



ARGRAculture

Winter/Spring 2010 Edition

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Upcoming Events:
February 27
Sleigh Ride

Next Dances:
March 13
April 10
May 29

We Want You !



The Rodeo Committee is still looking for new members! If you have skills to offer or ideas to share we would love to hear from you. It's a great way to meet new people and get more involved in an amazing organization!

Contact:
rodeodirector@argra.org
or volunteers@argra.org

SLEIGH RIDE FEBRUARY 27, 2010

presented by:



Enjoy a Fun Filled Sleigh
Ride at Griffin Valley Ranch.

**\$25 PER PERSON – INCLUDES SLEIGH
RIDE, HOTDOGS, BEVERAGES, AND COZY
BON FIRE.**

BEGINS AT 1 P.M.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ARGRA DANCE
JANUARY 23RD OR BOOK ONLINE**

WWW.ARGRA.ORG

LIMITED AVAILABILITY SO BOOK EARLY !

Letters to the Membership

Dear ARGRA Membership ,

As many of you know, your Rodeo Director, Janie VanSanten, has been dealing with personal matters this past few months which does not allow her to fulfill her obligations to ARGRA in the capacity of Rodeo Director. The Board of Directors has accepted Janie's resignation. Darrel Reid has been appointed by the Board of Directors as the new Rodeo Director. Darrel has subsequently resigned his position of Sponsorship Director and the Board has appointed Brox Anderson as the new Sponsorship Director.

Brox has been on the Rodeo Committee for a number of years assisting Darrel in the area of Sponsorship and is familiar to our many sponsors, and the workings of our association. Darrel has been on the Board of Directors for many years himself, first as Fundraising Director, then Sponsorship, and now as Rodeo Director.

Both Brox and Darrel have the full support of the Board in taking on their new roles.

I congratulate both Darrel & Brox on their appointments.

Regards,
 Greg Holsworth
 ARGRA President
president@argra.org
www.argra.org

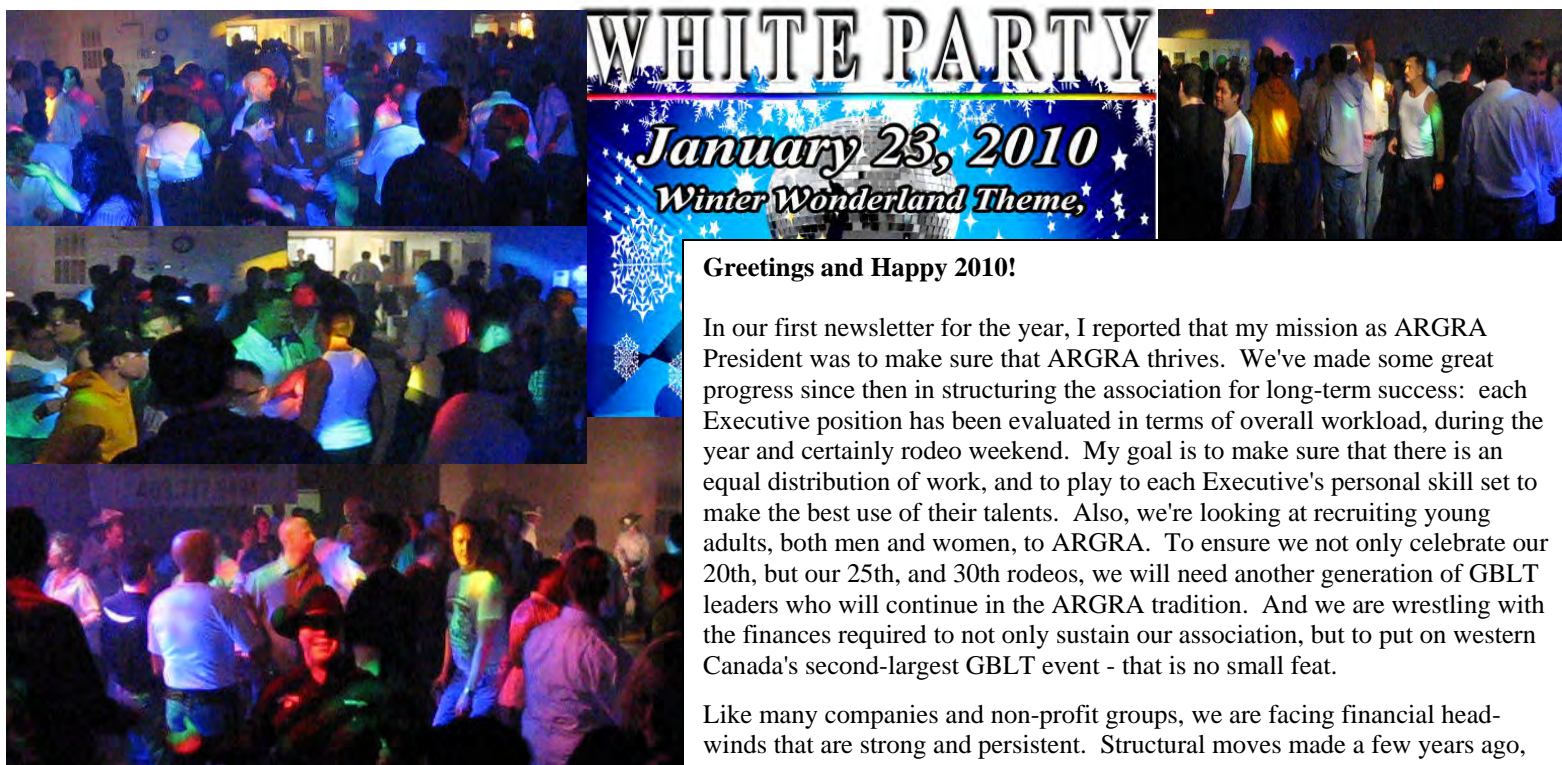
To the ARGRA Membership :

