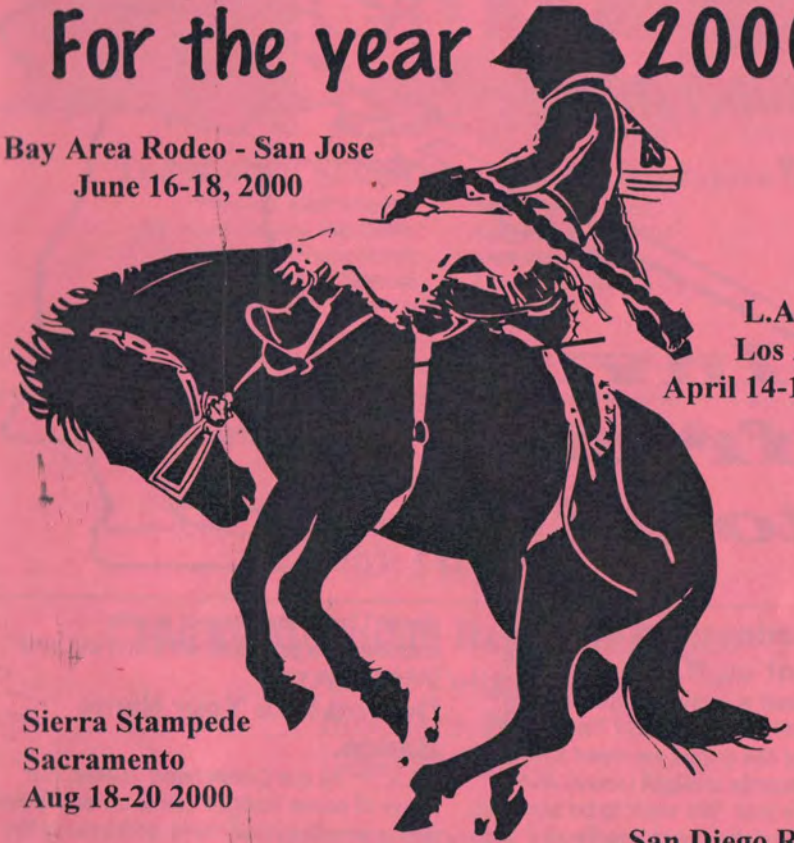


CALIFORNIA RODEOS

For the year 2000

Bay Area Rodeo - San Jose
June 16-18, 2000

L.A. Rodeo
Los Angeles
April 14-16, 2000



Sierra Stampede
Sacramento
Aug 18-20 2000

San Diego Rodeo
San Diego
September 21-24, 2000

The Chute

July 2000

The Official Newsletter
of G.S.G.R.A.

G.S.G.R.A. Membership Committee
4226 East 15th Street
Long Beach, Ca 90804

MIGRA
3319 Greenfield Rd #264
Dearborn, MI 48120



beer
As
200
great
on the

In the
will be
will begin
our annual

Looking ah
ride on Satu
take place at
henhouse@ix.i
interested.

Keep your eyes on y
this summer.

Thanks again for a great r

Doug Graff
BAC President
MRIGRA99@aol.com or

481201212 35

*You better
do what
Mama
Membership
says*



**Invite
a friend
to join**

**Name Badges and other
important stuff.....**

Need a name badge? Moved? Got married? Got divorced? These are just a few of the things we need to know to keep our records straight (sorry) and better serve you. We want to be sure you get your newsletter each month and your name is on the membership list for rodeo qualifying and a bunch of other stuff and we can only do this if you keep us informed.

How do I do this you ask!! Simple, talk to your Chapter Membership Chair. In the Bay area, see Gregg Harvey. In our State Capital, talk to Wes Wilkinson, Zack Kreiter or Stacey Spear. San Diegans need to track down Kelly Gilliland, out in the desert Frank Delgado's your man and in LA-LA land it's RodeoMama a.k.a. Ruth Hilderbrandt. These folks, along with State Membership Chair, Joseph Olney, make up our Membership Committee and it is our goal to be of service to you. Membership issues are what we live for. If anyone of

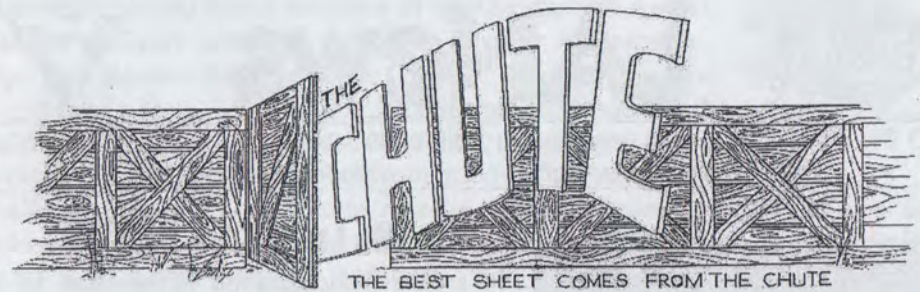
doesn't have the answer to you membership problem, we'll find out and get back to you.

**Do You Like Your Name
Badge.**

At our Convention in May, the issue of name badges came up and there was a presentation made addressing the pro's and con's of adopting a new design. No decision was made because there was no actual design proposal and the cost factor seemed prohibitive.

If you think we should have a new design badge and would like to help in creating one, contact our VP of Rodeo Operations. (See page three for contact info).

*Happy Birthdays
America*



THE BEST SHEET COMES FROM THE CHUTE

The Golden State Gay Rodeo Association

President: Mark Marshall . 4226 East 15th Street
VP Admin: Sammy Van Galder . Long Beach, Ca 90804
VP Rodeo: Nancy Novak . www.gsgra.org
Treasurer: Bill Chapmam . e-mail: gsgra@gsgra.org
Secretary: Clint Johnson . (619) 293-0666

Canadian Rockies International Rodeo

Calgary Alberta
June 30 – July 2, 2000
(403) 541-8141

Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo

Aurora Colorado
July 7 – 9, 2000
(303) 839-8810

Southern Spurs Rodeo

Atlanta Georgia
July 21 – 23, 2000
(770) 662-9510

*The Chute is the official newsletter of
The Golden State Gay Rodeo Association*

Newsletter CoChairs
Ruth Hilderbrandt mamarodeo@aol.com
and Joseph Olney rodeobrit@aol.com



2000



L.A. News



PO Box 2407 ~ ~ Long Beach, Calif. 90801-2407 ~ ~ (562) 498-1675
~ ~ <http://www.larodeo.com> ~ ~ larodeo@larodeo.com ~ ~

We Love You, DAVID!



