

THE JOLLY RANCHER

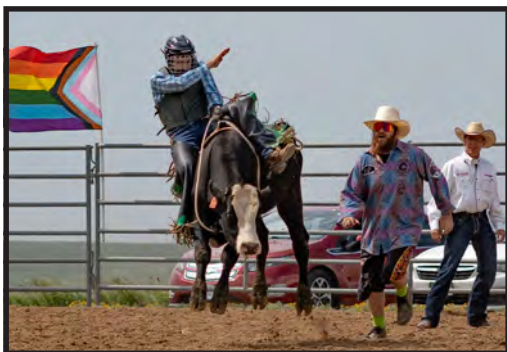
AN OVERVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION



EDITION 1

• 21ST JULY, 2023

• QUARTER 3



RODEO ... LET'S GET EXCITED!

By Charlie Colella

I recently found an article that I wrote about Finals in 1994 for GSGRA's The Chute. Relishing on the excitement of rodeo and the rodeo family, the great times and the friends, too numerous to count, that we met along the way. Almost 30 years later, I still feel that excitement and can see it in the faces others as well. From new to old, all are still thriving to play in the dirt. Rodeo . . . it's an addiction! Watching the rodeos across the country I see the excitement picking up. We're seeing new contestants coming on the circuit and joining this incredible rodeo family. We can't tell you how happy we are to have you!!!

Rodeo people of all lifestyles are special people. We know what the sport brings and yet the thrill of the competition outways the risks. From riding a horse at 35 mph around a barrel, tying down on a 2000 lb. bull with one hand, to chasing down a goat to slip on bvd's, the adrenalin rush is all the same. Don't forget about the chute crew, or better known as 'those that play in the dirt'. They get a bit more up front and personal with the stock. From those of us competing in the arena, we can't do what we do without you and all the Skittles doing what you do.

2025 will mark 50 years of Gay Rodeo. What a historic moment this is going to be for all of us. Working together we can keep the rodeo spirit alive.

[excerpt from '94]

'The rodeo family is a special one. The more I participate in the gay rodeos, the more I feel bonded to my gay brothers and sisters. A tear runs down my face as I watch the Ceremony of the Riderless Horse. I, like everyone else, miss my friends. But as I watch this event, I feel a closeness to all those around me, sharing a special bond as we do.'

Best of luck to all in 2023 and beyond.
Happy trails, till we meet again.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings IGRA Member Association Members,



I hope this newsletter helps with transparency and communication in our organization.

I probably don't need to tell you that the LGBTQ2S+ community is being used as a divisive issue in politics

these days. I mention this because there has never been a more important time for us to come together as we face the challenges ahead. This means that we need, to the best of our ability, put aside the many interpersonal distractions and support the organization that we all love and want to succeed, despite the many different points of view. As President for the next two years, I am working on this aspect of my personal involvement in IGRA also. I am choosing to focus on possible solutions rather than on the myriad of problems we perceive, as I try to carry out my responsibilities to the best of my ability.

The next three years of participation could be very exciting and rewarding; a once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in the 50th anniversary of Gay Rodeo in North America in 2025. We have all worked so hard to get to this moment, including all those new to the organization, and those that have been supporting IGRA for many years.

There is a role for everyone in this amazing adventure. This accomplishment is something that we can be very proud of and an accomplishment that many LGBTQ2S+ organizations do not get to celebrate. In my time as IGRA president (1.0 and 2.0), I recall the many times that other organizations voiced their tremendous respect for our daily work and our rich, long and inspirational history. We will also have an opportunity to participate as a group in World Gay Pride 2025, a re-visiting of our induction into the Smithsonian Institution, and the WGRF 2025 Rodeo and `50 year Reunion.

Meanwhile, we have to maximize our rodeo seasons for 2023 and 2024 by working together for success. Over the next two years we will need everyone to do something towards improving our organization and making our events a success. Please reach out to your trustee, a member of the BOD, a committee chair, or me and let us know what one thing you have the capacity to work on. Every task, no matter how small is needed and appreciated.

