



Big Horn Gazette

MAY 2005 ISSUE



BIGHORN RODEO BIG SUCCESS IN 2005!

From Your Rodeo Director 2005 Jeffrey Neal

Congratulations to everyone for a great Rodeo. Compliments have been coming in from the spectators, contestants, officials, and even the sponsors and vendors letting us know that they really enjoyed the new setup for our Dance Pavilion and the openness of the event. Big Horn Rodeo is Back!

Big Horn Rodeo 2005 hosted 114 Contestants which made for a long day on Saturday. There was a huge increase in the horse events as well as the camp events but everyone got their chance to ride or rope. Mother Nature marked her presence throughout the weekend with high winds and rain but thankfully these were momentary and did not present a safety risk for the contestants or the animals. By Sunday, we got into a better rhythm and finished up in time to get ready for Awards which only lasted 90 minutes this year thanks to the quick talking of Mitch Gill who called the names for us this year.

The Grand Marshals were well received and despite the rain and having to be inside convertibles with the tops up, they had a good time with their families. Some new things were tried this year with Grand Entry - some that worked and others definitely did not work. Thanks to Ricki and Brian for working through the details.

This Rodeo will be profitable both for NGRA and for our benefactors, St. Therese and Santa Saturday West. The final bills are coming in and we have not yet ascertained what the bottom line is but we are working hard to have that wrapped up in the next few weeks so we can present checks. IGRA sanctioned the rodeo despite one small fine regarding the stock.

An event this large is not possible without the internal support and physical labors of many people. The RPC is to be congratulated for spending the time to get all the details worked out during this past year. Their names and positions are listed on page 5. But I would also like to personally thank two people who went above and beyond the call of duty to support this year's rodeo event - Kevin Marienfeld and Angel Negron. Both handled anything that came up and supported multiple areas of the rodeo. They have my deepest appreciation for their hard work and support.

You all should be proud of what we accomplished together. Thank you for your support. We will be presenting the preliminary numbers and reports at the next RPC meeting on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:45 p.m. at the Center and at the next General Membership Meeting on Saturday, May 21st at 7:30 p.m. at the Center.



PARADE

Ride into History with NGRA!

Join NGRA on Saturday, May 14th for the biggest, grandest parade in the history of Las Vegas.

Sponsored by the Las Vegas Centennial Commission, the Helldorado Days Parade is a salute to the famous parade and rodeo that dominated the Las Vegas event calendar for many decades.

This historic, western themed event will feature hundreds of dignitaries, celebrities, floats, marching bands, mounted groups, and organizations and groups on foot.

NGRA's entry in the parade is called "Hoedown Hayride" and features our fabulous hay wagon from the Vegas Sands Ranch, decorated with flags and signage promoting NGRA and BigHorn Rodeo...and of course, country music.

We have room for up to 35 riders and encourage all NGRA members, their friends, and our supporters to come along for a morning of excitement.

Assembly for the parade starts at 8:30 AM and the parade starts at 10:00 AM. NGRA is entry number 92. If you and your friends are interested in being a part of this exciting event, please contact Brian Rogers for important information you will need regarding parking and admission to the staging area.

NGRA shirts or western attire recommended; and slap on that sunscreen! Cold beverages will be supplied on the Hayride.

BIGHORN CONTESTANTS' RESULTS

Maybe it was because most of our Contestants were doing double-duty as volunteers, but NGRA's results weren't as high as they usually are. Nevertheless, we had some good finishes. New member Robert Salcedo placed 8th in Saturday's Chute Dogging, 3rd in Saturday's Steer Riding, and 3rd again in Sunday's Wild Drag. Lee Hale, who always seems to do well in Wild Drag, placed 7th on Saturday. I'm sure the ribbons will flow in Reno, especially if Richard Armstrong is recovered from his surgeries and able to compete. Please join us in Reno May 13-15 for the Comstock Stampede!

