



Big Horn Gazette

December 2005 ISSUE

**NGRA wishes
all of you a
wonderful
Holiday
Season**



INTRODUCING NGRA ROYALTY TEAM 2006



PICTURED FROM
LEFT TO RIGHT

- Ms. NGRA , Ann Marie "Cookie" Grigsby
- Miss NGRA First Runner Up, Blanche Devahoe
(Paul McAlister-Cameron)
- Miss NGRA, Melissa Lorence (Lawrence Guerra)
- Mr. NGRA , Joe Cervantes
- Mr. NGRA First Runner Up, Ken Wells
- Mr. NGRA Second Runner Up, Terry Holder

Trustee's Report

Lorry King

The big event in November for me was IGRA Finals in Dallas, as I was out of town and unable to attend our Royalty Pageant. However, I was surrounded by royalty in Dallas, as I was the auditor for the IGRA Royalty Pageant. It was very exciting to be one of only two people who knew the results, so now you know I can really keep a secret!

NGRA was well represented in Dallas, as Bill Watkins, Brian Rogers, Ken Wells, CJ Follansbee, Rowena Hardin, Robert Salcedo, Lawrence Guerra, and Joe Cervantes were there as well. Even former NGRA Rodeo Director Laura Scott was present and worked as a rodeo timer. We all watched the Royalty Pageant and Step-Downs, as well as Finals. Lawrence was given a special mention on stage by

Pussy LaHoot, Miss IGRA 2005. I was interviewed on camera by Hero Unit regarding dance in IGRA, so we'll see if that ends up on the cutting room floor! I also worked as Assistant Rodeo Secretary for the Finals Rodeo and had a wonderful vantage point in the announcer's booth at the Resistol Arena in Mesquite. The rodeo was fast paced and exciting and ran very smoothly.

The awards ceremony was very special for our contestant Robert Salcedo. Finals wasn't one of his best rodeos, as he only came in seventh in goat dressing on Saturday; however, he was surprised and pleased to be the recipient of the IGRA 2005 Rookie of the Year buckle! Way to go Robert. We are all VERY proud of you!!



**Story and
more pictures
on page 3**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brian Rogers

This is my last newsletter communication to you this year. It seems like only yesterday that John Gomes was president and we were getting ready for BigHorn Rodeo 2005. A lot has happened since then. John and Aaron moved to the Oklahoma Territory (to start a chicken ranch, I think) and your new Board of Directors took office in July. We have worked hard to grow the organization and improve the way we do business. I hope you will agree that a lot has been accomplished.

First, I want to wish congratulations to the new Royalty Team for 2006. The pageant at Gispy was awesome and the competition was fierce. Miss Frankie staged a first-class production and the event was well-attended by current and past members and many community leaders. All of our contestants were winners and will serve as our ambassadors on the IGRA circuit and for all of our exciting events in 2006. Look for pictures of our new Royalty Team in this newsletter.

Hopefully you have all received your Membership Renewal Notice and Membership Survey in the mail. Please take a moment to complete and return the survey. Your Board of Directors is interested in your feedback on ways to better serve you. Of course, don't forget to renew your membership as well!

After the holidays, we will be focusing on hosting IGRA University, February 17-19, 2006, at The Plaza Hotel. This is going to be a great event for IGRA, and NGRA is proud to be the host. We expect a couple of hundred of IGRA's best and brightest to come learn about rodeo production, royalty, and association development. IGRA-U will also be holding a Rodeo School in Phoenix on Thursday, January 12 (rough stock and camp events), and Friday, January 13 (roping and speed events). This leads right into Road Runner Regional Rodeo, so people interested in learning to compete can plan to travel to Phoenix a couple of days early.

The Rodeo Planning Committee will also kick into high gear early next year to plan and stage our 10th Anniversary BigHorn Rodeo, which will take place October 5-8, 2006. We are excited to be working with our new host hotel, The Riviera, and have big plans for the evening parties there.