I want to send a personal note of thanks for your on-going support and friendship. Most of you are aware that Ty Teigen was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in November and since then I have been down in Colorado off-and-on helping her through this life altering time.

Thanks to the internet and cell phone I have been able to do most of my Rodeo Director responsibilities from Denver. However, after giving this situation much thought I have decided that the best thing for ARGRA and the Rodeo Committee is if I step back this year. I have talked this over with the Executive and they have agreed to accept my resignation as Rodeo Director for 2010.

The ARGRA Executive have appointed Darrel Reid as the Rodeo Director for the 2010 CRIR and along with Pierre Cadieux, I will be taking on the role of Assistant Rodeo Director. The 3 of us worked very well together last year and although our titles have changed much of the distribution of responsibilities will not change. Darrel, Pierre and I are in constant communication and will be working really hard to produce another exciting rodeo. I would like to ask each of you to continue to support Darrel with the same energy and enthusiasm that you have given me and I look forward to seeing all of you again soon.

Janie Van Santen,
 Assistant Rodeo Director,
 2010 Canadian Rockies International Rodeo



Greetings and Happy 2010!

In our first newsletter for the year, I reported that my mission as ARGRA President was to make sure that ARGRA thrives. We've made some great progress since then in structuring the association for long-term success: each Executive position has been evaluated in terms of overall workload, during the year and certainly rodeo weekend. My goal is to make sure that there is an equal distribution of work, and to play to each Executive's personal skill set to make the best use of their talents. Also, we're looking at recruiting young adults, both men and women, to ARGRA. To ensure we not only celebrate our 20th, but our 25th, and 30th rodeos, we will need another generation of GBLT leaders who will continue in the ARGRA tradition. And we are wrestling with the finances required to not only sustain our association, but to put on western Canada's second-largest GBLT event - that is no small feat.

Like many companies and non-profit groups, we are facing financial headwinds that are strong and persistent. Structural moves made a few years ago, like creating the position of Sponsorship Director, has allowed ARGRA to weather the recession to date, but vigilance is needed. We are facing a tight budget this year, both for the association and the rodeo and we are doing all we can to protect ARGRA, and the spectator / volunteer / competitor / sponsor experience that make us who we are.