David Medzerian AKA "Woody"

In a rare demonstration of emotion by a steer-wrestling, rodeo-tough cowgirl, on June 10th, 2000, GLAC Administrative Vice President Amy Griffin said a teary, heartfelt thank you to David Medzerian for his three years of dedicated service as the President of the Greater Los Angeles Chapter. David has given his heart and soul to GLAC over the last three years and accomplished so much for the chapter that we could never repay him. Luckily, he will be hanging around as the Golden State Trustee to IGRA for at least the next year and a half. We hope he will be around *MUCH* longer... at the very least, to share Pucker, rodeo stories, and GLAC pride!

Steve Creber and Amy Griffin are also stepping down after several years of service

as GLAC Officers. We will certainly miss all of their talents, but look forward to many more years of rodeo with each. On the flip side, GLAC would like to congratulate the following members on their recent elections to the 2000-2001 positions listed below:

President:
Administrative Vice President:
Vice President of Rodeo Operations:
Secretary:
Treasurer:

Drew Oberbeck
Sherry Le
Paul Thompson
Lenore Mankoff
Mark Jensen



If you are interested in becoming more involved in the GLAC Chapter, don't miss the next Chapter Board Meeting, to be held on June 9th at the Burbank Hilton. We need each of your talents, and we look forward to seeing you there!

L.A. News | July 2000

~Words from Team L.A.~



The newly elected board members of the Greater Los Angeles Chapter are very proud to serve this superior organization. How will the new board serve the GLAC? We will serve as a member of a team. A team that is dedicated to promoting the sport of rodeo. A team that will foster the country-western lifestyle in the gay & lesbian community. A team that will challenge each of you to become more involved. A team that will seek new and innovative ways of doing business. A team that will pursue excellence in all it does. A team with vision for the future.

Through the 2000 Roadrunner Regional Rodeo, AGRA raised \$20K for its charities. This rodeo-year, the Atlantic States Association holds the titles of Mr. IGRA, Ms. IGRA and Miss IGRA 1st runner-up. Last month, UGRA successfully promoted its first rodeo in Utah. This September, the San Diego chapter will again host a highly successful rodeo party. Team L.A. can do more!

This year, L.A. will recover from a \$30K debt... The members of the board will serve because we know with everyone's help... Team LA can do more!

Don't forget...

UNITED AIRLINES
is the official airline
of the GSGRA Greater Los Angeles Chapter

United is offering special L.A. Rodeo discounts of 5 percent, 10 percent or more for travel to several IGRA events this year, including:

IGRA Convention (Las Vegas) Aug. 5-6
Sierra Stampede Rodeo (Sacramento) Aug. 19-20
IGRA Finals Rodeo (Albuquerque) Oct. 19-22

Our chapter can earn free tickets if sufficient people use our group code.

Call United's special reservation line at (800) 521-4041 (open 4 a.m.-9 p.m. Pacific time) and mention group 598EM

Save money, show your support – and benefit your chapter, too!

Please continue to support the sponsors of IGRA/GSGRA and the L.A. Rodeo: **Bud Light, Jim Beam, Avis, Instinct Magazine, 24-Hour Fitness, The Burbank Hilton, United Airlines, Wet, Galpin Motors, Altman Winnebago and Re:Source.**

We look forward to a long and happy relationship with each of our sponsors. Please show them how valuable their support of gay rodeo is throughout the year.

**GLAC Entertains
West Hollywood!**



Devon, Sherry, Phil, Drew, Craig, Renee, Cyndi, Thom, and Rob at the L.A. Pride Parade (Not Pictured: Bob, Terry, George, Roz, Terry, and Garrett the Cow)

A huge congratulations to everyone who came out to march in the L.A. Pride parade on June 11, 2000. Although, there were only 15 members in our group, we had more fun than any other parade entry. Sherry Le roped parade watchers, pulling them out onto Santa Monica Boulevard to get "branded" with an L.A. Rodeo 2001 temporary tattoo. Renee the Rodeo Clown and Garrett the Cow kept the audience entertained while others rode stick horses amuck through the parade route, running barrel racing patterns

around people and pole bending patterns around road construction cones. A big thank you to Oil Can Harry's for providing ice cold bottled water to all GSGRA parade participants.

Los Angeles goes to UTAH

UGRA put on a fabulous rodeo, and it was worth the drive just to see the Saliva Sisters perform at the awards ceremony on Sunday night. Team L.A. made a tremendous showing:

- Renee Rettstatt:** 1st Place Barrel Racing – Saturday, 2nd Place Barrel Racing – Sunday, 2nd Place Flag Race – Saturday, 3rd Place Flag Race – Sunday, 4th Place Pole Bending – Sunday
- Devon Deming:** 5th Place Barrel Racing – Saturday, 4th Place Pole Bending – Saturday, 3rd Place Pole Bending – Saturday, 3rd Place Wild Drag Race – Saturday, 4th Runner-Up All Around
- Kevin Mock:** 3rd Place Chute Dogging – Sunday, 2nd Place Steer Decorating – Saturday, 2nd Place Goat Dressing – Saturday, 1st Place Goat Dressing – Sunday (Goat Dressing Buckle)
- Craig Mount:** 2nd Place Steer Decorating – Saturday, 2nd Place Goat Dressing – Saturday, 1st Place Goat Dressing – Sunday, 4th Place Wild Drag Race – Saturday (Goat Dressing Buckle)
- Al Wright:** 1st Place Calf Roping on Foot – Saturday, 1st Place Chute Dogging – Sunday, 2nd Place Wild Drag Race – Saturday
- Thom Brennan:** 2nd Place Chute Dogging – Sunday, 4th Place Steer Decorating – Saturday, 4th Place Wild Drag Race - Saturday
- Elodie Huttner:** 1st Place Chute Dogging -- Saturday
- Charlie Colella:** 1st Place Flag Race – Sunday
- Patrick Kearns/Bob Buenfil:** 2nd Place Goat Dressing – Sunday
- Flavia Krieg:** 2nd Place Calf Roping on Foot -- Saturday
- Lewis Putnam:** 3rd Place Flag Race – Saturday
- Kevin Kochenower:** 3rd Place Calf Roping on Foot – Sunday
- Greg Garcia:** 3rd Place Wild Drag Race – Sunday
- Sherry Le:** 4th Place Steer Decorating – Saturday
- Cynbad:** 4th Place Wild Drag Race - Saturday



L.A. News | July 2000

CALENDAR

JULY

- June 30 - July 2 **CANADIAN ROCKIES RODEO**
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- July 7-9 **ROCKY MOUNTAIN RODEO**
Denver, Colorado
- July 9
10 AM **CHAPTER BOARD MEETING**
Burbank Hilton
- July 15 **GSGRA STATE BOARD MEETING**
Sacramento, California
- July 21-23 **SOUTHERN SPURS RODEO**
Atlanta, Georgia