Lets make the next 2 ½ years of gay rodeo something that our founders would be proud of and show the world that we are resilient, committed and ready to rodeo, and we will not be erased. Thank you all for what you do for IGRA.

Brian Helander, IGRA President, 2023-2024

IGRA SCHEDULE - 2023

Great Plains Rodeo	July 21-23	Oklahoma City, OK
North Star Regional Rodeo	July 28-30	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
Zia Regional Rodeo	August 25-27	Santa Fe, NM
Best Buck in the Bay	September 9-10	San Francisco, CA
BigHorn Rodeo	September 15-17	Las Vegas, NV
World Gay Rodeo Finals	October 27-29	El Reno, OK
IGRA Annual Convention	November 16-19	Reno, NV

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Teri Hibben



Teri's exposure to gay rodeo was after she met Craze at a boarding facility where she kept her horse. During those times, spandex and boots were the style, or so she thought! Craze kept telling Teri that her horse was a barrel horse. Teri recalls, 'I thought she was stoned (which she was) but when she hosted a play day at the stable that year and my mare ran a nice pattern, I knew she might be right.' The following summer Teri entered the 2003 Zia Rodeo, won the Women's Pole Bending buckle and qualified for Finals that year. She has won multiple buckles, mostly in speed events, and has qualified for Finals every year since 2003.

Teri still competes in gay rodeo occasionally, but mostly sticks to the barrel racing circuit around Albuquerque. She enjoys bringing along young horses and the rodeos are a great venue for her to get them exposed to all kinds of things.

As one of the fiercest female competitors on the circuit, Teri may seem quiet, but she is a very talented horse woman. I surely know from experience that when she enters the arena, the cowboys sit up to watch.

Hats off to Teri Hibben!

Carl S. Schmidt II

Carl grew up in South Texas, then later in life migrated to Denver, CO, where he now resides. His life outside of IGRA, includes EDM (Electronic Dance Music) Festivals, country music festivals, cooking for family and friends and most anything outdoors. He is also the proprietor of the Capitol Hill Mansion Bed & Breakfast Inn, located in Denver.

His passion for rodeo began about 23 years ago under Jay Beck. At that time he joined CGRA, which he is currently a member. Carl's position as Lead Chute Coordinator involves running the rough stock events (bull/steer riding, chute dogging) and all roping events and is to coordinate the chute staff, both bucking and roping chute areas regarding rules, dress code, livestock, and equipment for a smooth, safe, and efficient rodeo. He is also responsible for the Chute Coordinator Certification Program.



In Carl's words, 'Rodeo has been a hobby of mine for years! Rodeos can be a fun and exciting experience, filled with thrilling displays of athleticism and skill by both human and animal performers, and being part of a rodeo family.

Cheers Carl. We're better with you in the dirt!

WELCOME NEW 2023 IGRA MEMBERS

Carlos Aguilar • Jason Banales • Gary Brewer • Chase Burgett • Efrain Cervantes • Drew Chadwell • Stephanie Danderson • Mark Davidson • Jim Doescher • Stephen Ferguson • Alec Guidry • Tee Kay • John Marcum • Russell Miller III • Kristopher Minnich • Mary Alice Morgan • Michael Neiheisel • Derik Norman • Randy O'Niell • Saul Ortega • Alex Rogers • John Ryan • Joseph Shannon • Caden Spiller • Mark Tomaszewski • Archuleta Valdamar • Mary Wagner • Kellan Wagner • Jason Wallace • Nathan Whiting-Wagner • Russell Woods • Dan Yenter • Tye Young • Sister Anne Thrax • Guard Maxximum • Sister Diligently Venus Flytrap

*Did we miss your name, or the names of the new members in your association?
Please send us a list of all new 2023 members so we can make sure everybody is represented!*

