

# The CGRA Round-Up

CGRA

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## *President's Letter*

Howdy Little Buckaroos and Buckarettas

What a great time of year! I hope this letter finds everyone doing well and at least looking forward to the Holiday Season. I ask, however, that you keep in mind there are some among us who aren't so blessed and reach out to those and remember they are a part of our CGRA Family. I coined a phrase a year ago at convention that was, "Anyone can find a Trick but try and find a Friend" that's a whole other story. We have built some very good friendships

I have been overwhelmed lately with pride in our Organization. So much so that I can't even begin to express the gratitude for so many. I want to share with you a few things for you all to consider. These are a few things that each and every one of you can take Pride in, or at least should be able to. We have accomplished so much as a STRONG organization. We have learned to accept who we are and we have learned how to help others

*I ask, however, that you keep in mind there are some among us who aren't so blessed and reach out to those and remember they are a part of our CGRA Family.*

all around us but too often fail to see what's right before our eyes. So look up and you will find that FRIEND right here in the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association.

with our STRENGTHS by being LEADERS. Two weeks ago at IGRA Convention CGRA was fortunate to have elected to the IGRA Executive Board our  
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## *Royalty*

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Howdy CGRA Members

I am here looking over this year and I am overwhelmed with all your support and friendship.

I started on this Journey and thought are you Crazy (maybe) LOL. But what I have accomplished and received is priceless: Support, Friendship, Encouragement, Memories and Strong Relationships. Thank You So Much.

CGRA, it has been an Honor and a Privilege to represent you as Ms CGRA. My next Chapter in my life has been a Distant Dream, but now it has come true. I hope to make you proud being Ms IGRA 2014.

CGRA BOD, thank you for your Encouragement, Smiles, Laughter, Friendship, and your Belief in our CGRA Family.

Karl and Katrina it has been an Honor sharing this CGRA Experience with You.

Always in Service to the Community

Pauline Chavez  
Ms CGRA 2013

very own James Jenkins as the new Vice President and Bruce Gros as Secretary.



The importance to me in watching this all develop is the fact that CGRA has been able to, through its' strengths, overcome the past of having one organization so heavily occupy the Board of Directors of IGRA and actually earn the respect of Member Associations to put their trust in successful individuals from a successful organization. Wow what an accomplishment.

CGRA currently has three members on the Executive Board. One member is the

## *Secretary*

There's no such thing as a free lunch

Last February I won the bid for a trip to Finals Rodeo generously donated by Patrick Terry that included air fare, hotel room, and rodeo tickets. I thought it would be great to go and support our

Administrative Assistant and Three more members who are IGRA Trustee's, which, one of them is a newly elected Division Trustee. Amazing.... Drinks all around. Congratulations to each of you. I know that IGRA will be served equally as well as CGRA has been by your services and memberships. These are the little, well not so little, accomplishments that keep reminding me that we are on the right track. Two weeks ago Patrick and I were called out to JEFFCO Fairgrounds to meet with the new Director. They are so pleased with how we run things there and want us to take over more and more of their county functions. WOW!! Or is it Cha-Ching!! More of the little things that keep reminding me of what each of you are doing in the name of CGRA. Hats off to ALL.

Yes at this time of giving THANKS we have so much to be Thankful for. We have each other and the strengths of our convictions which show the PRIDE of CGRA each and

every day. I hope that you will all find the time a week from this Saturday, December 7th, to come out to Charlie's Denver for our 'Night of Sharing' and 2014 Royalty Competition. It is the one night of the year that we get to display, for all to see, what this Organization is truly all about. We will be recognizing our 2013 Charities and our newly elected 2014 Charities along with our Royalty Step-Downs and New Royalty Crowning. Through the hard work of each of you it looks like our total contributions to Charities for the 2013 year will be just under \$25,000.00 dollars. YES we have a lot to be THANKFUL for. We have found our FRIENDS. We have worked hard together and vow to continue in our Leadership roles.

Congratulations CGRA in so many ways, YOU make me PROUD.

Let's Ride  
Robert Thurtell  
CGRA President

contestants, enjoy the rodeo, and have a relaxing weekend without the usual obligations of helping organize and present the event.

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Well there I was Saturday afternoon enjoying the rodeo, not a care in the world, when up walks Janie Van Santen. "Have you ever thought of running for IGRA Secretary?" she asks. "You should." Pow, right in the kisser!

My relaxing weekend flew right out the window and suddenly I was launched on a whirlwind three week roller coaster ride that culminated with my election as IGRA's fourth Secretary, succeeding our own Larry Lindstrom this coming January.

Of course I'm joking. I'm deeply honored by the confidence the delegates placed in me by my election and I look forward to serving IGRA in this new capacity. I've got some big (tall?) shoes to fill but I'm encouraged by all the support I've been offered. I hope to do the job justice and make CGRA proud that once again one of our

own has stepped in to serve IGRA.