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

by Lorry King

Did you know that there has never been a GLBTQ sporting event shown on any TV station? Well, there will be one in about two weeks! IGRA has signed a contract with Q TV, a new cable channel. The contract calls for Q TV to film 10 IGRA Rodeos in 2005, starting with BigHorn and ending with Finals! Q TV will pay \$5,000.00, in advance, to IGRA, for each rodeo filmed. If you were present at our Rodeo (and if not, why not?!) you saw five cameras catching all the action and an editing truck behind the bleachers. Q TV will focus strictly on rodeo action, and follow the competitors throughout the year. They will also highlight a different event each episode for educational purposes, breaking down the action to show how it is done. At the second quarter IGRA Board Meeting in Oklahoma City on May 28, I will represent NGRA, and one of the topics of discussion will be how to divide the \$5,000.00 between IGRA, the host Association, and possibly the contestants. If you have any ideas that you want me to bring up, please speak to me at our General Membership Meeting on May 21 or email me at: trustee@ngra.com.

The IGRA Trustees that were present had meetings both before and after our rodeo. The pre-rodeo meeting simply assigned jobs and the post-rodeo meeting reviewed the weekend. I am happy to say that we aced the Corporate Compliance Checklist and were certified to receive the second half of the International Sponsor money, which is a little over \$3,000.00. Thanks to all those who worked hard to ensure that we were in compliance. There were a few areas that we were asked to correct. We didn't have enough volunteers to staff our security areas properly, and some of the security staff let people through they shouldn't have. The stock contractor didn't bring enough staff, and we didn't have enough volunteers to take up the slack. Therefore, we will write our stock contract with specific staff numbers next year. We were also asked to tighten up our Saturday Grand Entry, so that it is not so long and wordy. The RPC will take these suggestions under consideration when next year's planning begins.



A View From the Arena

by President-Elect Brian Rogers



It all started sometime last June when I decided to take a year off from the hard work of producing BigHorn Rodeo. After two years as Treasurer, then one as Assistant Rodeo Director, and two as Rodeo Director, I was feeling burnt out and frustrated that I had never gotten to spend any time at the rodeo end – the actual rodeo competition.

I kicked back for a few months watching the RPC slowly, but surely take shape under the auspices of Jeffrey Neal and finally decided to put my name in as Assistant Arena Director. This position is often manned by the hosting association and as the title implies works side by side with the arena director running the rodeo. Having worked as Rodeo Resources chair for IGRA the past four years and working many other rodeo arenas as a volunteer, I felt I had a reasonable knowledge of the events and our Arena Director, Kim Dawson, offered to train me. Little did I know what a total emersion experience I was about to undergo.

Starting in October, I worked with Jeffrey Neal on the selection of our Certified Rodeo Officials and the negotiation of our Stock Contract. These contacts gave me the advantage of already knowing all the rodeo staff when they arrived on Friday and helped us gel as a working group more quickly.

To our distress, the stock was late arriving on Friday, and when it did arrive, it was clear that the stock contractor brought an inadequate number of personnel to move the stock through the pens and chutes. This was our first challenge.

Bill Watkins, who had taken on the very challenging position of Arena Crew Coordinator, ran a training session on Friday with most of our arena crew volunteers to get them ready. Bill had a clever plan to bury weights with ropes attached to save time measuring the arena for the event setups. We worked like hell to bury the weights in the hard sub-soil, but on Friday, we realized the arena

rake had pulled them all up. On to plan B...

When Saturday came, our crack arena crew composed of Bill Watkins, Jeff Bunting, Glen Davis, Doyle Cornelius, Pete Dube, Ronn Anacabe, and Jeff Rhymes was ready and raring to go when the rodeo started at 9AM. Our past trustee, Johann Kristinsson, also joined the crew on both days.

Some of the chute crew volunteers didn't show up, so Thom Brennan (the Assistant Chute Coordinator) jumped in to assist Panda (the Chute Coordinator) in moving stock and the rodeo finally got started 20 minutes late beginning with Calf Roping on Foot.

We had several injuries (one resulting in transport to the hospital) on Saturday, which combined with the weather and sound induced problems with Grand Entry, put us three hours behind. Your exhausted rodeo crew finally wrapped up Bull Riding around 9PM.