RODEO MEMORIAL QUILT

The Rodeo Memorial Quilt Project is moving along quite nicely. The first promotional piece was introduced on Facebook. The First Rodeo Memorial Quilt is at the Quilt-maker now. If you know of someone who has passed away, affiliated with IGRA, or you just want to donate, please scan the QR code in the flyer. It goes to the IGRA HQ in Denver, which is a 501(c)(3) organization. Please contact Mr. NMGRA David Smith or Miss NMGRA Aurora Gayheart if you have any questions. All Quilted Panels will be displayed collectively at our 50th Rodeo Anniversary at the WGRF 2025. A special shout out to Gene Fraikes and William Pederson for all expertise with fabric and thread....As well as thanks to the pioneering contributors to this project thus far. Not to forget Roger Bergmann, Jeff Bosacki & Sunnie Rose Berger for helping get this idea off the ground.



RODEO MEMORIAL QUILT

50 YEARS

NEVER FORGOTTEN

This project/fundraiser is brought to you by
Mr. NMGRA 2023, Mr. David J. Smith &
Miss NMGRA 2023, Miss Aurora Gayheart.



SCAN HERE
TO DONATE USING



OR YOU CAN SEND A CHECK TO
RODEO MEMORIAL QUILT,
PO BOX 460504, AURORA
CO 80046-0504



STYLES

2 Styles to choose from – Arch or Block
3 colors Red Black or White –
(color not guaranteed due to placement.)

DONATION SUGGESTION

\$150 PER PANEL

\$375 FOR THE ENTIRE BACK PANEL OF QUILT

THIS IS AN IGRA FUNDRAISER -
A 501(c)(3) Organization
PAVING THE WAY TO 50 YEARS!

The entire quilt will be displayed in
Reno Nevada, @ World Gay Rodeo
Finals 2025 . After WGRF 2025 the quilt
will be retained with the Gay and
Lesbian Rodeo Heritage Foundation that
will travel around the IGRA Circuit.

A big special thanks to Gene Fraikes of Twisted Embroidery
& Billy Pederson of Desert Cowboy Quilting.

More Information:

Send a note on Facebook Messenger,
to David J. Smith or Aurora Gayheart, Miss NMGRA.



GAY RODEO ARCHIVES

By Roger Bergmann, IGRA Archive Committee Chair

When Roger Bergmann was first elected International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) President for the 1993 Rodeo Year, one of his first duties was to select a new Administrative Assistant to “man the phone” in the IGRA Office, which was in the basement of “Charlie’s – Denver”. Patrick Terry (CGRA) was the individual who got the job, and one of the first things he asked Roger was what he should do with the rodeo programs, posters, and other documents stored in the basement office. Roger asked Patrick to continue to save at least two programs and posters for each rodeo so that IGRA would continue to preserve its history. Over the years, Patrick saved much, much more!

In 2009, a gay history researcher in Los Angeles, by the name of Gregory Hinton, contacted then IGRA President Brian Helander (NMGRA) to see if there were any archives that could be donated to the “Autry Western Heritage Museum” (The Autry). Knowing that the basement of “Charlie’s” was not a good location for storing paper documents, Brian, Patrick, and Gregory coordinated with “The Autry” and transferred many boxes of archive materials in June 2009.

Seeing this interest in the gay rodeo archives set Brian Helander’s brain in gear, and in November 2009 he established the “Gay & Lesbian Rodeo Heritage Foundation” (GLRHF). GLRHF was soon incorporated as an IRS 501(c)(3) charitable foundation to support the broader community in preserving, maintaining, promoting, and communicating the role of the LGBTQ+ community in the sport of rodeo.