AUGUST

- August 3-6 **IGRA ANNUAL CONVENTION**
Las Vegas, Nevada
- August 12
1 PM **CHAPTER MEETING w/ Potluck**
Tracy Keiper & Erin Eaton's Home
Azusa, California
(Directions in August "Chute")
- August 18-20 **SIERRA STAMPEDE RODEO**
Sacramento, California
- August 25-28 **WINDY CITY RODEO**
Chicago, Illinois

2000 MEETING SCHEDULE

- 10 am Sat. Sept. 16, Long Beach (board)
- 10 am Sat. Oct. 7, Long Beach (chapter)
- 10 am Sat. Nov. 4, L.A. (board)
- 10 am Sun. Dec. 3, L.A. (chapter)



DIRECTORY

PRESIDENT
Drew Oberbeck
drew.oberbeck@west.boeing.com

VP OF ADMINISTRATION
Sherry Le
cowgrlup@earthlink.net

VP OF RODEO OPERATIONS
Paul Thompson
paul@bigpaul.com

SECRETARY
Lenore Mankoff
ComeDancn@aol.com

TREASURER
Mark Jensen
Lbcowboy@aol.com

STATE BOARD Representatives
Thom Brennan, Kevin Weeks
Steve Creber
Alternates
Drew Oberbeck, Phil Lucier

COMMITTEES By-Laws
Mike DeYonker
Events

Sue Downing, Connie Risch
Membership
Ruth Hilderbrandt
Taxes

Thom Brennan
Records
D.J. Simmons
Webgirl
Mark Jensen
Newsletter
Devon Deming
dmdeming@yahoo.com

Submissions to the newsletter are welcome (subject to editing for space or content) by the 15th of each month. All published materials, including the chapter logo, "LA Rodeo" logo and posters, newsletter, "LARODEO.COM" and website contents are Copyright © 1999 GSGRA-L.A., a California non-profit corporation. Any use without prior permission is a violation of copyright law.



**PMB C125
4741 E. Palm Canyon
Palm Springs, CA 92264
www.gpscrodeo.org**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

WOW!! We are on a roll...our membership continues to grow and our members are participants. 50% of our membership was in attendance at our June meeting! Great job gang. We look forward to being a positive contribution to G.S.G.R.A. for many years (and Rodeos) to come. Thanks to all of our G.S.G.R.A. Chapters for your support and encouragement. We look forward to being a part of the great TEAM effort for G.S.G.R.A.!

Barry Hamm, President

RODEO NEWS

Plans are continuing to be made for the GPSC to place a bid for the 2001 Finals Rodeo. I am pleased to report that at our June meeting ALL of the committee chair people VOLUNTEERED to head up their respective committees. Rodeo Officials are being lined up from across the country to provide the needed expertise in each area of rodeo. We have had the San Diego Chapter and the Sacramento Chapters offer their complete assistance and we have volunteers already lined up from both the Bay area and Greater Los Angeles chapters. This will truly be a G.S.G.R.A. event, hosted by the Greater Palm Springs Chapter.

The presentation has been prepared for presentation at the IGRA Convention in August. We are waiting on the "official" word before the real work begins.

Doug Belk, Vice President of Rodeo Operations

GPSC ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers were elected at the June 11th chapter meeting held at Club International in Cathedral City. Elected was Barry Hamm as President, Doug Belk as Vice President of Rodeo Operations, Woody Shook as Vice President of Administration, Lorry King as Secretary, Rico Eastey as Treasurer, Barry Hamm, Lorry King and Frank Delgado as State Representatives and Rico Eastey and JG Avila as Alternate State Representatives.

Other positions selected were Frank Delgado as Membership Chair, Shawn and David Smith as Education Co-Chairs and John Johnson as Newsletter Editor.

The next chapter meeting is scheduled for 07/16/2000 4:00 p.m. at Club International.

John Johnson, Newsletter Editor



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GPSC RODEO TEAM

In Oklahoma City, May 27-28, our own Cowgirl Elodie Huttner won 3rd place in Chute Dogging and 2nd in Broncs. On the Monday after the Rodeo, several members visited the Cowboy/Rodeo hall of Fame. Everyone came away very impressed. How about a "field trip" to Southern California's Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum?



GPSC Rodeo Team Members helped make Salt Lake's first Rodeo a great one. Rico Eastey placed 4th in Chute Dogging, David Smith placed 1st in Calf Roping, 3rd in Breakaway Roping, and 5th in Chute Dogging. Dan Guevara placed 2nd in Barrels and 5th in Flags, and Shawn Smith placed 3rd in Wild Drag. Not to be outdone by the guys, Elodie improved her previous Rodeo's position and took 1st in Chute Dogging.

Stop the Presses!! We just returned from the Bay Area Rodeo in San Jose, where we had the largest GPSC contingent yet. Competing were Elodie, David, Dan, Shawn, Rico, John and JG Avila, who also sang a beautiful Star Spangled Banner at Grand Entry and gave the crowd a dynamic performance during the entertainment portion of Friday and Saturday nights' Dances. Elodie took 1st again in Chute Dogging (We can see a buckle coming in the near future!) and also placed 2nd in Wild Drag. David took 4th in Chute Dogging and won a Buckle in Steer Decorating!! Dan swept the Speed Events by taking a 5th in Poles, a 4th in Barrels on Saturday and a 5th on Sunday, and placing 5th in Flags.

Applause for our entire Rodeo Team and Best Wishes for Omaha, Calgary, Denver and Atlanta!!

Lorry King, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have had another good month with three new members coming on board with one expiration. Our current membership stands at 57 and continues to grow.

Lots of applications were passed out at *The Lark* in San Bernardino on Friday night June 9th, with nine members in attendance. Country Western Line Dance lessons have returned there on Friday nights. We had lots of fun – of course. Quite a few people expressed how glad they were that a rodeo chapter had come back to the Inland Empire and the desert. They are looking forward to a play day in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Thanks go out to Gorge Aguilar, John Johnson, Lorry King, Debbie Larck, Dustin Larck, Matthew Lehnhoff, John Sciarilli, and Gary Whiteley for their help that night.

Next stop – Riverside. Let's rodeo!!!

Frank Delgado, Membership Chairperson

**Congratulations Bay Area Chapter on your biggest Rodeo Ever!
We all had a Fantastic Weekend.**

GPSC Contacts

Barry Hamm	President	bhamm@hbarboftexas.com	(760) 861-1256
Doug Belk	Vice President – Rodeo Operations	mdbelk@hbarboftexas.com	(760) 861-1265
Woody Shook	Vice President – Administration	wranglers28@aol.com	(909) 882-8922
Lorry King	Secretary	llking@aol.com	(909) 899-9576
Rico Eastey	Treasurer	besodelsol@aol.com	(760) 321-5373
David J. Smith	Education Co-Chair	roper6969@aol.com	(760) 921-9193
Shawn Smith	Education Co-Chair	iluvrodeo@aol.com	(760) 921-9193
Frank Delgado	Membership Chair	paco1264@aol.com	(909) 882-0699
John Johnson	Newsletter Editor	jdjn99@aol.com	(661) 273-4458

Family and Friends.