While I'm not leaving CGRA behind entirely, I am stepping aside as CGRA Secretary. I've been blessed these last several years to enjoy my service on our Board with a fine and varied group of dedicated men and women who've always embraced by ideas and helped me accomplish whatever success I've contributed to CGRA. I'm grateful to them and to all our members for allowing me to work for and with them to achieve the goals CGRA stands for.

Whatever awaits me with IGRA in the coming years, I know I can always come home to CGRA where I'll be welcomed, encouraged, and refreshed to carry on. Thank you for being my home rodeo family!

Bruce Gros  
CGRA Secretary

## Recipe Box (courtesy of CGRA member Tom Lott)

### Corn Pudding

#### Ingredients

1 Can of Sweet Cream Corn (14 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz)	1 Cup Whole Corn	1 Box of Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
1 Cup Sour Cream (8 oz)	1 Stick of Butter	Spray Oil

#### Instructions

1. Grease a deep glass baking dish with spray oil.
2. Melt the butter in a sauce pan on stove
3. Mix by hand all other ingredients in a mixing bowl. Add in melted butter and stir.
4. Pour into baking pan and bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.
5. Remove from oven when sides of corn pudding start to get crusty.

## Membership

'Tis the season...Fa-la-la-la-la, la la-la-LA!

Membership name tags can be purchased by both new and renewing members. I will happily order these for you if you wish, but they are no longer a FREE item with your membership (the membership CARDS are FREE). The cost is \$10 for a name badge. You may specify either magnet or pin back. Please contact me if you would like to place an order. Prepayment is REQUIRED and orders may take 2-4 weeks.

### REMEMBER:

- 1) All memberships are based on calendar year quarters instead of months. This translates to just four (4) renewal dates per year- March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31.
- 2) Membership cards (for those who wish them) and reminder emails should make

it easier for everyone to renew their membership when due.

3) Members will be DEACTIVATED in the database 10 days after your expiration date if you have not renewed. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS!

4) CGRA offers limited JR. memberships at a reduced annual fee of \$12. This is only for those under the age of 18 – with parental approval, of course.



Please do take a moment and make sure your membership information is up-to-date. Prompt renewals are always greatly appreciated and be sure to let me know if you have any name, address, phone or email changes. For those of you needing to renew

end of DECEMBER, you will start hearing from me soon.

Remember, staying on "Active" status is imperative for rodeo event registration – and now I have membership cards for anyone who wants one. If I don't run into you at our meetings and events, contact me and I'll snail mail one to you. It's a great reminder of your renewal date.

Feel free to email [Membership@cgra.us](mailto:Membership@cgra.us) if you have any questions or updates. Membership/Renewal forms are available on the website. Those can be snail mailed DIRECTLY to me. Please contact me for my mailing address. Better yet...renew on line @ [www.cgra.us](http://www.cgra.us)

CD Slusser  
CGRA Membership Chair

## Community Outreach

### Step Up and Help Out

Howdy, rodeo family. I had a great turnout at the spaghetti dinner. We raised \$483 and we sold out of spaghetti. ICREME & CGRA members were eating their hearts out. Even the Jefferson County Search and Rescue came and indulged. Thanks to all it was a great dinner.

December 21st is The Center's Christmas dinner party and we still need some more dishes, so

please step up and help out. They are a great bunch and we don't want to let them down. We are still needing breads, condiment trays, veggies or pickles and more desserts. Anything will help so let me know. Thx

Paula Scougal  
CGRA Community Outreach

## *Vice President*

### Get Ready for Royalty!

Howdy from your Vice President! This year has passed in the blink of an eye and I am still not caught up on everything I planned to do this year. Seems like the world doesn't stop spinning just for me after all! We have had an exceptional year within our rodeo family. We have had struggles, sadness, and loss, but we remained strong and held tight to each other for support when needed. I can't think of a better description than that for a family, and I am so thankful to have each of you as part of my family. It's not always the blood ties that you can count on in times of need, but those that you choose to be your family. Make sure that you tell those people in your lives how much they mean to you. I know sometimes I forget to do that when life gets the better of me. Thank you everyone for your dedication to keeping CGRA a strong organization. Without all of your support we would not be where we are today.

Congratulations go out to our CGRA Royalty Team for 2013 – Mr. Karl Wesley, Ms. Pauline Chavez, and Miss Katrina St. Andrews. I am very proud of all of the hard work each of you have put into your year. I know that time has flown for each of you, but know that each of you are respected and loved for all of the hard work you put into your year. I am so very proud of each of you!