Sunday things ran much more smoothly and the weather threatened but never interfered. There were no major injuries that day and we had all the kinks worked out. Competition ended around 6:40 PM and everyone agreed the rodeo had gone well.

I have to tell you this was one of the most rewarding experiences in my rodeo life. Being so close to all the action and having the opportunity to help run the events was truly a thrill. It was exciting to feel the rush of air and the thunder of hooves as those magnificent horses galloped by on their way to glory or defeat. Nothing compares to the adrenaline rush of standing close when a bull or steer careens out of a chute with cowboy or cowgirl mincemeat on their minds.

One more thing I learned; I'm not as young as I used to be. Eleven hours of rodeo on Saturday and ten on Sunday left this ole boy stiff and sore as hell. Profuse thanks to the crew that showed up on Monday to help us pack and store everything for next year. Kevin did a great job organizing the inventory and I can say, I'm already excited about BigHorn Rodeo X!

ELECTION RESULTS

Thanks to everyone who voted in this year's Board of Director's election. We had a very high voter turn out, with 55 ballots returned out of the 95 mailed out. The results are –

President: Brian Rogers

Vice President: Richard Schlegel

Secretary: Bill Watkins

Treasurer: Vacant

Members at Large: Jeff Bengston, Chris Due, and Mike Windsor

We had a tie for our fourth Member at Large between Jeff Bunting and Kevin Marienfeld. However, after the election, Jeff Bunting decided to withdraw his nomination. Therefore, Kevin will be our fourth Member at Large. Congratulations to our new Board! They will take office June 1st.

The new board is recruiting individuals interested in taking an active role in managing and growing the organization. Special positions under consideration include Entertainment Director(s), Community Outreach, Membership Outreach, Royalty Liaison, and NGRA Historian. If you are interested in any of these positions, please notify Brian Rogers in writing via email (president@ngra.com) or at an NGRA meeting.

The board of directors is also interested in hearing your ideas on ways to improve membership involvement and ways to be more effectively involved in the community at large.

RODEO ROYALTY REPORT

Hello from your 2005 Royalty Team! Bighorn Rodeo 9 was a huge success! We would like to thank you all for helping us make this a wonderful rodeo, despite the fact that when we were trying to look our best during Grand Entry, Mother Nature decided we all needed to “cool down” with a little rain! AHHHH memories of BigHorn Rodeo 8! Thanks to the IGRA Royalty Team for supporting us. We really appreciate it. We had such a great time starting off rodeo weekend on Wednesday, April 20th, at Spotlight Lounge with our Kick-Off Party that was co-hosted by Miss Frankie and Mother Brian. Thank you both for the wonderful job. Thanks are also due to Mike Windsor and Angel Negrón for producing the Kick-Off Party for us. We raised some good money that night thanks to the great entertainment. On Thursday, we all met up at Boulder Station to head out on our “Annual Bar Crawl” or as we like to call it... the “drunken bus tour”! We had some great bus drivers and enjoyed all of the stops that included Hamburger Mary's, Gipsy, Snick's Place, Rainbow Lounge, Spotlight, and Badlands! We were so popular on the bar crawl that at one stop, we even took the “attention” away from a porn star! Oh well, that's what royalty does! On Friday, Mr. NGRA Chris Due hosted the Speedo & Spurs Pool Party at Blue Moon Resort... lots of naked men everywhere... now that's how you start a rodeo weekend! Thanks Blue Moon! The girls, Tara, Blanche, and Sadie were at FreeZone kicking it up at the girls party having themselves a great time. FreeZone is an awesome place. Please show both of these businesses our appreciation by supporting them! Friday night at registration it has been rumored that Blanche started twirling herself around and started a dust storm



Member of the Month of May Lynne Crane

Lynne was selected as April's Member of the Month for her involvement in securing sponsorships for the BigHorn Rodeo and for helping to plan and hosting the pre-rodeo Girls Party at Freezone. This was the first time BigHorn Rodeo had an event specifically for our cowgirls, and all those who attended had a great time.