A little over a year ago, to my great joy, I re-established contact with a nephew of mine whom I have not seen or talked to in more than twenty years, when he was just eleven. Unbeknownst to me, he had been trying to reach me by mail for almost ten years but had been given a wrong address so his mail to me was returned. Finally, thanks to some help from a genealogist, we made contact by telephone in February last year and we have been getting caught up on stuff ever since and we both have the phone bills to prove it. He was a very special kid back then and he has grown up to be an even more special adult. I am proud he is my nephew and equally as proud to be his uncle.



Our new-found friendship reached a high point in May when Gareth and his life partner Tom visited California, giving me the gift of three of the happiest weeks of my life. I really wanted to include a rodeo in their American experience so we made the trek to Salt Lake City for the first UGRA Rodeo, the only rodeo scheduled during their visit. We made an adventure of it taking a week to visit Zion and Bryce Canyon on the way north and Las Vegas on the return but the high point of the trip was definitely the rodeo. For me it was an opportunity, with much pride, to introduce the boys to many of my friends and my thanks go to all of you for so graciously making my family welcome. They have now returned to London taking with them a big piece of my heart and lots of memories, not least of which being their first Rodeo.

Rumor has it that we may soon see a Gay Rodeo in my homeland. The boys are threatening to start an Association in Victoria (a district of London) and call it the VictoriA Gay Rodeo Association. or VIAGRA for short.

I have always known who my friends are. Salt Lake City confirmed that.

A big thank you from "Gareth's Uncle"
(But you can still call me Joe)

The Royal Word.....

Howdy, From the royalty Team. Well it been very busy for us. Sorry we missed last month Chute but will make it up this month. in May 05 it was the GSGRA San Diego State Convention Matt was thier to Repersent us. May 20, was the GSGRA Capital Crossroads Barn Dance it was very hot but soooo Much fun especially the pool site :) Sammy and Staff you did a great Job thanks to all the people that help out especially to Roberto from GSGRA San Diego he drove there to help set up and tear down a big THANK YOU !! and we cant forget Bruce & George for letting us use your Ranch for the 2nd year this could not have happen with out you THANK YOU !! . Then it was off to the Camping Zak put on Matt said it was fun I think the bears kidnapped him lol that was May 26. next was Salt lake Rodeo there First Matt & Erica K was Present for that boy does Utah know how to party we had a great time great turn out by all GSGRA on June 10 Erica K was off to Redding Coronation Representing GSGRA She was a command Performer. next was San Jose Rodeo Doug Graff And staff did an outstanding job all the royalty Team was present we had a blast next time i want to see Shelby in shorts Ha ha! it was nice to see you all there now its time to put on more fundraisers on July 16 (sun) Club Paradise & the Royalty Team will Host a live Entertainer Show from 3-8 pm show at 4:30pm BBQ \$3;00 , Raffles And BEER BUST. For more info contact Miss Gsgra 2000@ aol.com or call (209) 477-4724 hope to see you all there Please come out and support your Royalty team. well it getting close for the Royalty Contest if your interested you need to start having your fund raisers and if you need any help with it please let us Know we will help as much as possible it will be in Palm Spring this year Nov 18 . well until next month take care Love & Kisses from the ROYALTY TEAM Matt, Alex & Erica K

Ps June 10-11 Matt was present at the San Jose Gay Pride and Walked in the Parade to represent GSGRA with the bay area Chapter So Matt how did you like the orange Juice with Pulp lol

ROYALTY 2001?

It's not too early to start thinking about the next royalty team to represent the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association in the year 2001. Here are

some helpful hints from the GSGRA Board and former royalty teams: START PLANNING NOW!!

The GSGRA State Royalty Competition will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2000. Our newest chapter, Greater Palm Springs Chapter, will host the GSGRA quarterly board meeting and also the Royalty competition that evening. I hope that as many members of GSGRA and/or any other association will come thank our current royalty team - Matt Romero, Alex Waller, and Erica K (a.k.a. Gilbert Rodriguez) for their dedication and representation AND support the new team that will begin working for you and your association.

Information packets will be available soon. Some items for interested members to begin planning NOW are fundraising and horsemanship videos!

One requirement for eligibility is to raise a minimum of \$500 to be donated to a 501(c)3 charity or charities of your choice and obtain a letter or letters to confirm the donation(s). The letter(s) must be dated no later than the contest entry deadline of October 19, 2000. The letter(s) must also accompany the contestant's entry form postmarked on or before October 19, 2000.

Brush up on your horsemanship and get the video camera out. There is an AQHA pattern in the info packet that each contestant will be asked to complete and submit a VHS tape of their ride. It's not a hard pattern to do; it just takes time and willingness to complete. Tapes are not due until the day of the contest, so there is plenty of time to practice, but only if you get started now.

In all seriousness and in fun, being a part of the royalty team is rewarding. If you have any questions about what the royalty team does for you, a member of GSGRA, please find a past or present titleholder and ask them what they have done for you. What does our royalty team do for GSGRA? They represent California at local and distant rodeos. They volunteer their time and talents helping their local associations and distant associations in fundraising and other community outreach programs.

This could be considered first call for all those interested in running for a title in November. More information will follow each month in the CHUTE. The royalty committee is being formed now and will be announced at the quarterly GSGRA State Board meeting on July 15, 2000 which is in Sacramento, CA.

And... Congratulations to the current royalty for the fine representation they have given GSGRA. Your year is half over. Keep up the good work.

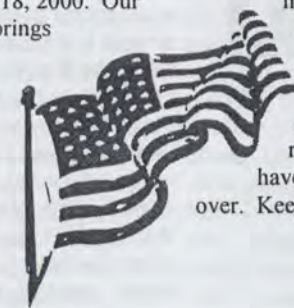
--VP Administration
Sammy Van Galder
Vangalder@aol.com

DID YOU GET YOURS?

OK, now that we have your attention! In the past couple of months we have had a few problems with membership ID cards and name badges. We don't need to bother you with all the gory details because we think we have it all caught up now, but the question still remains, did we get it right? If you were expecting a name badge or ID card, you should have received it by now. The last 'catch up' mailing went out on June 18, 2000 which covered all processing through May 15, 2000. New memberships and renewals received by us between 5/15 and 6/15 will be processed and in the mail by the end of June.

If you believe you have been overlooked for either an ID card or name badge, drop us a line or ring our bells, we'll track down the problem and get it fixed. The next deadline for ordering ID cards and badges will be 7/15/2000. Call Joseph Olney (562)498-3488, or E-mail: membership@gsgra.org, or Write 4226 E 15th Street, Long Beach, Ca 90804.

Happy Birthday To You...
Happy Birthday To You...
Happy Birthday America,
Happy Birthday To You!