IGRA Finals came and went, and if you were there you saw Pauline and Katrina compete for their respective IGRA titles. I was so honored to be there with them and watch them compete. I was a proud papa all weekend! Congratulations to Pauline for bringing home the Ms. IGRA 2014 title, and also to Katrina for bringing home the title of Miss IGRA 2014 2nd Runner-up. I know that each of you will work hard for IGRA just as you did for CGRA. Looking forward to watching what you do through your IGRA year. You will have a whole new fantastic set of memories that will stay with you through the years.

Even though I was not able to attend Convention, the good news that came out of there was no surprise to me. I want to congratulate James Jenkins on his new role as IGRA Vice President! I know you will do an amazing job with the royalty team. We also have another CGRA member get elected to the IGRA Board of Directors. Congratulations to Bruce Gros on being elected as the new IGRA Secretary! I knew you could do it! We will definitely miss you on CGRA's Board, but you will be an amazing asset for IGRA.

I hope that each of you will come out on Friday, December 6, 2013, to Charlie's Denver for the CGRA Past Royalty Show. I know there are many past Royalty out there and I would love to see as many of you out there as possible, so that we can thank each of you for your contribution to CGRA. We will be starting the show at 8pm along with the beer bust at 7pm. Then join us on Saturday evening, December 7th, starting at 7pm for our Night of Sharing and CGRA Royalty contest. We will be cheering on two new contestants for the 2014 CGRA Royalty team – Mr. Andrew Johnson and Miss Stephanie Paul. And, we will be celebrating the successful year for Karl, Pauline, and Katrina, and thanking them as they step down.

I hope that you will each have a fantastic Thanksgiving with your family and friends. Be safe and I will see you all soon! Big hugs and thank you for your continued support of CGRA!

Rich Valdez  
CGRA Vice President





## *Public Relations*

### Gay Games is Coming...

As many of you already know, Rodeo will be a part of Gay Games 9 next year in Ohio. I know we have several members who are already planning on participating as either contestants or officials, and hopefully some of you will decide to attend as spectators as well. The cool thing about this rodeo is that IGRA will be allowing non-IGRA contestants to participate and hopefully get them hooked on what we do at our rodeos.

So why am I sharing this with you? I believe CGRA has a great opportunity to become much more visible in the coming months by tying in with Gay Games 9 and promoting ourselves to the community at large. Whether it's cross promoting with other athletic groups in the state, encouraging folks to come out to gymkhanas to practice, or holding rodeo schools to give folks some incentive to compete, all of us can find a way to help out. We will have more details to follow as things develop, but if you have any interest in this, come on out to CGRA events and get involved! And if you have any ideas on cross-promoting CGRA with our community, drop me a note at [PublicRelations@cgra.us](mailto:PublicRelations@cgra.us).

John Hill  
PR Chair, CGRA

## Animal Safety

### To Blanket Your Horse...or Not?

By Maureen Gallatin

**It's on again, off again when you choose to play the blanketing game. Lots of factors will determine whether your horse needs to dress for winter.**



If you've ever shopped for an electric blanket for your bed, you may have been surprised to find that there were two sets of controls. That's because there seems to be an unwritten law of nature that no two people can agree on a perfect temperature. That same unwritten law says that no two horse people will agree about blanketing horses—when to blanket, how heavy a blanket to use, and the myriad variations of those questions. Rather than tell you any hard and fast rules (since there are none), we'll give you some guidelines to help you figure out what's best for your horse and his situation. You might be surprised to find that, in some cases, not blanketing is actually the best decision.

#### **Equine Thermal Energy**

We'll begin by looking at the horse himself. Horses stay warm much better than people do, and they are quite comfortable even when you and I might be reaching for a jacket. In short, you

can't determine a horse's need for a blanket by how chilly you feel.

The primary way a horse gets or stays warm is by digesting hay. Digestion is really a fermentation process, and one of the by-products is heat. When your horse is facing a cold night, the first consideration is to provide him with plenty of hay to keep that furnace burning. And in order for that digestion process to work well, he needs water. Ideally it won't be ice cold. The horse's bulk is a great help in keeping warmth in. Think of how thick a horse's body is, relative to the slender frame of a human. Just as a large block of ice takes longer to thaw than a smaller chunk, a large, warm body stays warmer longer than a thin one.

On top of that, a horse's winter coat has the ability to fluff up, the hair literally standing on end, thereby creating a warm layer of air around the horse. Long "guard" hairs create an additional layer and fend off light rain or snow. Even though it's cold out, an average horse in good condition, eating plenty of roughage, and wearing his own hair coat is probably going to stay warm—as long as he can stay dry and isn't in direct wind.

#### **When to Blanket**

The farther you get from the ideal, the more appropriate it is to consider a blanket. Not every horse has a wooly coat. Some breeds of horses have thinner coats, and others have thin coats from blanketing, being under lights, living in a warm climate or barn, or having been clipped. Even within a barn, you may find one horse who doesn't need a blanket, another who just needs a sheet at night, and another who seems to require a winter parka.

