



THE BARBED WIRE



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WWW.HGRA.NET

September 2007

ELECTION FAREWELL Kathy Ward, President

Wow, it has been over two months since I put out a call to the HGRA membership for volunteers to lead the association into 2008. I put out that call not because HGRA was in financial trouble but because the current board of directors, who have kept HGRA going over the past couple years, are unable to carry on due to personal situations. The wonderful thing is that some members who for their own reasons had backed away from HGRA for several years have rejoined and are motivated to take over HGRA and move it into the future. I am pleased that there are members willing to step up and continue leading HGRA. With that being said, I intend to resign my position after the new board for 2008 is elected. I do so for many reasons and I want to make sure everyone knows those reasons. Firstly I must focus on my family. My mother, a little over a year ago contracted a rare spinal infection that nearly killed her and has left her paraplegic. My father in the last year has had to have 4 surgeries to try to control cancer which continues to baffle his doctors. Rather than improving, both of them continue to see their health decline. Secondly, as I have mentioned in past newsletters, I am Canadian and I am coming to the end of my work visa and may have to return to Canada. It is a real possibility that I will have to return to my homeland before the end of 2008. Thirdly and no less important I am trying to focus on my relationship with my partner, Terri whom I met through HGRA. It is our intention to get married soon and need to focus on that event (as Canadians recognize us as a legal and legitimate couple). Finally, the returning members have brought into question the integrity of the current board of directors. I believe that my board has behaved properly and in the best interests of HGRA and their charity partners. History, that I have not been a part of, is influencing how business is being done by HGRA. With so many other important areas of my life needing attention and the chance that I would not be here to follow through with anything that would fall out of standing up to these people, I am choosing to step back and let them take over and move forward. I will not be an obstacle to their leadership. I wish them well and hope that HGRA and its members will have one of their most successful years next year.

I am proud of the work I have done with HGRA. I am proud of the Board of Directors I have worked with over the past few years and all the good work we have done. Over the past couple of years HGRA and its volunteers have raised well over \$10,000 for our charity partners in our community. The 2007 retiring board will leave with a balanced budget for the General Fund and will leave the Rodeo Fund with more money than has been left in the past. Our 2006 Rodeo donated \$6000 to our partners with the promise of more after the 2007 Rodeo Play Day. The members involved in the Play Day agreed to hold back money to cover the potential costs of insurance, liquor licenses, possible arena rental. We had promised we would have more money for those charities after the Rodeo Play Day. We made decisions on how that event would be held, that made it possible to not use that money and we were able to give an additional \$650 to each of our charity partners: MCC Omaha Accessibility Fund, Child Saving Institute and Youth Emergency Services. This year we have also been able to support Camp Kindle and MCC Omaha Accessibility through the Rodeo Play Day and other fundraising events. HGRA's record of supporting the GLBT community has been strong having contributed more than over \$85,000 since 1999.

I thank all of you who have supported a stranger who joined an association as a social outlet and to learn how to rodeo. I never intended to hold political office but stepped up when HGRA needed help. I will value all of the friendships I have made through HGRA and the community. I hope I am not leaving the Heartland; but if do, I will take your caring and memories with me. I hope I am not done with rodeo.

I wish the 2008 HGRA Board of Directors all the Best

Kathy Ward, 2005 Secretary, 2006 Co-Director of Rodeo, 2006 & 2007 President

THE BARBED WIRE

HGRA Needs YOU!

It's time to pick our 2008 Royalty representatives. The positions are Mr HGRA, Ms HGRA, Miss HGRA, and MsTer HGRA (for drag kings). We need people to represent us throughout this upcoming rodeo year, yes we are having a rodeo in 2008.

To be eligible you must be an HGRA member, 21 years of age, and reside in the HGRA designated territory. The contest will be held November 2nd with the application deadline to be October 23. If you are not already an HGRA member, you have until October 4th to become one. The membership fee is only \$15 from now till the end of the year.

You can go to our website to read the Bylaws and Standing Rules and see examples of what to expect in the contest. Applications can be obtained at DC's Saloon or contact HGRAleo@yahoo.com or Shelleyhgra@wmconnect.com. Or you can call Shelley at 402-658-2922. If you need help studying about the rodeo for the contest, let us know and someone will be made available to assist you.



H.G.R.A.

ROYALTY CONTEST



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Have you got what it takes to represent
The Heartland Gay Rodeo Association? ★ ★

Contest will be held November 2, 2007. Deadline for application is October 23rd

If not already an HGRA member, you have until October 4th to join.



We need the following:
Mr, Ms, Miss, & MsTer



To represent us throughout the 2008 Rodeo year
Applications Available at DC's Saloon



The Cowboy Coffee Break

Long before there was star bucks cowboys sipped there coffee around an open camp fire. The brand was not Folgers or Maxwell house but Arbuckle's, developed in 1865 by a Pennsylvania entrepreneur John Arbuckle and his brother developed a premium brew. The beans were roasted then coated with an egg and sugar glazed to preserve the flavor. A one pound package sold for 20 cents and each bag contained a surprise. A peppermint stick was hidden inside each bag it was often used to bribe a cowboy into grinding the coffee or other chores. Today you can still order Arbuckle's at Arbucklecoffee.com. but it will cost you \$15.95 for a one pound bag.