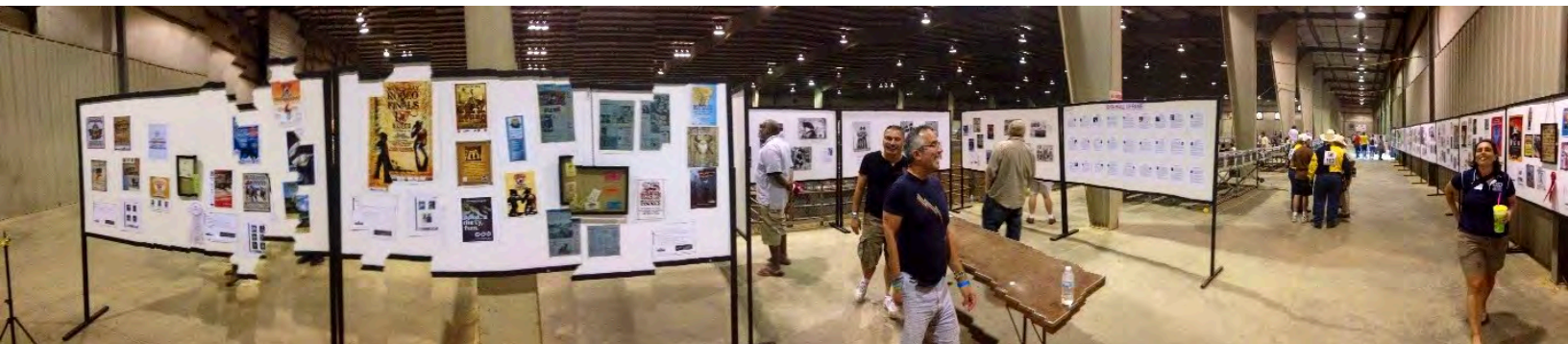
In 2010, IGRA President Brian Helander appointed Patrick Terry (ILGRA) as the first IGRA Archives Committee Chair. Other Archive Committee Chairs have been:

Brian Rogers (NGRA) - 2011 – 2013
Frank Harrell (ASGRA) - 2014 – 2015
Tom Lott (ASGRA) - 2016
Brian Rogers (NGRA) - 2017
Roger Bergmann (NGRA) - 2018 to present

In 2011, Frank Harrell (ASGRA & CGRA) registered the domain GayRodeoHistory.org and began scanning rodeo programs. For a more complete story on the development of the archives and the website, please visit www.GayRodeoHistory.org and read “About the Archives.” In August 2016 Frank handed the ownership of the website over to GLRHF.

In 2014, Brian Rogers presented the first Gay Rodeo Archives Display at the Gay Games Rodeo in Akron, Ohio, which was very well received by both the spectators and the IGRA contestants, officials, and volunteers. Time and money are two things that are always in short supply, and there were no other displays of the archives until 2019.

When Roger Bergmann became the Archives Committee Chair in 2018 the archives were stored in two locations in Colorado. About 20 file boxes were stored in a shared storage container with CGRA near the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, and the rest of the archives were stored at the home of Frank Harrell and Tom Lott.



First Gay Rodeo archives display at 2014 Gay Games Rodeo



When Tom passed away on January 18, 2018, Frank decided to sell the home, so Roger drove from Las Vegas and literally filled the car's interior and trunk to maximum capacity. After driving this first carload to a storage unit in Las Vegas, Roger returned to Colorado to pick up the file boxes at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

From 2010 through 2017, most of the donated items had been rodeo programs and posters, event buckles, Association Newsletters, magazines and newspaper articles, belt loop badges, and hat pins. Roger was not on Facebook until late 2020, so encouraging donations was difficult, though some donations arrived because of personal contact by telephone or email outreach.

In 2019, Brian Helander, as President of GLRHF, asked Roger if he would take an archive display to Calgary for the "Canadian Rockies Rodeo North." This display included rodeo program

covers, posters, Hall of Fame biographies, and important dates in the historical progress of gay rodeo which were all posted across seven stand-up bulletin boards. There were also three tables to display items including event belt buckles, rodeo bandanas, ball caps, one t-shirt, royalty sashes, IGRA plaques, and a few photos, as well as six framed posters leaning against the wall.

