



DIAMOND STATE LARIAT



P.O. Box 56503 Little Rock, AR 72215

Diamond State Rodeo Association

November, 2001

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov - 16 Board Meeting & General Membership Meeting
- Nov - 17 Royalty Show
- Nov - 18 DSRA Potluck
- Nov - 23
- Nov - 24
- Nov - 30
- Dec - 1
- Dec - 7 Spades Night
- Dec - 8 Private Party
- Dec - 14 Lariat Deadline
- Dec - 15 DSRA Christmas Party
- Dec - 21 Board Meeting & General Membership Meeting
- Dec - 22



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Howdy Cowboys and Cowgirls, Jackie G, "Trustee," Sherry P, "MS. DSRA 2001," and I made the trip to Palm Springs for the Rodeo Finals. The week was a busy one. Jackie had his Trustee meetings, Sherry had her competitions, and I had to make sure Sherry's clothes were cleaned and pressed, besides

looking cute as a spouse's wife should. Let me tell you what happened and why DSRA has reasons to celebrate.

During The Royalty Awards Ceremony, at the IGRA Finals, we were sitting there chatting, halfway listening and waiting to hear who had won the titles, when all of a sudden we heard. "And this years Spirit Award goes to," and then in eight part Royalty harmony, came the words, "The Diamond State Rodeo Association." We were stunned. After Sherry picked up her jaw, she pushed me out of my chair, in my state of immobility, to go up and accept the award. In the meantime, Jackie was dusting off his seat, after falling on the floor. For those of you who are not familiar with the Spirit Award, it is given out each year to the association who exemplifies the whole spirit of the Rodeo, encompassing contestants, Royalty, Officials, and Spectators. This year's award was presented to DSRA. As your President I accepted the award on your behalf. I want everyone to give yourself a pat on the back, because you deserve it. If that wasn't enough, Sherry brought home a piece of the IGRA Title.

I remember when Sherry was

thinking about running for the DSRA Royalty Team. She wasn't sure if she could do it, because she was shy, and didn't like being around crowds. I remember Sherry's first show as a candidate for the Royalty Team. The show was at the clubhouse, Sherry was scared, and used an inflatable doll for a prop, but she did well and from there she started to grow. A few months later she ran for "MS. DSRA" and won. Sherry's goal was to represent DSRA to the fullest, and to go to Finals and bring home a piece of the title, something no one has ever done from this association. Sherry and Roy worked very hard this past year, doing shows, and attending out of state Rodeos. Well, Sherry and Roy has helped in building a name for DSRA. As one of our members put it so well, "DSRA is running with the big dogs now." "We are no longer, just that small association." Even though Sherry does not have the first place title, her duties are just the same. She has to attend four Rodeos. One rodeo in each division, to raise money for IGRA Charities, as well as helping with the DSRA Royalty. I know I am prejudice because she is my partner, but you would have been so proud of Sherry. She represented our

organization well. When you see Sherry you need to congratulate her for a job well done. If anyone of you have ever thought about running for the Royalty, I encourage you to do so. It is one the most rewarding experiences you will ever have. Jackie, Roy, Mike, Jeff, Harold, Rodney, Rita, Sherry and I, just returned from the Texas Rodeo, which was a lot of fun. Sherry along with your present Royalty team, Roy, "MR. DSRA" and Rita Rogers, "Miss DSRA", all performed at the Rodeo. They really did a good job. Sherry, Rita, and Roy were all helping raise money for the TGRA Charities. If you have never been to a Rodeo out of state you really need to go. You meet a lot of wonderful people and end up with some very special and lasting friendships.

I would like to say, "Thank You" to the guys on the DSRA Board and so many

others who were the hosts for a Women's Private Party that Sherry and I had booked before we left for Finals. Also, thanks to those of you

who helped with the Huge Women's party at Halloween. You are really a great bunch of guys. And, a BIG thank you goes out to John C. and Tex for donating the new chairs at the clubhouse.

Rodeo Up,
Julie B.



Howdy Cowboys and Cowgirls,

Just a quick note to let you know how things are proceeding with the upcoming "Rodeo in the Rock." Since our last meeting things have kicked it into HIGH GEAR at the DSRA. The host hotel has been chosen for 2002. The Best Western Inntown at 600 I-30 has won the bid to host our event this coming year. Room rates are \$69.50 per room (You must mention DSRA when making your reservations for this special rate). Last year we were just a hand full of rooms shy of having the entire hotel booked. Our goal this year is to book the entire complex.

Cut off date for the blocked rooms are April 1, 2002 (after that date the rooms go on the open market). The restaurant will be open all weekend; the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night parties are being held there, and you are literally minutes from the rodeo arena and all the bars. What more could you ask for such a great price? Make sure to book your room(s) early. The Stock contractor Bar M. Rodeo Co. has been awarded the contract to our rodeo. We were the first gay rodeo to use this company, and from their debut in Little Rock, they have become one of the most "sought after" contractors on the circuit. We are very proud to have them back in Little Rock again. The Rodeo poster and theme have been designed and are in the process of being printed as of this writing. I think people will be very impressed with the poster and the way it portrays Little Rock as the rodeo setting. Advertising using this theme has already been distributed on the rodeo circuit and in a limited mailout.

A huge announcement was made at the Texas rodeo on November 11 in Dallas, TX. DSRA, in partnership with the Texas Gay Rodeo Association and the Oklahoma Gay Rodeo Association have announced that starting this year, our three rodeos will be awarding a "Southern Triple Crown Buckle." This buckle will be awarded to the top competitors who accumulate the most points in our three rodeos combined. This buckle will make us unique on the IGRA circuit. This is something that we all can be very proud of. The idea started right here at the DSRA, and it is blossoming into a major event involving two of the largest organizations in the IGRA organization.