Chris Due – Mr. NGRA 2005

Tara Panties Litter – Miss NGRA 2005

Blanche Devaho – Miss NGRA 2005 First Runner Up

Sadie VanPatten Litter – Miss NGRA 2005 Second Runner Up

that knocked down some lighting and tents, but that is only a rumor! Saturday was rodeo time and we were there in full force, performing in the entertainment/dance tent and in the arena. Tara, Blanche and Sadie took to the stage, as Chris hit the arena running, literally! Hamburger Mary's that night had some amazing entertainment provided by Johnathan Isley and Vita Corimbi. Those two have beautiful voices and sure know how to put on a show! Great job guys, thank you! Sunday was back to the rodeo grounds for more rodeo and entertainment and that evening what we believe to be the fastest awards ceremony in NGRA history! In one hour we handed out all the ribbons and buckles and even drew out a couple of raffles! Congratulations to all of our winners. Thank you to Mitch Gill, our emcee, as well as Lorry, John and Aaron for keeping us organized, and Hamburger Mary's for providing the space and cute waiters! We look forward to all of your continued support for this 2005 rodeo year and seeing all of you back next year for the 10th BigHorn Rodeo! It's only 11 months away... time to start planning! As always, “save a horse, ride a cowboy!”

On March 19th, your NGRA President John Gomes and I, NGRA's First Lady Aaron Stanford, (AKA Page Diamond) had our benefit show for St. Therese, Just a Little bit Country, and a Little Bit Rock and Roll. The turn out ended up being a wonderful success and we've raised \$920.00.... There's no way that this could have happened as it did without the support of our local community organizations, such as the Imperial Court, MCC, Sin City Leather, Badlands Saloon and our supporting members of NGRA.

Note To The Performers: As I stated in your invitations, I will before, during, and then after, as I am now, with all of John's and my heart, want to Thank You for your time!!!!

My food for thought: Our gay community isn't made up of one group or organization. It's made up of very diverse people with many ideas that I feel have joined together in the form of many organizations. And with these groups we have been able to give back to the community, even outside of our own. As we grow and work "TOGETHER", we become stronger, which helps us to create great things for everyone's future!

Thank You!
Aaron Stanford
 NGRA's First Lady

Thanks to the members of the RPC for their work all year long to make this rodeo a success:

Assistant Director – Jeff Bengston
 Assistant Director – Richard Schlegel
 Dance Coordinator – Lorry King
 Entertainment Coordinator – Miss Frankie & Miss Kitty Litter (Assistant)
 Art & Marketing – Bill Watkins
 Awards Presentation – John Gomes, Lorry King, Aaron Stanford, Royalty
 Bar Crawl – Miss Frankie
 Barn Managers – Chris Due & Richard Armstrong
 Beverage Manager – Chuck Wilson
 Buckles & Ribbons – Richard Armstrong
 Finance Team – John Gomes, Richard Schlegel, Lorry King, Winsor Cooper III
 Grand Entry Team – Ricki Carrisquillo, Kevin Marienfeld, Brian Rogers
 Merchandise – Jerry Rosenberg
 Registration – Mike Windsor & Angel Negron
 RPC Secretary & Office Manager – Laurie Banks
 Security Manager – David Murie
 Sponsorship Team – Brian Rogers & Lynn Crane
 Tickets & Scrip – David Hays
 Vendor Coordinator – Frank Gardner
 Volunteer Coordinator – Ken Wells
 Volunteer Party Coordinator – Kevin Marienfeld

NGRA Salutes It's Rodeo Volunteers

Many thanks to the many Volunteers that made this year's Rodeo possible. Remember that we want to show you our appreciation by hosting a social event in your honor. Please attend the Volunteer Party on Saturday, June 4 at 3:00 PM at the Vegas Sands Ranch. Hayrides, Games, Raffles, Prizes, Dancing, Food, and Beverages from our sponsors will all be part of this fun event. You worked hard for us... now come party with us and receive our thanks for a job well done.



