



The Barbed Wire



For Information Contact HGRA PO BOX 3354 OMAHA NE 68103-0354 Information06@hgra.net

December 2006

Season's Greetings



2006 is quickly drawing to a close and HGRA is looking forward to another great rodeo season in 2007. But before we go there, I want to congratulate HGRA and Team Heartland on a wonderful year and touch on some of the highlights. Team Heartland did us proud with Rich Parker winning HGRA Cowboy of the Year, Bryn Geerdes taking the HGRA Cowgirl of the Year honors and Dallas C. earning our HGRA Rookie Cowgirl of the Year award. We had a strong group of competitors representing the Heartland on the IGRA circuit.

In May we hosted the 8th Heartland Rodeo and held the first nighttime rodeo and concert in IGRA history. It was a big success with both spectators and competitors. HGRA was able to donate \$2000 to each of our charity partners Child Saving Institute, Youth Emergency Services and MCC Accessibility Fund. This has put us over \$80,000 in donations since 1998. From that event we have also been able to set up a scholarship for attendance to IGRA University as well as assist our HGRA delegates at IGRA Convention. Last but not least we have started the financial building blocks to host the 9th Heartland Rodeo in 2008. To everyone who made the rodeo a huge success... a big thank you!

In October we took time to recognize some of the outstanding individuals at our annual Awards & Elections Night held at the Max's Arena in Omaha. Ranch Hand Awards were presented to Our Canadian Friends Jo, Tammy, Janie and Dale for their help with clean-up at the rodeo. We also recognized Susie and Linda for doing an outstanding job in the kitchen, Cathy for her help at the bar and Amy for overseeing our electrical issue. These individuals helped make our rodeo very successful! The Dave McGinnis award was given to Bryn G. for her continued dedication to HGRA and the Heartland Rodeo. The 2007 HGRA Board elections were held and the new board will consist of Kathy Ward – President, Leo Jarecke – Vice President, Trustee – Ty Teigen (3 yrs), Treasurer – Paul Swofford, Secretary – Holly Beer, Membership – Jim R., Rodeo Events – Bryn Geerdes and Public Relations - Terri Richards (appointed). We are still looking for volunteers to round out our Historical, Bylaws and Audit committees. If you would like to help out please let me know at president06@hgra.net.

Also as 2006 draws to a close we say thank you to our Royalty team that have supported HGRA for the last two years. Ms HGRA Terri Richards and Mr. HGRA Pete Canfield have worked hard to promote the HGRA mission of promoting the Cowboy and Rodeo way of life while supporting charities like YWCA GLBT Domestic Abuse, MCC and Holy Name Housing.

HGRA is will be building up to another rodeo in the Heartland in 2008. To encourage new competitors and fuel more excitement for that rodeo, we are planning to host a "Rodeo Play Day" in June 2007. The Play Day will be an opportunity to practice or try for the first time some of the rodeo events as well as some fun rodeo themed games. We will be developing the details of this event over the next few months. If you are interested in helping out or have some ideas to make the play day more fun please contact me at president06@hgra.net We are hoping that the Play Day will build up excitement and interest for the 2008 Rodeo, maybe encourage some new competitors and most of all have fun! Be on the lookout as HGRA will be having fundraising events to support the Play Day, the Rodeo and our Charity Partners next year. Keep an eye out for Miss Leona's Jell-o Shots, shows and other fun events in the New Year.

I hope you have a fun and safe holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at an HGRA event soon.

Happy Holidays Kathy
HGRA President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As we enter into the holiday season it is that time again to renew our memberships. Enclosed with your newsletter is your membership renewal form. Please take the time to fill it out and return it before December 31st, 2006. Your current membership expires as of January 1, 2007. Membership fee is \$30.00

Renewing now will ensure that you are eligible to participate in all IGRA events in the New Year. Also your membership dues ensures that the Heartland Gay Rodeo Association is able to operate business as usual with things like new newsletters starting in January as well as other financial obligations that keep the organization strong.

As you know we are not having a rodeo in 2007, but are planning some fun fundraising and educational events. Our goal is to get the money and volunteers in place to host the 9th Heartland Rodeo in 2008. Our major event for 2007 is still in the planning stages but we are working on a Rodeo Play Day for members and others in mid-June. We would love your input and help with this event as we hope it will springboard us into a great 2008 Rodeo for the Heartland.