If you missed the November General Membership meeting, you missed an important announcement. John King and Boan Jordon addressed the membership announcing the completion of their purchase of Backstreet. Charlie's - Las Vegas will open December 9 after a short closure for minor remodeling. Boan has been a member since May and owners John King and Wayne Jakino have joined as well. Charlie's - Las Vegas is joining NGRA as a corporate member. John and Boan expressed a desire to work closely with NGRA in support of the western lifestyle and gay rodeo, and intend to be involved in supporting our community. We are all excited about the prospects for the future. Welcome to Las Vegas!!!

I want to take a moment to thank all the hard working NGRA members who have given so much of themselves these past months. Running a large organization of volunteer members is a challenge and it is the dedication of these special people that have allowed us to be so successful. I am proud to work along side you in this great organization.

Finally, I want to wish each of you a very special holiday season. Be happy, be kind and be safe!

Save a Horse...



CELEBRATE NGRA MEMBERS' DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Gary Mendyka | December 2 |
| Jerry Rosenberg | December 18 |
| Tonya Valenti | December 21 |
| Joe Caron | December 24 |
| Tony Daniels | December 24 |
| Jeff Bunting | December 28 |
| Brady Hollifield | December 29 |

NGRA Pageant Report

Miss Frankie Miss NGRA 2001/2004

Hello everyone.

What a fantastic weekend it was for NGRA and the community. We now officially have our 2006 Royalty Team and it is my pleasure to announce the placement of that team.

Ms. NGRA, Ann Marie "Cookie" Grigsby

Mr. NGRA, Joe Cervantes

Mr. NGRA First Runner Up, Ken Wells

Mr. NGRA Second Runner Up

Terry Holder

Miss NGRA, Melissa Lorence

(Lawrence Guerra)

Miss NGRA First Runner Up, Blanche

Devahoe (Paul McAlister-Cameron)

These very fine individuals worked very hard to prepare for the entire weekend, and I must say how wonderful each and everyone looked and presented themselves to a wonderful group of judges. This team has made history by raising a combined total of over \$4,300.00 for the charities of their choice over the last two months through their can drive. CONGRATULATIONS!! The team was treated to a pre pageant show at Badlands where many past royalty and aspirants to the Imperial Court throne were on hand to entertain the contestants on a night before the big day. Saturday morning the contestants and judges all showed up on time to begin the hardest part of the contest, which is the personal interview and community spirit portion. That evening the stars of Las Vegas were out at Gypsy to usher out and thank the 2005 team and bring on the 2006 team.

The fabulous host for the evening was the very lively Miss Kitty Litter. She had everyone in stitches as usual. Many community leaders and representatives were in attendance. The highlight was the presentation of the 10 Year Anniversary team from 1996 Mr. Mark Schuetz, Mr. NGRA 1996, was represented by his loving partner Tim. Tim received a buckle for Mark that was pre-

sented by the board of directors. Tim graciously returned the buckle to the board of NGRA for a permanent display in Mark's honor. We had Annette White with us from Phoenix to receive her buckle, and the very lovely and wonderful Miss Jessica James (Blaine Woodie) who looked stunning, to receive her ten-year anniversary crown. A very special thanks to all that performed for the 2005 team. You were all wonderful.

Sunday came all too quickly as everyone gathered for a victory brunch at Rainbow Lounge with the talented and lovely Valerie James, Thank you, Valerie, for your fabulous gift of music.

This weekend was dedicated to our wonderful rodeo family members whom we lost this past year: Mr. Rafael Navarre and Mark Schuetz. We will miss you both.

I want to give special thanks again to Badlands, Gypsy and Rainbow Lounge for all their support and the wonderful venues provided for this year's pageant. Thank you to everyone who helped in preparing pageant, The League of Gentleman for a wonderful color presentation, Head Judge John Kingston and his entire panel of judges, Mother Laurie, Johnnie Lingo, and Kurtis Veatter for auditing, Dave Murie and Winsor Cooper for stage set up, Bill Watkins for the fantastic program, John Eisele and Fred Crescente for singing the U.S. and Canadian national anthems, and a big thank you to Miss Kitty Litter for her wonderful assistance with the pageant. I could not have done it without you.