I.G.R.A. RODEO/EVENT SCHEDULE RODEO YEAR 2005 JANUARY 1, 2005 – DECEMBER 31, 2005

EVENT	LOCATION	DATES
Rodeo Wichita	Wichita	May 13–15, 2005
Comstock Stampede	Reno	May 13–15, 2005
Great Plains Rodeo	Oklahoma City	May 27–29, 2005
Zia Regional Rodeo	Albuquerque	June 17–19, 2005
North Star Regional Rodeo	Minneapolis/St. Paul	July 1–3, 2005
Canadian Rockies Int'l Rodeo	Calgary	July 1–3, 2005
Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo	Denver	July 8–10, 2005
Southern Spurs Rodeo	Atlanta	July 22–24, 2005
LA Rodeo 2005	Los Angeles	August 5–7, 2005
Windy City Rodeo	Chicago	August 26–28, 2005
MGRA Show Me State Rodeo	Kansas City	September 2–4, 2005
Atlantic Stampede 2005	Washington, DC	September 9–11, 2005
San Francisco Bay Area Gay Rodeo	San Francisco	September 16–18, 2005
Space City Rodeo	Houston	September 30–October 2, 2005
21st Annual Convention	Calgary	October 20–23, 2005
International Dance Competition	Calgary	October 22, 2005
19th Annual Finals Rodeo	Dallas	November 11–13, 2005

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May 2005For times, locations, and more detail please visit the ngra web calendar at www.ngra.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Fund Rasing Meetings	6	7
8	9 RPC meeting The Center	10	11	12	13 Wichita Rodeo Reno Rodeo	14 Wichita Rodeo Reno Rodeo Helldorado Parade
15 Wichita Rodeo Reno Rodeo	16	17 NGRA Board Meeting	18	19	20	21 NGRA General Membership Meeting Boxer Contest & Show at Badlands
22	23	24	25	26	27 Great Plains Rodeo OKC	28 Great Plains Rodeo OKC
29 Great Plains Rodeo OKC	30	31				

BIGHORN RODEO – BARN MANAGERS' REPORT

Richard Armstrong – Barn Manager

Chris Due – Co-Barn Manager

Deb Freeman – Barn Manager Volunteer

Bighorn Rodeo 9 was a great success for horse contestants. This year there was only a slight rain that was just enough to keep the dust down and temperatures cool on Saturday... nothing like Bighorn Rodeo 8 where we were teaching our horses the breast-stroke in the barn alleys. As usual, we had several contestants camping at the grounds. We are happy to report there were no accidents and no water line breaks. Brian can breathe easy this year! Richard and Chris would like to send a HUGE THANK YOU to Deb Freeman and the ladies of GSGRA who stayed on the grounds to make sure someone was always there! Thanks Deb, Karen, Cathy, Dianne, and Petie. Without you this wouldn't have gone so smooth. We would also like to thank Gary Belitza, Deb Freeman,

Karen Beavers, Richard Armstrong, and Jeff Burke for the use of their trailers for the Barn Managers to stay in and work out of all weekend long. Also a big THANK YOU to Richard Armstrong for jumping on his golf cart and tracking down every contestant to make sure that all monies were paid in full by the awards ceremony. Not only did Richard make sure the contestants were in order, but he also made sure that the Clark County employees were in order as well. He was constantly in contact with them to make sure that our stall count was correct. Way to go Richard! Thank you to all of the RPC who helped produce a great rodeo and bring us back strong! NGRA might get knocked down... but we won't go without a fight. Especially not us FHP's. We look forward to the 10th BigHorn Rodeo next year!

FRIENDS AND FANS AT



CELEBRATE NGRA MEMBER BIRTHDAYS FOR MAY

Johann Kristinsson	May 1
Aaron Willman	May 1
Angel Negron	May 2
Randy Parker	May 2
Michael Hayward	May 4
Ben Carvalho	May 9
Dennis James	May 19
Paul Scott	May 21
Duane Freeman	May 29



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