Since then, portions of the archives have been displayed at the following locations:

World Gay Rodeo Finals in Scottsdale, AZ
October, 2019

IGRA Annual Convention in Denver, CO
November, 2019

"Sin City Classic" sporting event in Las Vegas, NV
January, 2020

Zia Regional Rodeo in Santa Fe, NM
August, 2021

Arizona Gay Rodeo in Phoenix, AZ
February, 2022

Gay Pride Day in Pendleton, OR
June, 2022

Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo in Aurora, CO
July, 2022

WGRF in El Reno, OK
October, 2022

IGRA Annual Convention in Denton, TX
November, 2022

Arizona Gay Rodeo in Phoenix, AZ
February, 2023

"HOT RODEO" in Palm Springs, CA
May, 2023

Great Plains Rodeo in El Reno, OK
July, 2023



Preliminary schedule for future archive displays:

IGRA Annual Convention in Reno, NV

November, 2023

Rodeo in the Rock in Little Rock, AR

April, 2024

IGRA Annual Convention in Grand Rapids, MI

November, 2024

World Gay Pride Celebration in Washington, DC

May/June 2025

WGRF in Reno, NV

October 2025

IGRA Annual Convention in Denver, CO

November, 2025

Remember the 20 file boxes of archives that Roger picked up at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in February 2018. With the help of Jeffrey Neal (NGRA), these files, beginning in 1985, have been scanned to create a digital file of many, but not all, minutes of Board of Directors meetings, IGRA Conventions, Royalty and dance competitions, IGRA Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Rodeo Rules.



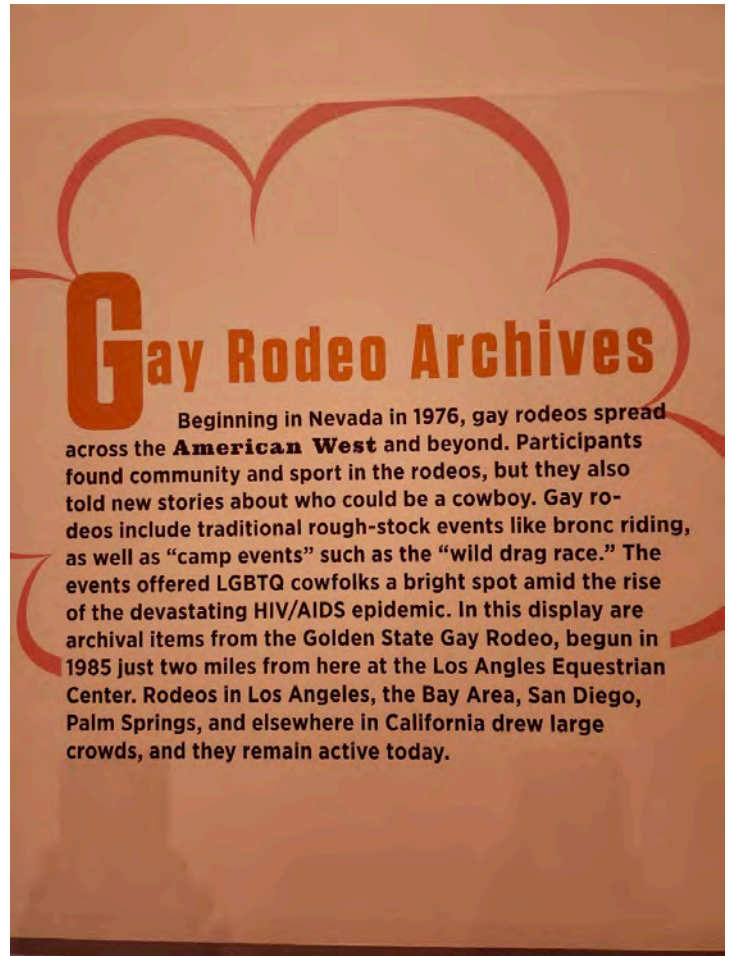
As these file boxes have been scanned the original hard copies have been donated to "ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives at the University of Southern California (USC) Libraries" (ONE). Many hours have been spent sorting, removing staples, and flattening bent corners to prepare for scanning. Even scanning up to 40 pages at a time, each box has taken about 1.5 hours to scan. The last box should be scanned by the end of August 2023, and soon be delivered to ONE. Researchers have already been accessing the documents that have been donated to ONE.



