



ARGRA culture

Fall/Winter 2009 Edition

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Upcoming Events:

Nov. 21 - Team Dance
Dec 12 - Christmas
Dinner & Show
Jan. 23 - Dance
Feb. 27 - Sleigh Ride

TEAM DANCE
NOVEMBER 21, 2009
WEAR YOUR TEAM JERSEY OR SHIRT & RECEIVE A FREE DRINK!

ISCCA 8-9 PM **DOOR PRIZES**

LATE NIGHT BUFFET! **GREAT DRINK PRICES!**

WWW.ARGRA.ORG

Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community hall, 1320 5th Ave. N.W., Calgary, Alberta
Doors open at 8PM. New Admission Prices Members \$3 - Non Members \$5.

TITLE SPONSOR: BUD LIGHT
PREMIER SPONSORS: GUYTON, OUTFITTERS, CASH, CASH, CASH
PLATINUM SPONSORS: 5, BEATRUTE, CRUISELINE, 13, loop
GOLD SPONSORS: IMPACT, WHEELY, 13, loop

Christmas Holiday Dinner and Show December 12th

(see page 4 & 6 for details)

Lorrie Murphy GRAND MARSHAL for IGRA 2009 World Gay Rodeo Finals !!



One of ARGRA's own, Lorrie Murphy, was named this year's GRAND MARSHAL for the IGRA 2009 World Gay Rodeo Finals. It is a very rare honour, and has never been previously bestowed to a Canadian! Finals this year took place October 23 – 25 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Lorrie has worked tirelessly to support the community. Throughout the past 20 years she has

sponsored individuals and groups in numerous community events. Lorrie was one of the first community leaders to promote and sponsor Rodeo teams who competed locally at the CRIR and internationally with IGRA. Lorrie's support to IGRA has brought many positive comments from the World Gay Community.

The number of organizations Lorrie has assisted or been actively involved with in the gay community is substantial. She has been involved with ARGRA for many years,



most recently being the CRIR Rodeo Director for 2006 though to 2008. In addition, she has been presented with numerous accolades: Lorrie was the proud recipient of the Wild Rose Award 2000 for Individual contribution to GLBT and Two-Spirited Community, IGRA recognized her with 2 IGRA appreciation awards in support of ARGRA and 3 appreciation awards for her work as Rodeo Director for ARGRA for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008.

On behalf of ARGRA and the gay community at large, we wish to congratulate Lorrie for being named Grand Marshal for the 2009 World Gay Rodeo Finals!

Hey Teams !

If you are a member of a Team...

Hockey,
Curling,
Rodeo,
Ringette,
Volleyball,
Badminton,



Bowling or ...? Come to the Nov. 21st ARGRA dance. Wear your team shirt/jersey/or team attire and get a free drink for participating.

How many team members can you bring out???

We want to see you there with your *team pride showing* so come out and play, dance, and party with ARGRA. New DJ this dance so come out and see what you think.

Check out the November Dance poster on the front page of this newsletter for details.

ARGRA does San Diego & Vegas Rodeos... and brings back Buckles and Hardware



A posse of ARGRA members competed at the San Diego Rodeo (8 to be exact) and did themselves proud by winning an abundance of ribbons and 3 buckles. The buckle winners were Lori A. in Steer Riding and Scott W. in Steer Riding and Bull Riding. Those competing were Scott W., Brad, Lori A. Janie V. Dale T. Rob S. Jeremiah and Judy M. An abundance of Ribbons were won in chute dogging, calf roping on foot, steer deco, wild drag and horse events.

Most of the competitors (12 to be exact) then traveled to the Vegas one night rodeo and again brought home Buckles and Ribbons. Buckle winners were Scott W. in Steer Riding, Sandy W. in Chute Dogging, and Rob S. in Goat Dressing. Those attending in Vegas were Sandy W. Judy M. Scott W. Dale T. Sweetness, Ed M. Janie V. Rob S. Lori A. Brad, Heather M (Arena Director), Kim (Rodeo Virgin)

The San Diego and Vegas Rodeos were very well organized and a great show. ARGRA competitors did a great job of representing themselves and the association, and of course had to prove to the Americans once more...that Canadians know how to party and have a good time !

