



DIAMOND STATE LARIAT



P.O. Box 56503 Little Rock, AR 72215

Diamond State Rodeo Association

May, 2001

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May - 13 Happy Hour Sunday
- May - 17 Movie Night
- May - 18 Board Meeting & General Membership Meeting
- May - 19
- May - 20 Volunteer Party
- May - 20 Happy Hour Sunday
- May - 24 Movie Night
- May - 25
- May - 26
- May - 27 Happy Hour Sunday
- May - 31 Movie Night
- Jun - 1 Spades Night
- Jun - 2 Private Party
- Jun - 3 Happy Hour Sunday
- Jun - 7 Movie Night
- Jun - 8 Lariat Deadline
- Jun - 9 Private Party
- Jun - 10 Happy Hour Sunday
- Jun - 14 Movie Night
- Jun - 15 Board Meeting & General Membership Meeting
- Jun - 16
- Jun - 17 Happy Hour Sunday



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Cowboys and Cowgirls. Well, Rodeo in the Rock 2001 is over, but there are a lot of memories, a lot of new friendships were made, and a good time was had by all. For myself I knew that planning and putting on a Rodeo required a lot of time and a lot of hard work, I just wasn't aware of how much was involved, but I enjoyed it and will do it again next year. It is a lot of hard work and does take away from your time but it is satisfying to know that your organization had a great Rodeo and you were involved.

We owe a lot of the hard work spent on this Rodeo to Ian B., our Rodeo Director, who was involved in an accident on April 14th. Ian spent many hours doing a lot of the prep work for the Rodeo we owe him a big "Thank You". Our hearts and prayers go out to him, his family, and especially his partner Tim. We wish him a speedy recovery. We also need to thank Mike A. who was our Assistant Rodeo Director who jumped in as Rodeo Director three weeks before the Rodeo.

Mike did an excellent job in making sure that the Rodeo went off as planned and with no problems. Great job Mike. I also want to take this time to thank all of our volunteers. You did a great job, so give yourselves a pat on the back. We have had a lot of positive comments from the IGRA Officials that were here and from others who attended the Rodeo. I hope that next year those of you who were not involved will get involved. I just want to say in closing "Thanks", to each and every one of you who has supported DSRA this past year. We at DSRA hope you will continue your support.

Julie B. President





OK...OK...all together now.B-R-E-A-T-H!!!!!!!

The 2001 edition of Rodeo in the Rock is over. That loud rush of air that you are all hearing is the countless teams of volunteers finally taking a good deep breath. It was a daunting task to put on one of the largest single city gay events in the state, but thanks to all of you...we did it in style and with class. I have been swamped with congratulations on our successful rodeo from all over the country. Even the LA Rodeo people heard how great our rodeo was and sent their congrats.

When we first started thinking about IF we would have a rodeo, there were some serious questions we had to answer: Could we get enough people to work our rodeo? Could we get the support of the

community since we didn't have a rodeo last year? Could we afford to put on a rodeo with limited funds? Would contestants come to our rodeo? Would gay rodeo fans across the nation bypass the glitz and glamour of the LA Rodeo to come to Arkansas? Would the weather cooperate? Would we be able to organize such a huge event... Guess what?!?!?!?!...the answer to all those questions turned out to be a resounding YES. We took a chance, and it paid off. Our rodeo was a huge success. There were a few bumps along the road that we had to work out. But like a steamroller, our volunteers were there to smooth them right out. And while I am on the subject of problems we had to at our rodeo; I would like to offer a sincere thank-you to the unknown voices out in our community that

spread the word that our rodeo was "not going to happen", that the "DSRA was broke", and that since "Ian was injured, DSRA fell apart". I say thank you to those people because when our volunteers heard their rumors, it only encouraged us to work a little bit harder on our task. I would sincerely appreciate it if those people would stick around for next years rodeo, because....as the old showman's saying goes...."YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET".

You may have noticed not once in this article have I thanked our members, the executive board, our royalty, or any of our sponsors. You may ask yourself why? I have an explanation for that; and here it is. During our rodeo, everyone worked their tails off. Not once did I hear of anyone trying to intrude into someone else's responsibilities. There was no hierarchy, no positions, no titles, and no special treatment. Regardless of their status in the DSRA or with IGRA, our volunteers pulled together for the betterment of our event.

Even those who gave money in sponsorships pitched in and helped where they were needed. Every volunteer had a responsibility (sometimes several), and they handled it. In the truest sense of the word, we were ALL volunteers. So once again, let me thank the volunteers. Without you, there would be no "Rodeo in the Rock".

And now, the one person that I have to take at least a little space to thank. Ian...I hope that someday, someone will show you this newsletter. And I hope that when you read that part, you will know what was in all our hearts when this Rodeo came together. We all thank you my friend; for your vision, for your planning, for your begging (when the occasion called for it), and for bringing us together in your time of crisis. We are all praying for you. I hope that one day, you will read this newsletter, and know how much we loved and missed you during this time.