Protection, you better believe it!

I've been an athlete all my life. I've always worn protective gear in every sport I played. As a PE teacher I recommend to parents that their children wear protective gear as well. Without a doubt a mouth guard is a must in every sport, from Basketball to Rugby.

Even when I ride my horses I safeguard against injuries by having the horses wear protection as well as myself. My horses wear splint & bell boots and I wear shin guards. Lord knows the barrel hurts when you hit it with your shin. So when I decided to do camp events I wore shin guards and a mouth guard. Too much you say, not for me, I happen to like my body parts just the way they are. I finally decided to try my skills at rough stock. My partner and I both agreed no gear, no ride. Sue was at the 1998 Pro Rodeo Finals in Las Vegas and was comparing all the vendors who made protective vests. She finally decided on the vendor "Get Western". The construction of this vest was incredible. You can bet I really enjoyed my Christmas present that year.

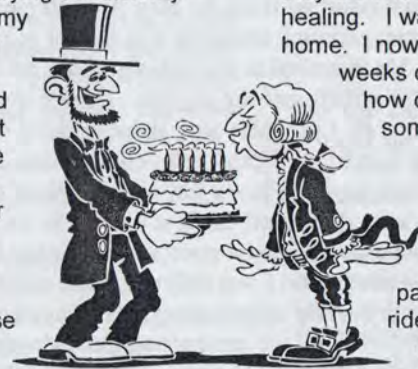
The 1999 season began with my maiden ride at the San Jose Rodeo. I went in not knowing a thing, but had the help of everyone behind the chutes. You can bet I had on all the protection I could think of, mouth guard, shin guards and the protective vest. By the luck of who knows whom, I covered both days and won the buckle. The rest on the season was filled with bumps and bruise and enormous amounts of learning. The vest came in handy a few too many times. Let me tell you getting stepped on is no walk in the park. The most important thing I learned was, I needed a helmet. I suffered a minor concussion at the San Diego Rodeo.

The 2000 season began; the first rodeo of the season for me was the Las Vegas Rodeo. The stock looked big tough and ready. So was I, until I saw my draw that Saturday. I'm not ashamed to admit I was scared of this steer. He was the second largest in the pen that wasn't so bad. It was his horns that bothered me. They were huge. I lost my nerve and scratched. What I didn't tell anyone was I had a premonition that I was going to get hit with a horn at this rodeo. So when I saw his horns I figured it must be him. Well I was so wrong. It was during Wild Drag that a little steer with little horns decided he was the one to clean my clock. I went out wearing my shin guards, protection vest, gloves and mouth guard; oops forgot my mouth guard. That steer lowered his head and rammed that little horn of his into my jaw. I bit into my tongue pretty hard. My jaw and tongue were swollen for two weeks. That was the last time I ever forgot my mouth guard. Well, you can bet on Sunday I was more then ready to strike back. I prayed I would draw the same steer again to conquer my fear. Everyone behind the chutes was so supportive. I just love this rodeo family. Anyway, as luck would have it, I drew the same steer. Emily was kind enough to lend me her helmet. Thanks Emily! With everyone behind me and ALL my protective gear (the vest, helmet, shin guards and mouth guard). I came out of that chute with more confidence than I've ever felt. I rode that big horned steer and won the buckle. I can tell you right now, I could not have done it without the love and support of my fellow cowgirls and cowboys. Or the decision to wear every possible protective gear made. Some say too extreme to go that far and wear all that gear. Not I.

Now, the final reason I wore protective gear. It saved my life at the LA Rodeo. It was Sunday and we had to burn the first steer I had drawn. The next steer to come into my chute was a mean and fairly large black one. What I remembered from Saturday, he looked like he was going to be a good ride. And was I right. He blasted out of the chute. To be honest I was surprised I stayed on as long as I did. He jumped straight up and caught some air. After 2 jumps and a small belly roll he got me off balance and he knew it. He jumped up again and ducked his shoulder and off I

went. I hit the ground with a thud and was rolling over to get up when all of a sudden I saw two rear hoofs comin' down on me hard. It happened all too fast. When he hit me in the lower part of my vest, I heard a loud pop. I thought OK I just got my ribs broke. As I rolled over onto my belly, I thought; "Good I can still breathe." Wrong, that only lasted a moment. I quickly rolled back onto my back trying very hard to remember to relax. By this time everyone was around me. I've had the wind knocked out of me before, but nothing like this. Within a matter of moments I rolled back over and got on my hands and knees. Most people do not realize this part. Not only was I trying to catch my breath, I was losing my breakfast. A total of 3 times. Finally all the spasming slowed down and I could get to my feet. It felt like this took an eternity. I spent the next hour in the ambulance. I was checked from head to toe.

Surprisingly no bruise on my belly. And only a little bit of swelling. I spent the rest of the day relaxing and watching the rodeo, icing my ribs from time to time. I went to my moms and cooked dinner. Later, I drove to the awards. It's amazing what good pain meds can do for you. Needless to say, I did not sleep well that night. I flew home the next morning. After I landed, I drove to Sue's office. We planned on taking an X-ray. She took one look at me and said, "I don't think so." She took me to Urgent Care. The doctor there looked at me and rushed me into the ER to do a CAT Scan. The results came back and I was in a life-threatening situation. I had deeply lacerated my liver. The laceration was extremely close to the main vein that goes into the liver. They were afraid if I moved around anymore that I would tear my liver more. I was admitted into ICU. I was under observation there for 3 days. I was pending surgery the whole time. I had lost a liter of blood into my abdomen and they were not sure if I was going to lose more.



If I bled more, I was to get a transfusion. Surgery would have been performed to repair the liver, drain the blood and give me more blood. So, the pop I heard was not my ribs breaking, but my liver rupturing. The doctor said had I not been wearing any protection, the blow would have opened up my belly and my insides would have been all over the ground. I would have died on the spot. Had I been wearing any less of protection the laceration would have gone clear through my liver and I would have died from internal bleeding. Thank GOD for that vest. When I was out of the woods, the doctor kept me in the hospital for a week. I was on strict bed rest. At the end of the week they did another CAT Scan to see how I was healing. I was healing good enough to go home. I now have to spend the next 6 weeks on bed rest. You can't imagine how difficult this could be for someone as active as I am.

I'm doing fine now. My bed rest has been lifted to house arrest, I mean house rest. I am consistently in and out of pain. The worst part of all this is I can no longer ride rough stock. I'll be lucky enough if my doctor will let me ride my horses. It all depends on following CAT Scans to make sure I heal correctly.

The moral of this tale. Never take anything for granted. Live your life to the fullest. And ***always wear protective gear.***

Please check out the following web sites. Here are few are places you can get first rate protective gear. The others' provide useful documentation on why we all should wear protective gear.