Stay tuned and stay connected to ARGRA and come out to support our fundraising efforts throughout the year, and on rodeo weekend.

Our winter and spring event dates are:
 February 27 - Sleigh Ride / March 13 - Dance / April 10 - Dance /
 May 29 - Dance / July 1 to 4 - Rodeo

Greg Holsworth
 ARGRA President

Dear Jason questions:

Q. When can I book my campsite for the upcoming rodeo?

A. You can start booking your camp sites in the middle of March...watch for information on our website (www.argra.org) or our Facebook page (Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association) and join us on Twitter by searching ARGRA.

Q. What is the best volunteer position at the rodeo?

A. That is the best part about ARGRA, we have volunteer positions for just about every interest you might have. Everything from helping with information and greeting people, to getting right into the dirt and helping with the actual events! But if you ask our President, he'll say the best job is already taken - his!

Q. I am not a big fan of country music can I still come to the dances?

A. You bet you can. Our DJ plays a whole selection of music...not just country and takes requests as well!. Last dance there was everything from Dolly Parton right to Lady Gaga...you can't get a wider selection than that!

Q. What are some of the pick up lines you have over heard at the dances that cause a cowgirl/boy to take notice?

- A.** Well, I have heard a couple...can't guarantee they will work...but what do you have to lose?
- A) Yee Haw Ride'em Cowboy/Cowgirl...or maybe you?
 - B) Those are nice wranglers...nicer crumpled up on my bedroom floor
 - C) Your barn or mine?
 - D) They don't call it a hitching post for nothing...
 - E) Hey, I might not be the cutest girl/guy here but I am the one talking to you

Just back from fabulous Las Vegas. I may need a little time for recovery as I did join in a 'few' rounds of cocktails while there. This year was my first year attending Rodeo University and it certainly won't be my last.

IGRA, the International Gay Rodeo Association, has been putting on University for the past 6 years. Attendees can participate in credit classes and attendant special discussion groups to learn and share knowledge about putting on a gay rodeo. Classes cover different aspects of the rodeo from PR and community outreach to negotiating stock contracts.

The classes are only a small part of the weekend from events at bars, dance competitions and other 'licensed' activities. One walks away with a feeling of camaraderie and being part of a large family, but never in a straight line.

I am happy to say the socializing did not detract from the learning as you are welcoming back five bright graduating students; Rob, Heather, Janie, Pierre and myself. I would like to mention Pierre's honorary degree in recognition of his first 2 credits in six years of university, that's only 30 more years for his degree. You go Pierre! And that Heather Murray was not just there to learn but to teach, evidence of the high standard of instruction provided to us!



Canadian Graduating class: Peter(Toronto), Janie, Darrel, Rob, Pierre and Dwight(Toronto)



I would encourage those who are interested in becoming more involved in the rodeo to participate in Rodeo University, next year's university will be held in St. Louis.

As I reflect back on all I did and all I learned my mind keeps flashing back to that 'elective' section of Heather's class. Pole Dancing proved both popular and educational with the rodeo students. I know I look forward to the advanced class next year! WD-40 as pole lube – who knew?

Darrel Reid
Rodeo Director 2010

A Little ARGRA History...



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December 12th featured the ARGRA Holiday Dinner and Show

The hall was a festive display of Christmas trees, lights and decorations. The night included fantastic entertainment by Jeffrey Straker singing and playing the piano with his own original music with funny anecdotes between songs. Jeffrey kept the entire crowd completely entertained through two sets of music. He had a great time performing and later said he had never met so many gay cowboys in his life.

The food was superb and the silent auction offered great treasures of artwork, bronzes and a variety of other gifts and was a great fund raising event.

We received great comments regarding the evening – here are a couple;

“We had a great time last night. Thank you for your hard work. The dinner was excellent”.

“Just a note to say thanks for the wonderful time I had at the ARGRA Christmas event last weekend. It’s been 8 years since I’ve been to an ARGRA function...a long time for sure, but it was just like coming home. The meal was exquisite, the entertainment sublime and I met a lot of new, lovely people. Couldn’t have asked for a better evening...”