As you can see, there ain't no grass growing under our feet at the DSRA, Your rodeo committee has been working hard to produce the largest single gay event in the history of Arkansas. There's still much, much more to be done. Our next rodeo

Just Fun. People who are willing to get off their butt to search the entire room for the TV remote because they refuse to walk to the TV and change it manually!



meeting will be Sunday, DEC. 16 at 2 PM at the clubhouse. I urge all that would like to be a part of this upcoming rodeo to attend and find you place on our committee.

Until next time,
Michael Ashley
Rodeo Director 2002



Membership Chair's Report

Well, I'm back... though it has been a while. I must admit, there's nothing quite like realizing you've been in a car accident, missed six weeks of your life, and have a brain injury to boot. The last time I wrote for the Lariat was back in March. It may have taken half a year, but at least I've returned.

One of the first things that I realized, as soon as

I started putting my memories back together after waking up in May, was that I'd missed the April rodeo. I was *e n o r m o u s l y* disappointed. After all that work, I didn't even get to enjoy it!! Seriously, though, I would like to thank everyone who banded together in time of crisis, just two weeks before the rodeo and without a Rodeo Director. I would also like to thank everyone who visited or prayed for me; I may not have been in much of a state to respond, but it did make a difference.

For the next year, though, I have to limit my activities. It's awful how fast I get tired. I started learning how to walk, and talk, and eat again... and soon I'll be driving again. Now I'm back at work full time, but my stamina is still very low. So I will be out at DSRA events, maybe just not the last one to leave for a while. This year I will serve you as Membership chair; perhaps next year I can return to being Rodeo Director. We'll have to see.

In the meantime, however, let's do the rodeo thing!



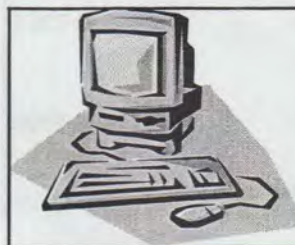
Royalty Report

Whew, what a month! So much has happened and even more is to come. It gives me great pleasure to present to you the New DSRA Royalty Team for 2002. Miss Rita Rogers is your new Miss DSRA 2002, Bart F. is 1st Runner Up for Mr. DSRA 2002 and Roy Diaz is Mr. DSRA 2002. It was a great competition and we had one of the biggest crowds in years. This new team is really going to be working hard this year and will be going to Wichita KS to compete in IGRA Finals in October. Rita and Roy began the year by heading to Dallas for the TGRA Rodeo and really did great. Roy was awarded the 1st annual

royalty award for supporting the Texas Royalty during the 2001 year. WAY TO GO ROY. They each performed very well and made DSRA proud, even though Roy had the creepy crud.

Your team is preparing for a very fast paced year of making us all proud. When you see them give them all pats on the back for jobs well done.

On a personal note I would like to thank each of you for your support for the last year and allowing me to serve as MS. DSRA 2001. Looking forward to an exceptional year.



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

<http://www.dsra.org>

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ANYTIME BALLOONS


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God Bless



AMERICA



The next Lariat deadline is December 14th. 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**

President	Julie Brown	562-1075
Vice President	Buddy Thornsberry	416-7703
Secretary	Sherry Phillips	565-2111
Treasurer	Jim S.	
Trustee	Jacky Green	960-7353
Membership Chair	Ian Bowles	
Events Chair	David S.	
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Is your household receiving two Lariats?
Let us know!!!
"Save the DSRA a few bucks."
DSRA please combine the following names on your mailing list:





Name #1 _____
Name #2 _____
Address _____



DSRA CALENDAR

November 11 - December 22, 2001










SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Nov 11</p> <p>Veterans Day 18th Annual Texas GAY Rodeo - Dallas</p>	Nov 12	Nov 13	Nov 14	Nov 15	<p>Nov 16</p> <p>7:30pm Board Meeting 9:00pm General Membership Meeting</p>	<p>Nov 17</p> <p>9:00pm Royalty Show</p>
<p>Nov 18</p>  <p>6:30pm DSRA Potluck</p>	Nov 19	Nov 20	Nov 21	 <p>Thanksgiving</p>	Nov 23	Nov 24
Nov 25	Nov 26	Nov 27	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30	Dec 1
Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6	<p>Dec 7</p>  <p>7:30pm Spades Night</p>	<p>Dec 8</p> <p>9:00pm Private Party</p>
Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 11	Dec 12	Dec 13	<p>Dec 14</p>  <p>Lariat Deadline - 666-3706</p>	<p>Dec 15</p> <p>9:00pm DSRA Christmas Party</p>
Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20	<p>Dec 21</p> <p>7:30pm Board Meeting 9:00pm General Membership Meeting</p>	Dec 22



DSRA CALENDAR

December 23, 2001 - February 2, 2002



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 23	Dec 24	Dec 25 Christmas 	Dec 26	Dec 27	Dec 28	Dec 29
Dec 30	Dec 31  9:00pm New Year's Eve	Jan 1 New Year's Day	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4  7:30pm Spades Night	Jan 5
Jan 6	Jan 7	Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10	Jan 11  Lariat Deadline - 666-3706	Jan 12
Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15	Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18 7:30pm Board Meeting 9:00pm General Membership Meeting 	Jan 19
Jan 20	Jan 21  Martin Luther King, Jr.	Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24	Jan 25	Jan 26
Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31	Feb 1  7:30pm Spades Night	Feb 2