PROTECTIVE GEAR
www.rodeoconcepts.com
www.bulltough.com
www.tkrodeo.com

ARTICLES
Cowboy hats? Try on helmets.
www.detroitnews.com/1996/menu/stories/66018.htm
www.detroitnews.com/1996/menu/stories/66018.htm
Teen survives bull's kick to the heart.
www.stevenshobbyfarm.com
www.detroitnews.com/1997/metro/9711/06/11060084.htm
Story written by:
Kristi Lee Eifert



Greater San Diego Chapter

3758 30th Street
San Diego, CA. 92104

Message from the President

As of this writing, I just returned from the Bay Area Regional Rodeo. It was quite a different experience attending a rodeo for pure spectator and pleasure reasons! Upon arrival at the rodeo grounds on Saturday, I decided to volunteer for a shift just for giggles. During my four hour shift as a security volunteer, I probably saw about seventy people pass through the gate I was watching. I can't tell you how much better my volunteer experience was made by just a few simple things our friends up in San Jose did: Many of the staff made it a point to smile and say thank you, someone came around about once an hour to see if I needed anything or had any questions, and I was relieved at the agreed time.

The time for our rodeo is quickly approaching. As things get busier, it gets easier to lose sight of what we are here to do. Most everybody means well! If you are a coordinator, please make it a point to thank your volunteers and each other. If you are ever feeling overwhelmed or in need of help, say something! Myself, Nancy, Rick, Joseph, and Del are especially here to help out or direct you towards someone that will help you out. With any luck and a little bit of effort, we can make this event even more fun than our reputation. You may ask "Why is Robert telling us this?" I can truly say that this year's active chapter membership is the most cohesive I have seen in the past 5 years and I want it to continue to be that way. Thanks to everyone that has made this year such a success already – and here's to the best half of the year to come!

We would love to hear from you. If you would like to contact us, or get information on our organization, please do so at:

HOTLINE/ VOICE MAIL: (619) 298-4708

FAX: (619) 298-4709

E-MAIL: gsglasan@aol.com

WEB PAGE: www.sandiegorodeo.com

OTHER NEWS

TOAST YOUR WEENIES

Our first membership drive of the season was a great success. Though turnout was low, the people who did show up knew that they were there for more than just great BBQ. I am happy to announce that the GSGRA—San Diego Chapter has 12 new members to add to its rolls. Thank yous go out to Dan, Charles, Randy, Robert F., and Kelly for helping to get the office looking better than ever, and to Dan, Charles, Randy and Joseph for helping with the set-up and the cooking. A big "Welcome Aboard!" goes out to all you new members.

DISCOUNTS

Thanks to Jonathan H. The GSGRA-San Diego Chapter now has two new locations at which to use their rodeo discount. Chito's Shoe Repair (located at 2911-A University Ave., 619 298 2506A) and Suspension Plus (6696 Miramar Rd., Ste I & J, 858 558 8562) are both offering 20% discounts to our members. Visit their businesses and let them know that we appreciate their support.

VOLUNTEERS

For anyone interested in volunteering for San Diego Rodeo 2000, now is the time to sign-up. Sign-up forms are available in the rodeo office, or one can be sent directly to your home. For more information, or to request a sign-up form, either send an e-mail to James G. at jimgear@yahoo.com or leave a message at 619 298 4708 x5432.

RODEO ROUND-UP

The Oklahoma Gay Rodeo was held May 27th & 28th in Oklahoma City. The following contestants competed from the Greater San Diego Chapter: T. Caldwell, C. Cole, R. Funderburk, & J. Martin. A BIG congratulations to first time buckle winner T. Caldwell & his team for winning the Wild Drag Race buckle. On Saturday, Randy won the men's steer riding, Jason won the men's pole bending, & Charlie won the men's barrel race. Congratulations to all!

The first annual Utah Gay Rodeo was held in Salt Lake City June 3rd & 4th. The event was well attended & very successful. Congratulations to the Utah Gay Rodeo Association for a job well done. The following contestants from San Diego competed: R. Call, D. Pickle, & E. Wallum. Congratulations to Ron and his teammates for placing 3rd in Wild Drag Race & Ed for placing 6th and 7th in Men's Chute Dogging and 2nd in Men's Steer Riding.

The Bay Area Regional Rodeo was held in San Jose, CA. on June 17th & 18th. The following contestants from the San Diego Chapter competed: B. Boone, T. Caldwell, R. Call, K. Carter, M. Chagnon, R. Funderburk, J. Hott, C. Jacobson, D. Renier, L. Rose, & E. Wallum. Congratulations to Bonnie for winning the women's flag race & barrel racing buckles, and the women's all-around. Other winners were: Randy for winning the men's pole bending & steer riding buckles, Kirk & David won the wild drag race buckles, & David also won the men's barrel race & flag race buckles. The men's all-around was dominated by the San Diego Chapter. David was 1st Runner-up, Randy was 2nd runner-up, and Kirk was 3rd runner-up. Congratulations to all.

RIDE INTO THE MILLENNIUM

Did you know?

The Seventh San Diego Gay and Lesbian Rodeo was held on Sept. 21-24, 1994 at Del Mar Fairgrounds Equestrian Center.

The 1995 board members were:

President: Phil Baldwin
Executive
Vice Pres: Terry Kaminsky
Treasurer: Bill Chapman
Secretary: JR Key
Rodeo Dir:
 &
Vice Pres: Rick Washburn

Arena Director:
 Erin Eaton

Grand Marshal:
 Chris Shaw

Member of the Year:
 Vince Coco

UPCOMING EVENTS

HEAD FOR THE HILLS

This is your last chance to join the GSGRA—San Diego Chapter for the camping weekend. If you are planning to attend, please make your reservations now. We must let the Second Chance Ranch know how many people to expect.

Join the San Diego Chapter of GSGRA for a fun filled weekend of camping at the Second Chance Ranch, near Lake Henshaw in late July. All you need to have a great time is a tent, something to rest your body on and some grub to fill your stomach. The low cost of enjoying this spectacular setting is only \$15 per night per person. So what are you waiting for? Mark you calendar for the weekend of July 29th and call Jon Strmiska at (619) 298-4708, x5787 for further information or to request a reservation form.

UPCOMING RODEOS

Be sure to head up North for the Canadian Rockies Int'l Rodeo being held on the weekend of July 1. Once you've finished hootin' and hollerin' Canadian style, head on back to the mile-high city for more fun. The Rocky Mountain Rodeo will be holding its rodeo from July 7—9. And if you still have the energy for even more fun in the saddle, head to Atlanta for some downhome Southern charm. The Souther Spurs Rodeo will finish off the month during the weekend of July 21. Good luck to all the contestants and the great organizations in charge of these rodeo events.

PRIDE

Now that LA and SF have shown their rainbow colors, it's time for San Diego to do the same. Be sure to head out to the festival and parade during the weekend of July 22!