Your Support is Greatly Appreciated
Kathy
Kathy Ward
HGRA President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars:

December 16 – General Membership Meeting
Connections Bar, Omaha 4:30 PM

Mr HGRA's Pete Christmas show at
DC's Saloon , Omaha 8-10 PM

December 23 – Miss Leona's Jell-o Shots at
DC's Saloon, Omaha

December 31 – 2006 Membership expires
remember to renew for 2007

January 6 - General Membership Meeting
4 PM - Location TBA



Royalty Report

HGRA made it out to help MCC serve there Stewardship Luncheon on Sunday October 12th. We helped serve up 35-40 dinners of ham, baked potato, green bean casserole and fruit salad. Once again we were proud to show support to our charity partners. Thanks to Kathy W and Holly B for the help serving MCC.

On October 12th I also sold jell-o shots at DC's to raise money for my charity YWCA GLBT Domestic Abuse. Being close to Halloween there were a good number of people out and about. Thanks to Leo for making the jell-o shots a hit.. My charity, will be receiving a \$500.00 donation on behalf of HGRA and me.

November 18th the 2006 Royalty had its Step Down Show at DC.'s There were many performers and a strong showing by the membership at the show. Thanks to all who helped put this show on and made it a success Our performers included Emperor XXVI Andrew of ICON, Macey Riley – Miss Gay Omaha, Paco – 2002/2004 Mr. HGRA, Tamara Marks (too many titles to mention but most important a good friend), Ben Dover a.k.a. Bryn Geerdes, Fanta Cee, and HGRA Prez Kathy. These performers donated their tips to help out Mr. HGRA Pete and I raise money for HGRA and the Holy Name Housing.

Ms HGRA

Terri



**FORMER MS HGRA CHAR AND JO
HELP TERRI WITH HER SASH**

Giddy Up and Got Her Done

As my reign ends, I want to thank all of you who have supported me in the past two years as your Ms HGRA. It has been an honor to be a part of such a great organization. In 2007, I will be out helping raise money for HGRA and their charities. I look forward to seeing you out at the HGRA events and at IGRA Rodeo's.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Ms HGRA

Terri

A Very Merry Christmas wish from Mr. HGRA

I want to thank everyone in the Heartland for supporting my reign these past 2 years, as I represented the Heartland Gay Rodeo Association. It has been a wonderful ride, attending rodeos around the country and performing at fundraisers for different rodeo associations and other local fundraisers.

I'd like to invite you all to attend my last show, as the current MR. HGRA. It will be held on Saturday December 16th at DC's Saloon in Omaha. The show runs from 8 - 10 pm. I will be performing along with: Wayne Moore, Johnnie Richards, Aretha Spanklin, Miss Trina Tabloid, Fantasy.....

I would like to thank everyone at DC's, The Max, Connections, and The Panic for all their support during my reign. The Imperial Court of Nebraska has also been a lot of fun to work with. And thanks to all the people I've met along the way, for being such a big help in my endeavors.

Mr. HGRA 2005-2006

Pete

RODEO EVENTS

Reno NV –Kim D., Tamara M., and our very own 2 - timers Char W. and Jo K represented HGRA as officials at this year's Finals. Teeny C. and Bryn G. competed as contestants and led team Heartland to an 11th place finish out of 16 teams.

These are the overall results:

Teeny was 6th overall in chute dogging and placed 1st in wild drag and 6th in goat dressing on Sunday.

Bryn placed 6th over all in pole bending and 4th overall in barrels, she was 2nd in calf roping and 6th in flag racing on Sunday. She was the 4th runner up to all around cowgirl.

Although Finals was exciting, the journey home was unforgettable. Char, Jo, and Bryn started home early Monday morning and stayed in Rock Springs WY Monday evening. They were greeted by blowing snow (50 MPH) on Tuesday morning and after an hour they were in white out conditions. At one point the horse trailer was trying to pass them when they were driving on ice covered roads. When they got to the NE border they hoped the worst was behind them, but 60 MPH winds, tumbleweeds, and dirt resulted in going from white out conditions to brown out conditions. They were lucky, later that night the interstate was closed due to poor visibility. Road equipment had to be called out to clear tumbleweeds and dirt from the interstate. We are happy to report that cowgirls and horses arrived safely. All involved are looking forward to the short drive to Finals in Denver 2007

Check out the IGRA rodeo school information at: <http://www.agra-phx.com/school.html>

Saturday December 16 8 – 10pm
at DC's Saloon

**MR. HEARTLAND GAY RODEO
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:**

Belles & Bal



Get into the Holiday Season with Performances by:

Pete Canfield

Johnnie Richards

Aretha Spanklin

Fantasy

Miss Trina Tabloid

Wayne Moore

and many more entertainers for your enjoyment!