Check out the IGRA rodeo schedule for the upcoming year and start planning your next rodeo trip. Don't miss the CRIR July 2 - 4, 2010

Judy Munson
ARGRA Communications Director

ARGRA goes to the World Gay Rodeo Finals and brings home BUCKLES!!

What a year it has been! There were 15 Rodeos on the IGRA (International Gay Rodeo Association) rodeo circuit all over Canada and the U.S. culminating in the 2009 World Gay Rodeo Finals in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Thought the year, competitors earn points for their events, and at the end of the year only the top 20 people per event are invited to participate in Finals. They took place over the weekend of October 23 to 25, 2009.

ARGRA had a total of 6 competitors go to Finals, and over all did quite well! Attending the 2009 World Gay Rodeo Finals were Scott W., Rob Somers, Shanna R., Tammy H., Terry B., and our illustrious Rodeo Director Janie Van Santen.

Janie was asked to be on the Wild Drag Team of Brian Helander after showing just how tough she was during the rodeo in San Diego weeks earlier. When the President of the IGRA (Brian H.) asks you to be on his team, you can be sure it's a compliment!

The biggest news of the weekend was Scott W. not only was invited to Finals for Steer Riding and Bull Riding, but **WON THE BUCKLES in both Steer Riding AND Bull Riding!!!** First in the world in *two events!* Congratulations Scott – you deserve it!

The results for the ARGRA Competitors that attended the 2009 World Gay Rodeo Finals were:

	Event	Saturday		Sunday		Overall Placement
		Time	Place	Time	Place	
Scott W.	Steer Riding	73	1st	67	4th	Buckle !
	Bull Riding	86	1st	81	1st	Buckle !
	Wild Drag	0	-	16.76	4th	
Shanna R.	Chute Dogging	12.75	3rd	0	-	
Tammy H.	Flag Racing	9.64	8th	0	-	
Terry B.	Bull Riding	0	-	Injured	-	
Janie V.	Wild Drag	16.75	4th	16.76	5th	3rd to the Buckle
Rob S.	Chute Dogging	6.28	11th	0	-	
	Calf Roping on Foot	0	-	0	-	
	Steer Deco	20.4	12th	11.41	7th	8th to the Buckle
	Wild Drag	0	-	16.76	4th	
	Goat Dressing	11.73	6th	12.87	8th	5th to the Buckle

Congratulations to all the competitors!

It is no small feat to get invited to Finals. No matter how each person placed you have done yourself and ARGRA proud!

That's it for the 2009 Rodeo Year. The first rodeo on the 2010 IGRA circuit will be in Phoenix, Arizona February 12-14, 2010. Check out <http://www.igra.com> for the latest dates and links for all future rodeos in 2010.

Rob Somers, Vice President ARGRA



Meet your new Fundraising Director

Hi to all the ARGRA membership from your new Fundraising Director! My name is Denise Sluggo.

Most of those that know me, know me as Sluggo. I am looking forward to my new position within ARGRA, and looking forward to meeting a whole lot of people and hanging with my old and new friends. My goal for this up coming year is to bring our dances back to life and find all our old members to start having fun with us again. Myself and the Executive have some great ideas and we are excited about the future. I am very new to this position but have a lot of great ideas and I know all of you do too! My ears are open and would love to hear your opinions. Whether good or bad, they are all important. Without your comments I can't fix anything so please let me know what you would like to see and or do within our organization. I know our new Board of Directors are excited about this year and want our members to feel the same. Let me now how you feel at fundraisingdirector@argra.org.