THE GOLDEN STATE GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

A Member Association of the International Gay Rodeo Association

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership records are strictly confidential. G.S.G.R.A. is an organization of men and women. Ownership of a horse is not required to be a member. Membership fees are for one year from the date of receipt. Family memberships are available to any two persons residing at the same address. Members must be at least 18 years of age. Some G.S.G.R.A. events are held in locations with age restrictions that would exclude members under the age of 21.

Individual.....\$40.00 Family.....\$75.00

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

PRIMARY MEMBER		CHAPTER AFFILIATION
NAME		Please check the chapter with which you would like to be affiliated. Members that do not indicate a preference will be considered to have selected Member at Large.
ADDRESS		
CITY		
STATE/ZIP		
BIRTHDAY	/ / <small>Year Optional</small>	
PHONE #		
E-MAIL		
All new members receive an engraved G.S.G.R.A. name badge. Please print here the way you would like us to engrave yours.		
DATE		
SIGNATURE		
		<input type="checkbox"/> GREATER L.A.
		<input type="checkbox"/> BAY AREA
		<input type="checkbox"/> GREATER SAN DIEGO
		<input type="checkbox"/> CAPITOL CROSSROADS
		<input type="checkbox"/> GREATER PALM SPRINGS
		<input type="checkbox"/> MEMBER AT LARGE
FAMILY MEMBER		
NAME		
All new members receive an engraved G.S.G.R.A. name badge. Please print here the way you would like us to engrave yours.		
BIRTHDAY	/ / <small>Year Optional</small>	
E-MAIL		
DATE		
SIGNATURE		
		MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:
		G.S.G.R.A. Membership Committee 4226 East 15th St. Long Beach, Ca 90804



Capital Crossroads PO BOX 189305 Sacramento CA 95818
916.978.4040 <http://www.gsgra.org/cc>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Howdy Ya'll...

I hope ya'll are having a great summer. Well, the BARN DANCE was a huge success and the attendance was better than last year. The weather cooperated and it was a beautiful night. I believe everyone had a fun filled evening with swimming, dancing, eating, drinking, and just kickin' back to socialize. If you missed this event, you missed a really GREAT TIME with REALLY GREAT PEOPLE! The success of the evening was due to the hard work of many people.

SPECIAL THANKS to:

- * George and Bruce - GREAT HOSTS for letting us use their ranch.
- * THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE BRAVE set-up / tear down crew.
- * SAMMY - M.C. and Entertainment
- * The GREAT harmonies of "The Boys"
- * Charlie Colella - L.A.
 - Bar Tending - set-up / tear down - other duties
 - All with a broken foot
- * Chuck Valdes & Craig Rouse for Cooking
 - putting up with the heat of the BBQ's & the Heat of the Day
- * Rico - Palm Springs
 - Bar Tending & various other duties
- * Roberto - San Diego
 - set-up / tear down & various other duties
- * Lin Daugherty
 - Donated prints for auction
 - fund raising for Dean Berken Safety Fund
- * Royalty (Matt, Alex, Erika Kaye)
- * Those that donated to the Dean Berken Memorial Safety Fund
 - Jeff
 - Devin
- * Any one I may have left off of this list that helped

From the feed back that I have received, I understand from a few that went on the SHASTA camping trip, that they had a good time.

Initially, there had been sixteen that signed up to go, which was a full group. However, I understand less than that showed up.

The San Jose Rodeo was pretty good and the weather was nice. The hotel parties and pool parties were also a great success. Congratulations to those from our chapter that competed; Sammy, Matt, Wes, and Alex.

Remember the next big event for us is the Sierra Stampede. This is your chance to get involved. Call or e-mail Ray Mestas and volunteer. We NEED all of you to make this a success.

Also remember that the weekend of July 16-17, is the State Board Meeting here in Sacramento, Rodeo Meeting and Chapter meeting. Please mark them on your calendar now so that you can be there. **This will be the last chapter meeting before the rodeo.**

Welcome to all the new members that have joined our chapter. Hopefully, we will see you at one of the meetings and also as a volunteer at the rodeo.

C'Ya...

Herb Smith
President

ROUGH NOTES AND CASUAL THOUGHTS

New Chapter Secretary - Stacy Spears!!!

Membership Report - Thanks to the hard work and encouragement of several of our members, we have experienced a big surge in membership in the last few months! Last year at this time we had approximately 30 members, now I am happy to report that we have 112 members and growing! Beginning with the members that joined us in June, I will be sending out an introduction email and assigning buddies to each new member. New members for May/June are: Bruce, Gary, Joe, Rich, Devin, Doug, Sean, Brian, Mike, Brad, and Jeff. Please join me in welcoming them to our chapter!!!

Wes Wilkinson, Membership Chair

Shasta Lake Camping Trip Well Capital Crossroads did it again! Although the group was small, we had a great time on our camping trip to Shasta Lake on June 9th, 10th and 11th. From sitting around the campfire swapping stories, to making s'mores and laughing 'til we couldn't stand it anymore, to skiing on the lake (thanks Jeff for bringing your boat) everyone had an awesome time. We even had a friendly neighborhood 100 lb bear cub that kept raiding the garbage cans. Sue, thanks for being the true lesbian and protecting us all!



Too bad more of you folks weren't able to join us, but we look forward to seeing you on the next campout (tentatively planned for Lake Tahoe).

The Capital Crossroads Street Dance was held June 17 at Faces in Sacramento. Fortunately the weather cooperated and cooled down for the weekend from our record breaking heat wave, so people could actually dance outside. Nice to see all the folks that attended the event!

No results in as of yet of how members did in the IGRA Salt Lake City or Bay Area Rodeo, which were both attended by members of Capital Crossroads. We will post the results as soon as we get them.

Beginning Wednesday, July 12, 2000 and continuing through the Capital Crossroads rodeo, the Depot in Sacramento will be holding a Spaghetti Western Night every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

RODEO

There is a volunteer BBQ at Ray Mestas house July 8 at 4 pm. All committee chairs please attend. For directions, call Ray at 916-457-0268.

Rooms are still available for reservation **at the new host hotel, the Holiday Inn, Capital Plaza** for the Capital Crossroads Rodeo. If you are planning on staying at the hotel, please make your reservations early by calling 916-446-0100 and asking for the Sierra Stampede. Rates are \$99/night for 1-4, but for those making reservations early, the rate is \$95.