Fundraiser for Holy Name Housing



No Cover Charge





RODEO SCHOOL ENTRY FORM

Rodeo School Phoenix Campus
January 11 & 12, 2007

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER () - _____

(PLACE AN X BY THE EVENT(S) YOU WANT TO ENTER)

THURSDAY – JANUARY 11, 2007

ALL PARTICIPANTS

Registration and Health & Safety Video - 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Steer Riding (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) _____ Chute Dogging (1:00-3:00 p.m.) _____

Bareback Bronc Riding (3:00-4:00 p.m.) _____ Bull Riding (3:00-4:00 p.m.) _____

NOTE: BULL RIDING WILL BE OFFERED ONLY IF REQUESTED.

FRIDAY – JANUARY 12, 2007

ALL PARTICIPANTS

Registration and Health & Safety Video - 8:00-9:00 a.m.

(unless registered & watched health/safety video on Thursday)

Roping on Foot (9:00-10:00 a.m.) _____ Team Roping (10:00-11:00 a.m.) _____

Mounted Breakaway Roping _____
(11:00 a.m.-Noon)

Entry fee is \$25.00 per event, and the official registration form must be postmarked by December 31, 2006. Late registrations may be accepted, on a space available basis, and if approved by the facilitators. You must complete and return the official registration form with your check, money order, or cashier's check payable to A.G.R.A. and for the appropriate amount. Return to:

Chuck Browning
6828 S 27 Ave
Phoenix AZ 85041



Rodeo School Phoenix Campus
January 11 & 12, 2007

The annual A.G.R.A. Rodeo School, facilitated by Chuck Browning and Brian Helander, will be Thursday and Friday, January 11 and 12, 2007. The location of the school is the same as the 2007 Road Runner Regional Rodeo:

Rawhide at Wild Horse Pass
Gila River Indian Community
5700 W North Loop Rd
Chandler AZ 85226

Events that will be offered are:

ROUGH STOCK

Steer Riding
Chute Dogging
Bareback Bronc Riding
Bull Riding (*if requested*)

ROPING

Roping on Foot
Team Roping
Mounted Breakaway Roping

Entry fee is \$25.00 per event, and the official registration form must be postmarked by December 31, 2006. Late registrations may be accepted, on a space available basis, and if approved by the facilitators. You must complete and return the official registration form with your check, money order, or cashier's check payable to A.G.R.A. and for the appropriate amount.

Everyone will be required to sign the "Liability and Waiver of Participation" and watch a "Health and Safety" video before participating in any event.

Training will be provided utilizing 2007 I.G.R.A. Rodeo Rules, Judges, Scorekeepers, Secretaries, and Timers. There will also be qualified instructors for all events. The registration form lists the Rodeo School schedule, including the day and times for each event.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Chuck Browning by e-mail at agracyby@aol.com.



HGRA Membership Application Form
(Please Print Clearly)

Membership Classification (Please select one)

- Renewing Member Cost: \$30.00
- New Member Cost: \$30.00 (Jan – June)
\$15.00 July – Dec)

Membership year starts on January 1st and is valid for one year. Applications for renewal must be completed, signed, and submitted annually prior to December 31st. Membership will be cancelled January 1st of the following year.

Benefits for all current HGRA members in good standing include a subscription to the HGRA newsletter, *The Barbed Wire*, a membership card, and ONE vote. If your membership expires, you will not be eligible to compete in HGRA or IGRA events.

Free to New Members

- Hat Pin
- New Membership Packet
- Name Badge (renewing members may purchase a new name badge for a fee of \$6.00) Please print in the box below how you want your name to appear on your name badge

Name: _____

Alias: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: H: _____

W: _____

C: _____

Email: _____

Birth Date (optional) _____

When used, how would you like your name to appear in the newsletter? Please check one.

- Full Name
- First Name and Last Initial
- Alias Name
- Initials ONLY.
- Don't use my name in the newsletter.

May we use your photo in the newsletter?

YES NO

How would you like to receive your newsletter? (Check one)

By Email By Mail

Download From Website

This form and waiver must be signed to be valid!

I, the undersigned, declare that I am of legal age (21 or older).

In consideration of HGRA's acceptance of this membership application and my being a member of HGRA, I hereby agree to protect and lay harmless HGRA from any and all damage, injury or death which may occur to my property or person in preparation for; during; at; or immediately following any function held by/for the benefit of HGRA. I also release HGRA from any and all liabilities whatsoever in regard thereto, whether any cause of action may occur to myself, my executor, my administrator or assigns.

Legal Signature

Please make your check out to HGRA and mail it with this application to the following address:

HGRA
PO Box 3354
Omaha, NE 68103-0354

Date

Email addresses for Executive board and Committee chairs are available on our website: www.hgra.net
Any question? Email information@hgra.net

For Office Use Only:	
Amount enclosed: _____	Check # _____
Date received: _____	Member # _____