmas and give back to ARGRA**

If you have a "horsy" person on your Christmas list here is a good place to find something unique. The EQUI-MARKET on Hwy # 2A on the way into Okotoks sells Horse tack, Women's clothes, Giftware, Jewelry, Home Décor and more. Besides being well priced every dollar that is spent in the store accumulates and a percentage is given back to ARGRA.

Check out the website for store hours and location and remember to tell them you are a member of ARGRA.  
[www.equi-market.com](http://www.equi-market.com)



*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.*

**ARGRA.ORG**  
DANCE DATES 2008 -2009  
September 27, 2008  
October 18, 2008  
November 15, 2008  
December 6, 2008  
January 17, 2009  
February 14, 2009  
March 21, 2009  
April 18, 2009  
May 30, 2009

THE BUDLIGHT CANADIAN ROCKIES INTERNATIONAL RODEO June 26-June 28, 2009