RODEO RESULTS

CHICAGO - Team Heartland Placed 7th out of 17 teams.

Roger P placed 4th in barrels and 6th in pole bending

Bryn G won the buckle in barrels, poles, wild drag and All Around Cowgirl.

ATLANTIC STAMPEDE—Team Heartland placed 4th out of 10 teams

Bryn G won the buckle in calf roping, barrels, poles, wild drag and All Around Cowgirl.

SHOW ME STATE RODEO - Team Heartland placed 1st out of 11 teams.

Amber W 4th in barrels and 3rd in poles

Trena 7th in goat dressing

Kelly T 5th in wild drag

Chris H won the barrel racing buckle

Dave E 5th in steer deco 2nd in wild drag

Doug E 5th in steer deco and 5th in wild drag

Teeny C 6th in steer deco 2nd in chute dogging won the buckle in wild drag and 3rd runner up to All Around Cowgirl

Bryn G won the buckle in pole bending 4th in steer deco 4th in wild drag 3rd in barrels and 2nd in All Around Cowgirl

Rich P 3rd in calf roping 2nd in steer deco and won the buckle in wild drag

Tim K 6th in chute dogging 4th in calf roping 7th in barrels 5th in pole bending 2nd in steer deco won the buckle in wild drag and 4th in the All Around Cowboy

Next rodeos are in Austin Texas and Las Vegas NV followed by IGRA Finals in Denver CO in October.

A big Thanks goes out to the outgoing HGRA Board of Directors.



Kathy President



Leo Vice President



Paul Treasurer



Holly Secretary

What's Your Horse Telling You?

Improve your relationship with your horse by learning to interpret his six most common Vocalizations.

The snort: is telling you that something has worried him-and he may be preparing to bolt or spook. Take it as fair warning that you need to defuse the situation and remember to stay calm.

The Blow: signals that the horse feels good. He is ready to run and play. This behavior can be contagious if one horse does it others may follow.. If he blows while you are riding he is telling you he's excited and feeling good.

The Nicker: is a friendly sound that a horse use's to communicate with nearby companions-equine or otherwise. They can be heard only 20-30 yards. A friendly How are you doing?

The Squeal: This is an indication or irritation or defensiveness of back off. Squeals can be load and heard for 100 yards and ears are pinned back.

The Whinny: is the loudest and longest call the horse makes. The whinny says "where are you?" or Here I am !

Five HGRA members supported the MCC river boat cruise held on Sept. 1st 2007. Tamara Marks, Kathy Ward, Holly Beer, Jo Knott, and Char Werth. Along with entertainment from Tamara, you will need to ask the girls what else was entertaining on the water.

Other on going events for MCC -

MCC Omaha Bingo will begin Sept 28th at 6pm in the Social Hall.

National coming out day 2007 Celebrate with MCC on October 7th at their out in the sun picnic



Tamara Kathy Char and Jo Cruisin' with MCC

HGRA Cowboy and Cowgirl of the Year

On October 20th HGRA will present the annual awards for Cowboy and Cowgirl of the year. This years awards will be presented to Tim K and Bryn Geerdes. This is the second year that Tim has received this award and the 9th year that Bryn has won the award. This is the last year that Bryn will be receiving this honor from HGRA. Since her first rodeo in 1997 she has represented HGRA at over 85 rodeos in every IGRA Rodeo Association (except Florida and Georgia) across the United States and Canada and has won 81 buckles, 10 All Around Cowgirl Titles, and 4 International Finals Titles. She has been invited to IGRA Finals every year including her 11th invite this year. Her current IGRA ranking is 1st in 4 of the 6 events she competes in. Bryn thanks those members who have encouraged and supported her and wishes the best for the HGRA Rodeo Team in the years ahead.



"It has been an honor and a privilege competing for HGRA."

Bryn and Red winning back to back All Around Titles in Chicago and Washington DC

Photos courtesy of CowboyFrank.net.



IGRA FINALS DENVER CO OCTOBER 11-14 2007

The National Western Stock Show Event Center will host the 2007 IGRA Finals. The top 20 cowboys and cowgirls from all over the United States and Canada will compete for top honors. Several HGRA members have already been invited as officials. Kim Dawson is the Finals Arena Director and Tamara Marks will be scorekeeper. Char Werth and Jo Knott will also represent HGRA as timers. Pending the results of the last 2 rodeos this weekend, these contestants are assured invites to Finals.

Teeny C. Chute Dogging, Goat Dressing Wild Drag and Calf Roping

Bryn G. Barrels, Poles, Flag Racing Calf Roping and Wild Drag

Tim K. Chute Dogging

Congratulations to all those who competed for HGRA in 2007 and best of luck to those heading to Denver.

MEMO FROM THE EDITORS

We have had fun writing the newsletter for the last 6 years. This is our last one before we ride into the sunset.
Happy trails and we hope to see you around the rodeo circuit next year
Linda "Mackie" and Bryn