Now that this year's

Just Fun. Living well really is the best revenge. Being miserable because of a bad or former relationship just proves that the other person was right about you.

rodeo is over, we have to start planning next year's rodeo. It is not enough that we had a successful event, we must build on that success. We have several new members as a result of the exposure of the rodeo. People want to be apart of an organization like ours. When you see new faces at the clubhouse, make sure that you introduce yourself and make them welcome. When we have events going on, make sure to tell your friends about them, and make sure to attend yourself (the new website is operational now and will include weekly updates on what's going on with DSRA). Let people know that you are part of an organization that helps its community, and invite them to be a part of it.

Cowboy hugs,
Michael Ashley
Acting Rodeo Director



Royalty Report

What can I say that hasn't already been said? Rodeo in the Rock was a great success and we have many people to thank for it. I know a lot of us are taking that sigh of relief, and we are all very grateful that the rodeo went off without any major incidents or problems. Of course, the big plus this year was the fabulous weather we had for our great event. Thank you Mother Nature for smiling down on us that weekend!

You may not have seen Sherry and I much over the weekend; we were pulled in several different directions helping where we were needed. We had a lot of other duties we had to tend to as well as our Royalty duties. Sherry took on a huge job of organizing the volunteers, and I organized the entertainment throughout the weekend.

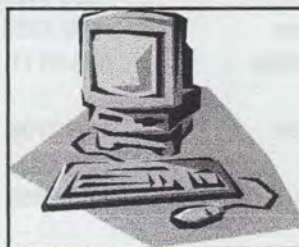
This year the DSRA Royalty was able to host an entertainment stage in the Arkansas Building, while the rodeo was going on, as well as have impromptu entertainment at the parties on both Friday and Saturday night. It all

started on Friday night when, in the midst of partying, we had a mini-show. With current and former royalty, it was not hard to find someone willing to perform. I must admit, I was very impressed with all of those individuals who were more than willing to give of their time and efforts to help out the DSRA.

Saturday and Sunday at the fairgrounds was a little different. While the rodeo was going on, DSRA Royalty played host to several entertainers. Our stage was set up in an area that was, at times, full of activity. With vendors surrounding the stage and a food and beverage concession, contestants and fans alike could not help but stumble onto our stage and watch the performers or watch yours truly, make a fool of myself as I tried to M.C. the shows. It is not as easy as it looks, so after thirty minutes or so, I was forced to ramble and pick on people. It was fun and I had a good time. We had

several royalty from other associations as well as new friends who performed for us throughout the day, we even made a little bit of money. I will have to give a special thank you to the contestants and performers who had pity on me and bought me a beer or two throughout the days festivities.

Saturday night's "impromptu show" proved to be a great show as well. After I welcomed everyone to the party, I again asked for performers for this show. We were not at all short on performers. The Texas Royalty asked if they could dedicate the show to Ian (our rodeo director who was in a severe automobile accident). Once word got out that this show was being dedicated to him, more people asked to perform. I was overwhelmed at the response. The show consisted of current and former royalty as well as some new faces. We even had a couple of surprises. Tamara Marks and Daniel Lusk, both



DSRA now has an easier to remember URL for its webpage:

<http://www.dsra.org>

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former IGRA royalty, asked to perform and even persuaded several people to donate to our cause. As Tamara sang, she was followed around with a box for donations. After Tamara sang, Daniel followed suit and had the donation box follow him as well. I'm glad to say that all the performers raised several hundred dollars over the weekend.

Thank you to all of those who helped out during the weekend, especially Steve B. Special thanks to all the TGRA Royalty and Candidates, Mr. OGRA, Mr. KGRA,



Amber Diva Daniels. To Champagne and Dennis, Kacie and Chris, Rita Rogers-Miss Bud Light Rodeo, Vicki Valentine-Miss Louisiana US of A and each and every one of the performers who came out for our Rodeo in the Rock-Thank You for making our Rodeo in the Rock a great success and helping support the DSRA and it's Royalty Team.

Sherry and I have a lot of work ahead of us in the next few months, so we ask that you continue to support us. Look for some great and unique fundraisers to be coming up in the months ahead as we will be raising money for IGRA as well as our respected charities. Just because the rodeo is over, does not mean that we will not be active at the


clubhouse or at a local watering hole. Keep an eye on the website as well for upcoming events with the Royalty as well as fun events happening at the Clubhouse.

Cowboy Love and Laughter,

Roy Diaz,
Mr. DSRA 2001

Please Keep Ian in your thoughts and prayers as he continues his road to recovery.

Ian you are with us everyday-get well soon buddy. We miss you!

The next Lariat deadline is June 8th. If you are interested in submitting an article for publication, please contact Mike at 666-3706  MIKE4DSRA@aol.com FAX 661-1427 (Call first)



**DIAMOND STATE RODEO ASSOCIATION
2000-2001 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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