I'll let you know that our November 21st dance is going to be a lot of fun. It is Team and Jersey night. We are also letting all members and non-members in for half price. And when you show up wearing your team colors you will receive a free drink ticket. We have a new DJ for this dance, that will be fun to check out as well. The food will be better then ever and yes, all your friends will be attending so get your jersey on and meet us at Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community Centre for a great night.

Now in December we are going to have a fantastic dinner show with an OUT/Gay piano player, singer song writer. His name is Jeffery Stalker and he is very excited to perform for you all. (Check him out on youtube, you won't be disappointed.) We are once again going to have a silent auction for all you last minute Christmas shoppers so remember all your VISA and MasterCard while shopping with ARGRA. There will be a wonderful roast beef diner and show from Jeffery, shopping and then dancing. So please get your tickets early as there are only 120 being printed. Remember you can use Paypal to make life easy. Or you can grab tickets for the December Dinner & Show at the November dance! Thanks again and I look forward to meeting you all and making this the best year ever.

Denise
ARGRA Fundraising Director



A Letter
from the
Rodeo
Director

Howdy Cowgirls and Cowboys,

I'd like to thank all the members who turned out for our AGM in September and am honored to have been given the title of 2009/2010 Rodeo Director. As ARGRA continues to make huge strides in the gay rodeo circuit I'd like to remind all of you that without your ongoing support and commitment we wouldn't be as strong as we are. ARGRA is a great organization that is respected and envied throughout the IGRA circuit and that speaks volumes to the dedication of our volunteers and membership.

By now all of you know that our move to Strathmore for the 2009 Canadian Rockies International Rodeo was a resounding success! Last year's Rodeo Committee worked extremely hard to ensure that everything was in place and that everyone who attended had a great time. As our competitor and spectator base continues to grow so does our rodeo and we're hoping that the show we bring to you in 2010 will be even bigger and better. We have proven that it's not the venue that makes the event it's the camaraderie and friendliness of everyone who attends!!

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 or come to the next Rodeo Committee meeting which is scheduled for 6:30pm, November 5 at the Old Y.

The more involved you become the more fun you will have, and that is definitely the focus of this group. It takes a lot of hard work to pull off the dances and events that happen through the year as well as an annual rodeo and again I would like to say thank you to everyone for the ongoing support.

Happy Trails,
Janie



**Christmas
Holiday
Dinner
and Show
December
12th**



ARGRA has planned another great Christmas event! We will have a fabulous dinner, live entertainment, and a silent auction.

Jeffery Straker; a gay/out singer, songwriter and pianist will perform for you. We will also provide you with a Silent Auction (great place to pick up some Christmas gifts), to keep you busy between courses.

If you missed the Christmas event last year don't miss it again. Call all your friends and come out to socialize, eat, drink, shop and be entertained.

Dec. 12th - Alexandra Centre
(Inglewood).

See details on December
Holiday poster in this
newsletter.



Judy Munson
ARGRA Communications Director



**Introducing
your New
ARGRA
President**

Welcome, ARGRA members, to our 2010 rodeo year. I am thrilled to be your president. Some of you may not know me and some of you may recall that I have previously served on the ARGRA Board of Directors, first as the Public Relations Director (now Communications) for three years and then as the Sponsorship Director for two years. My vision for ARGRA is to cultivate an association that not only maintains itself, but thrives well into the future. That means we're thinking about what each of the Executive has as their main duties, not only throughout the year, but also for our signature event, the Canadian Rockies International Rodeo (CRIR). Additionally, that means that we're looking to recruit young adults in our community, both women and men, to become ARGRA members and volunteers.

ARGRA wants to be a part of your lives through out the year. Our association is already planning for a very busy, and very successful year, full of events. We'll be hosting, of course, the Canadian Rockies International Rodeo, from July 2 - 4, 2010, and from now until then, you'll see events from our fundraising dances, dance lessons, Christmas Dinner & Show, horse club clinics, to a sleigh ride in February. We'll make sure to publicize each event well in advance so that you can mark your calendars. And, I look forward to meeting as many of our membership as I can during this year at all our various events.