A part of the archives display at the 2021 Zia Regional Rodeo in Santa Fe, NM

As Founding President of GLRHF, Brian Helander's hope is that one day soon there will be an opportunity to create a Gay Rodeo History Museum. As items are donated to IGRA Archives they are tagged or labeled and inventoried with the name of the donor. Currently IGRA is keeping two copies of all rodeo programs and posters, and all other unique items for the day that a museum may happen. When additional copies of rodeo programs, posters, and rule books are available, two copies of each are first sent to ONE. If additional copies are available, they are donated to "The Autry," which is now known as the "Autry Museum of the American West."

Since receiving the first donation of IGRA archives in 2009, "The Autry" had only used an LA Rodeo program as part of a temporary display on the history of Griffith Park and the LA Equestrian Center, where the first LA Rodeos were held. On June 24, 2023, The Autry opened a new "long term" exhibit, which includes three separate locations displaying gay rodeo items. Roger Bergmann was the only one of the invited IGRA and GSGRA individuals who was able to attend the evening reception. When Josh Garrett-Davis, the main planner of the exhibit, gave his "Thank You Speech" at the end of the evening, there was a very loud applause of approval for the donations and involvement from the International Gay Rodeo Association.



One of the gay rodeo displays in "The Autry's" newest exhibit hall. The display case holds the first LA Rodeo program, an entry form, rodeo ticket, newspaper article, first IGRA Finals rodeo program, a Palm Springs rodeo program, and an opened "RoundUp" magazine. Next photo is a photo of the text above display case.

IGRA GUIDSTAR CERTIFICATION

By Michael Lentz, Chair of the Guidstar Gold Initiative

IGRA applied for and became an IRS recognized 501c3 charitable organization in November 2016. Donations to our organization have been tax deductible since then. Several entities have developed standards of conduct and transparency for non-profits that seek out public and corporate funding support. These services aggregate information in uniform formats that allow for review and comparison of candidate charities by these donors. GuideStar is one of the most prominent sources of charity summary information and is known by many granting entities for their “Gold Seal” of approval.

IGRA is in the process of filing the information needed to get a “seal of approval” from GuideStar. There are currently four levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum) available. The information that we are providing includes leadership and business contacts, mission summary, financial details, and organization demographics. These items are required to achieve Gold Status, which was our initial goal. (Platinum status is quite a bit harder to gain and is usually reserved for very large organizations with broad reach and significant paid staff.) We are going through the verification process now and hope to achieve Gold status before the end of the rodeo year.

There are other metrics which denote quality in the structure, function and management of non-profits. A part of the GuideStar effort is identification of our existing strengths (communications procedures, conflict of interest requirements, financial reporting and oversight, ethical practices adherence, general organizational transparency) and examining how we can improve our governance. Meeting these goals will not only make us a better and more effective organization, but will allow potential donors to know they have chosen wisely in giving us their support.

LEGACY OF PRIDE

In arenas where dreams find their might,
The Gay Rodeo shines with vibrant light.
History's sport, a courageous frontier,
Love's anthem echoes, loud and clear.

Pioneers rode, breaking down walls,
Inclusion and pride, their united calls.
The past a foundation, the future untamed,
Embracing diversity, as victory is claimed.

With strength and grace, they forge their way,
Celebrating triumphs, a brighter display.
In the rodeo's tapestry, their stories unfold,
A legacy cherished, a future of gold.



1981 Reno Gay Rodeo Photo by Bob Sorensen

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Published and Edited by Charlie Colella and Brandon Volf

If you have submissions for future IGRA Newsletters, please feel free to share your ideas with us!