VOLUNTEER

In order to organize a successful rodeo, we rely heavily on volunteers who are needed in many areas, such as ticket and script sales, grounds set-up and tear down, electrical, security, working the chutes, parking, etc. Previous experience is not required and it is a great way to meet your fellow chapter members. If you are interested in volunteering for the Sierra Stampede Rodeo, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Ray Mestas at 916-547-0268



CALENDAR of events

July

- 4 -- *Happy Birthday America!!! 224 great years!!!*
- 7-9 -- *IGRA: Rocky Mountains Regional Rodeo - Denver, CO*
- 8-9 -- *Bill Picket Invitational Rodeo - Oakland, CA*
- 8 -- *Volunteer BBQ at Ray Mestas House*
- 13 -- *Bakersfield Rodeo - Bakersfield, CA (Bill Picket Tour)*
- 15 -- *Los Angeles Black Rodeo - Los Angeles, CA (Bill Picket Tour)*
- 16 -- *General Chapter Meeting 4 pm, Rodeo Meeting 5 pm*
- 20-23 -- *California Rodeo Salinas - Possibly the biggest rodeo in California.*
- 28-30 -- *La Honda Ranch Rodeo*

August

- 18-20 -- *Capitol Crossroads Rodeo*

September

- 10-11 -- *Cowboy Gathering and Ranch Rodeo - Rowell Ranch, Castro Valley, CA*
- 12-15 -- *Pendleton Round-Up and Rodeo - Pendleton, OR - (PRCA)*
- 14 -- *Los Angeles Alzheimer's Association Dinner - Sponsored by the PBR and held in conjunction with the PBR's stop in Anaheim, this event will have Crystal Gayle for entertainment. Tickets for this worthy cause range from \$150-\$300. For an extra \$25 you get VIP seating for the Saturday PBR event at The Pond in Anaheim. For Tickets, call: 323-938-3379 Location: The Sportsman's Lodge, Studio City, CA*
- 15-17 -- *Draft Horse Classic - Grass Valley Fairgrounds, CA. See the **BIG** horses!*
- 15-17 -- *Creston Rodeo - Creston CA (near Paso Robles)*
- 29- Oct 1 - *Poway Rodeo - Poway, CA (PRCA)*

BAY AREA CHAPTER



Words from the Pres!

We did it again!

It's Monday night after our rodeo and boy am I tired. I think I had just a little bit too much fun this weekend! Somehow, I was quoted after the LA rodeo saying that rodeo production was like child birth...hurts like hell for awhile, but sure is worth it when it's over. Not that I'd know anything about child birth...but that's another story.

Anyway, I think the little tike we've been holding in for the last several months arrived in grand fashion this past weekend. We thanked a lot of specific people on Sunday night, but I really want to reiterate my personal thanks to all the arena contestants and entertainers who helped produce such a pretty baby! And to all the volunteers... Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! These events don't happen without all of you unsung heros who grabbed a rake, pulled a chute, hung a banner, strung a cable, hosted a tent, sold a shirt, made Gatorade, tended a door, bought me a beer! You folks are the best.

As many of you heard, there is a high probability that our current site will not be available in 2001. Some of you are already scouring the surrounding areas looking for options and that's a great thing. This means that we'll need to get organized quickly, so if you are interested in being on the Rodeo Round table, please make sure your voice is heard early in the process.

In the hustle last week we postponed the June Membership meeting until July. Date and time will be determined soon and we'll let you know via the hot line and email blasts. Remember we will begin the nomination process for our new officers at that meeting for election in August at our annual meeting.

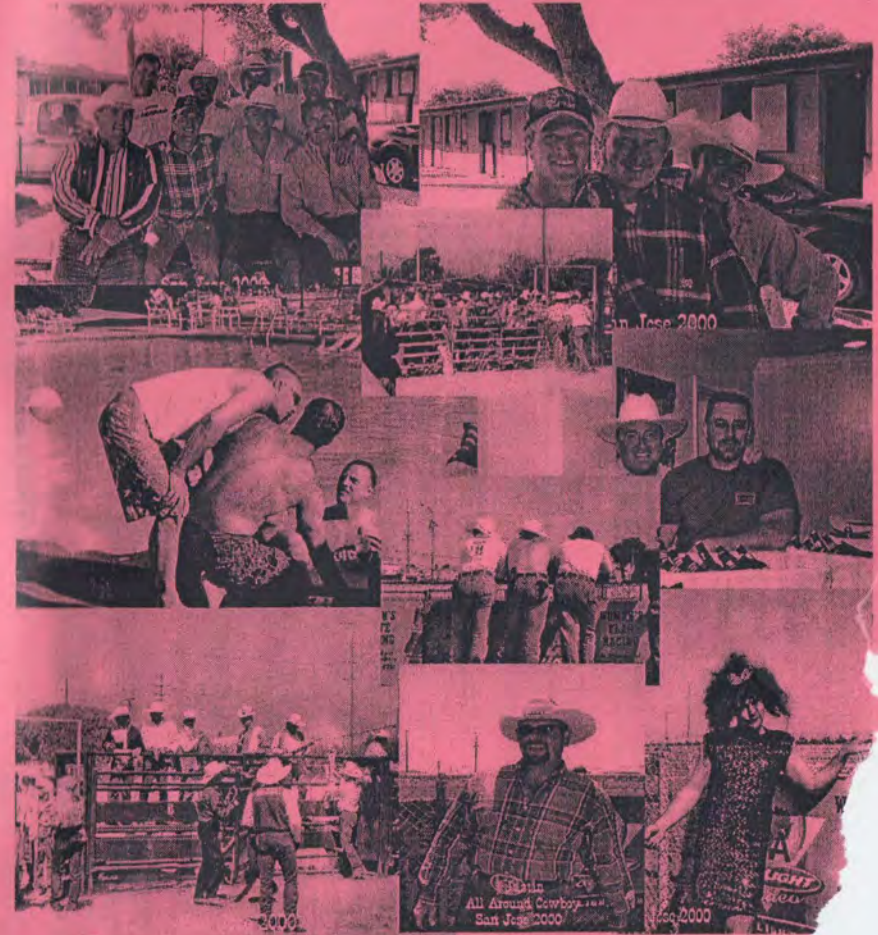
Looking ahead we now have more time for fun events. Antonio Contreras has arranged for a trail ride on Saturday, July 15 at 1 PM. The cost is \$25. All riders must be over the age of 8. It will take place at the Calero Reservoir Stables. If you are interested, please contact Tonio at henhouse@ix.netcom.com or at 408-298-3537. This will be a great fun event for anyone interested.

Keep your eyes on your email or ears to the hotline, as we add more of these types of activities this summer.

Thanks again for a great rodeo.

Doug Graff
BAC President
MRIGRA99@aol.com or 408-261-3259.

BAC RODEO 2000



BAC Contacts

President	Doug Graff	MRIGRA99@aol.com	Executive VP:	Adrian Arteche	Adrian
VP Rodeo Operations	Terrylee Allert	Texas71@aol.com	Secretary:	Clint Johnson	Cjohns
Treasurer	Gregg Harvey	Gharvey646@aol.com	Newsletter:	Jabby Lowe	(Ro
BAC Website		http://users.aol.com/gsgra/bac98.html	BAC Hotline:	(415) 561-9228	