Cheers!

Greg Holsworth
President
ARGRA



Membership News....

Dear Jason,

Hello everyone and welcome to the first installment of the revived Dear Jason column, where you can email me or ask me questions about ARGRA or IGRA. In my role as Membership Director I am responsible to you and every other member of ARGRA to act as your voice to the Board of Directors. I am here for you if you have a great idea, a concern or just curious about how ARGRA works. Over the last month or so I have been asked a few questions and I thought I would share these with you.

How do I volunteer to help out ARGRA?

There are many ways you can volunteer to help, not only at the big rodeo in July this year but we can always use a helping hand during our dances or other events. If you would like to volunteer, or just have questions about what that might entail please email me at volunteer@argra.org or membership@argra.org and we can definitely line you up for some fun!

Why was the October dance cancelled?

With the October dance coming so close on the heels of the September dance we felt that we wouldn't have been able to put together a dance that would reflect the strides that this new board want to take. We have been fortunate to have Denise elected as our Fundraising Director and she is one fireball of energy and ideas! The November dance is going to be a real barn burner...well hopefully not literally, but it is going to be fantastic! Another part of the reason was that Apollo as well as the Edmonton Bears planned an event for October 24th and we wanted to support them. Part of our role at ARGRA is to be a leader in the gay community and supporting the amazing group of organizations out there is an integral part of who we are.

Why did some of the dance dates change for the spring? ARGRA is working with other organizations in the gay community to ensure that we plan events that don't conflict with each other so that we can support each other not only by attending each other's events but also so that you can have the freedom to be a part of as many community groups as you like.

I paid for my membership and I still don't have my membership card. With taking on this new role I am updating our membership information and want to ensure that our membership lists are current and correct. We are one of the largest (if not THE largest) gay rodeo associations in existence so I want to make sure we are doing things right. If you have any questions about your membership you can email me directly at membership@argra.org.

If you have any other questions please email me at membership@argra.org I would love to hear them! I am also at the dances and wearing my name tag come up and say hi, nothing is better than meeting in person! We are so fortunate to have such a diverse membership in ARGRA, you are what makes us happen!

Jason Baker
ARGRA Membership Director



ARGRA 2010 Dance Lessons – Interested??

Last year ARGRA held a beginner set of dance lessons at the Calgary Eagle – and it was very popular!

This year, ARGRA is looking at holding TWO dance lesson sessions starting early in 2010. **We are looking at having a BEGINNER Session (as before), followed by an INTERMEDIATE Session (new for this year!!)** for those who want to continue developing and practicing your dancing.

If you are interested in either session, or hopefully both, please Email me at VicePresident@ARGRA.org with your name, how many would be interested, and how I can contact you. While the details (times, number of lessons, cost, etc.) is yet to be finalized, we need to know how many people might be interested.

Even if you took the beginner lessons last year, I encourage you to take them once more as it's a really good refresher and a good lead into the Intermediate session!

Hope to hear from you!

Rob Somers, Vice President ARGRA



Contact ARGRA

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HOLIDAY DINNER



Jeffery Straker
Gay/Out
Singer-Songwriter
Pianist

AMAZING & LIVELY- POP, ROCK, FOLK & CABARET !

December 12, 2009

Cocktails 6:00 PM , Dinner 7:00 PM, Show to follow
 Roast Beef Dinner

Christmas shop early with our Silent Auction!

Members \$30.00, Non-Members \$35.00

Tickets Available at The Calgary Eagle,
 The Backlot, MP's and
 Online at www.ARGRA.org

Last day to purchase your Ticket is December 2ND, 2009

NEW LOCATION:

The Alexandra Centre 922 9 Ave SE (Inglewood), Calgary, Alberta
 Parking off 8th street beside the centre.



ARGRAculture is produced 4 times a year(Spring / Summer / Fall / Winter) 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.