Four Appreciation Awards were presented on behalf of IGRA to Darrel Reid, Alec Masee, Brox Anderson and Claude Gauvin for their contributions and support of the Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association. A Website and Media Award was also presented on behalf of IGRA.

If you missed this years holiday event plan on attending next year.

Judy Munson
Communications Director



Rodeo Ticket Prices - 2010

Prior to May 31		After May 31		Prior to May 31		After May 31	
3-day (member)	3-day (non-member)	3-day (member)	3-day (non-member)	2-day (member)	2-day (non-member)	2-day (member)	2-day (non-member)
\$104	\$124	\$119	\$139	\$89	\$109	\$99	\$119
a \$155 value You save \$51	a \$155 value You save \$31	a \$155 value You save \$36	a \$155 value You save \$16	a \$110 value You save \$21	a \$110 value You save \$1	a \$110 value You save \$11	a \$110 value

• 2 and 3-Day Package purchasers will also receive access to the Thursday Night Entertainment and Dance (\$15 value)

CARNIVAL



July 1- 4, 2010

The Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association would like to invite not for profit organizations to participate in our upcoming rodeo!

We are inviting all not for profit organizations to host carnival/mid-way games to raise money for your groups while supporting our great event. We will not charge anything for your organization to participate, we simply request your games be priced at a loonie or twoonie and that your people pay to enter the grounds as any other guest.

Everyone will feel the value with carnival games, great food, beer gardens and retail tent!

Contact Rob at: vicepresident@argra.org



ARGRA IS LOOKING AT HOLDING OUR VERY FIRST **RODEO SCHOOL**

EVER WANTED TO BE A COWBOY / COWGIRL?
 ...TO COMPETE IN AN EVENT IN AN ACTUAL RODEO?
 ...AND DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

RODEO SCHOOL FRIDAY JULY 2, 2010
 THIS IS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE CRIR 2010 RODEO,
 ENTER THE RODEO WITH YOUR NEW SKILLS IF YOU WISH!

FEATURED EVENTS: * CALF ROPING ON FOOT * GOAT DRESSING
 * CHUTE DOGGING * STEER RIDING EXPERIENCED COWBOY / COWGIRL
 WILL BE ON HAND TO TEACH! IGRA OFFICIALS ASSISTING FOR SAFETY.

SEND AN EMAIL TO ROB AT VICEPRESIDENT@ARGRA.ORG

RODEO 2010

TEAM CHALLENGE

Calgary, Alberta, Canada
 July 1-4, 2010

**Ever thought about competing in the Rodeo?
 Well, why not do it as a TEAM !**

"Last Year More Than Half of the Competitors Entered in the Team Challenge!"

**OPEN TO: • GROUPS • BUSINESSES • BARS • INDIVIDUALS
 ANYONE WHO WANTS TO PUT A TEAM TOGETHER**

**PRIZES FOR TEAM PARTICIPATION AND SPORTSMANSHIP !
 Great advertising for a Team Sponsor!!**

To enter the Team Challenge – It's as simple as 1, 2, 3...

1. Fill out Rodeo Team Challenge form, bring to Contestant Registration
 - Team name – Be Creative!
 - Team members – Minimum 4 team members.
 - Events Entered – At least 1 per team member.
2. Everyone must register for their individual events per IGRA rules.
3. Come up with a Team Shirt! Be Original!

Check out the ARGRA website at WWW.ARGRA.ORG to get the DETAILS and SIGN UP!

Good Luck and Have Fun!

www.argra.org

Boardmembers

Contact ARGRA
 Website: www.argra.org
 Fax: 403-26-ARGRA
 (403-262-7472)

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.

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

President
 Greg Holsworth 403-815-5970
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
 Jason Baker 403-651-6879
membership@argra.org

Sponsorship Director
 Brox Anderson 403-473-4488
sponsorship@argra.org

Fundraising Director
 Denise Sluggett 403-864-4034
fundraising@argra.org

Rodeo Director
 Darrel Reid 403-720-0687
rodeodirector@argra.org

Treasurer
 Al Comadina 403-228-2864
treasurer@argra.org