But a fuzzy coat isn't the only determining factor. Consider whether the horse is underweight, isn't eating enough roughage, isn't able to get out of the wind or wet, or has some health concern that compromises his ability to stay warm. Remember, though, when you put a blanket on your horse, you squash that natural insulating layer of air in his coat. In borderline situations, he may actually be more comfortable wearing his natural blanket than your store-bought one.

It's usually necessary to blanket a body-clipped horse. You can layer blankets, the way you might wear a light sweater under your coat. And for any horse out in wet weather, keeping him dry is key to keeping him warm.

If the horse isn't body clipped, you have the dual challenge of cooling the horse down after a workout without allowing him to get chilled. You'll need to put towels or a wool cooler under a light sheet and remove the towel or cooler as it gets damp.

With any horse, you should periodically reach under the blanket to be sure the horse isn't hot or sweaty, especially a horse who has been worked, because he can appear cool but then get sweaty again once he is back in the stall.

Though horses adapt to changes in climate, they don't adapt well to rapid changes. So the horse who was fine when left unblanketed last week might benefit from light blanketing tonight as the leading edge of a cold front comes through. Remember that the big worry during weather changes is that the horse may colic, often due to decreased drinking. So while blanketing is important, having not-too-cold water is critical. Some owners think they're doing their horses a favor by closing up a barn to keep their horses warm. But they're also closing in ammonia fumes and allowing moisture to build up. So instead of heating the barn, it's better to blanket the horses and allow for plenty of ventilation.

It takes calories to stay warm, and some horses need all the calories they can eat. That's especially true of older horses who have difficulty chewing or holding weight, and of horses who have been through a health or shipping stress. In those cases, blanketing helps conserve energy and boosts their ability to stay warm.

If blanketing is the best option for your horse, try to avoid having him wear the blanket 24/7. Even a little unblanketed turnout time in the sunlight on a winter day will do most horses good—whether to have a good roll or just to give their skin a breather from the blanket.

### Blanket Commitments



Once you've decided that your horse might benefit from blanketing, you still have plenty of smaller decisions to make. Does he need a light blanket or sheet for daytime and a heavier blanket for night? Will he be turned out, necessitating a waterproof blanket, or does he just need a stable blanket for time indoors? Will he be turned out with other horses who will run and play? If so, he needs a blanket that will survive that.

Or will you turn him out blanketless, but then groom him before re-blanketing? If he rolls in the mud with his blanket, what will he wear while you're washing the muddy one?

And aside from the cost of buying a blanket or two, there's the time commitment that goes with blanketing and unblanketing, day after day. Who



is going to do that work? If your horse is cold, blanketing may be your best option. But if you have choices, such as whether to body clip him or not, other time and nuisance factors come into play.

There's the matter of keeping the blanket clean. Depending on the blanket materials, that may mean brushing the underside of it daily—or at least checking it—to remove any hay, hair, or stickers that could potentially rub against your horse's coat. It may mean washing the blanket, which also means drying it thoroughly before putting it back on your horse. This likely means you're going to need a second blanket. Don't forget that it's inevitable that you'll have to do some repairs—even if it's only to reattach a buckle.

Even with a blanket, which will help keep your horse clean, you should groom your horse every day. He'll get itchy wearing a blanket, just as you would if you wore the same sweater day in and day out.

If your horse is turned out with his blanket, you have to make sure that the fabric doesn't absorb and hold water when it gets soaked. A wet blanket will get a horse cold very quickly. Read the labels carefully. "Water-resistant" may be fine in a light mist, but you need "waterproof" if your

horse is to stay out in the weather. And that means you'll have to re-weatherproof it after cleaning.

Of course, you'll have to be sure that the blanket fits well and doesn't rub your horse's coat. Even if it seems to fit, keep an eye out for the telltale hairs that seem as though they've been shortened, as if newly clipped or roughed up. This often happens over the hips, on the shoulders, or around the neck opening or withers after the horse has been wearing the blanket for a while.

When the hair gets rubbed, the skin will become tender also. For some horses, even a good-fitting blanket will eventually rub, so he may need an undergarment that will allow the blanket to slip along his shoulders more easily.

And even when everything works perfectly, you can still come home to find your horse naked and your blanket investment shredded by a naughty pasture mate.

As in most things, getting by as nature intended is generally your best option. But when blanketing is the right choice, you get to enjoy the warm feeling of knowing you've done your best for your buddy.

*The CGRA Round-Up is a newsletter designed to keep the members of the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association informed about news and events important to those participants and supporters of gay rodeo in Colorado and around North America. Submissions for inclusion can be sent to [PublicRelations@cgra.us](mailto:PublicRelations@cgra.us).*

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