Please join me in congratulating our 2005 team for a job well done and a big welcome to the new 2006 team. Remember to have fun, don't take yourselves too seriously and raise as much money as you can for those less fortunate than yourself. Until next year.



**More photos of the
Pageant and the
Victory Brunch on page 4**

2006 royalty and guests at Gipsy and Rainbow Lounge



2006 Membership Renewals and Survey

By now you should have received your renewal notice for membership dues for 2006 and a membership survey. **Dues payments must be received by NGRA no later than January 31, 2006**, to avoid late fees or lapse in membership. You may be mail, online using Paypal, or in person at one of NGRA's events. With your notice you also received a membership survey that will help the membership committee determine what kinds of activities the membership would like to participate, what can

be done to improve the value of your NGRA membership, and demographics information that will be helpful as we promote NGRA to other organizations and potential sponsors and supporters. Your participation in this survey is very important, so fill it out and return it as soon as possible. If you have any questions, you can email Winsor Cooper at ngravolunteers@aol.com. Thank you for your continued support of NGRA and participation in making it your rodeo association.

Member of the Year 2005 Nominations Now Being Accepted.

The NGRA wishes to recognize members by naming a Member of the Year who has made exceptional contributions to the NGRA within the calendar year. All members of the month for the year will automatically be included on the ballot. Additional nominations may be submitted by NGRA members. Members of the year so far for 2005 are Laurie Banks, Jeff Bengston, Jeff Bunting, Joe Cervantes, Tom Coleman, Lynne Crane, Lawrence Guerra, Kevin Hall, David Hayes, Eric Hudson, Gary Mendyka, Jeffrey Neal, Angel Negron, Richard Schlegel, Bill Watkins, Ken Wells, and Mike Windsor. *If you would like to nominate someone else, please submit his/her name and reason for nomination to vicepresident@ngra.com, by mail to Richard Schlegel at NGRA,*

P.O. Box 96055, Las Vegas, NV 89193, or turn in your nominations at one of our events or shows to Richard or one of the other board members. All nominations must be received by December 31, 2005, in order to be included. Ballots will be mailed out in February and the Member of the Year recognized at an event in March 2006. When considering a nominee, please keep in mind that they must currently be a member in good standing of NGRA, that the accomplishments for which they are being nominated occurred primarily in 2005, and that they what they contributed to NGRA is beyond what would be responsibilities performed as a board member, member of the royalty team, or in an appointed position.

NGRA Association Buckle

Jewelry Quality Rodeo Buckle
Crafted by GIST Silversmiths,
makers of the finest rodeo award
buckles in the world



These beautiful buckles are
available for the purchase price of

\$125

call the rodeo hotline a
888-643 NGRA or
you can also buy online.
www.ngra.com



I.G.R.A. RODEO/EVENT SCHEDULE RODEO YEAR 2006

**JANUARY 1, 2006 –
DECEMBER 31, 2006**

**For more detail information on
these events you may go to**

**[http://igra.com/Calendar_Rodeo.
htm#top2006](http://igra.com/Calendar_Rodeo.htm#top2006)**

EVENT

Road Runner Rodeo
IGRA University
Cowtown Rodeo
Sunshine Stampede
Rodeo in the Rock
San Diegp Rodeo
Gateway Regional Rodeo
Heartland Rodeo
Great Plains Rodeo
North Star Regional Rodeo
Canadian Rockies International
Rocky Mountain Regional
Alamo City Rodeo
LA Rodeo
Zia Regional Rodeo
Windy City Rodeo
MGRA Show Me State Rodeo
Atlantic Sampede 2006
Bay Area Gay Rodeo
BigHorn Rodeo
IGRA Annual Convention
IGRA International Dance Competition
IGRA Finals Rodeo

LOCATION

Phoenix, AZ
Las Vegas, NV
Fort Worth, TX
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Little Rock, AK
Lakeside, CA
St. Louis, MO
Omaha, NB
Oklahoma City, OK
Minneapolis- St. Paul
Calgary, Alberta
Denver, Colorado
San Antonio, TX
Los Angeles, CA
Albuquerque, NM
Chicago, IL
Kansas City, MO.
Washington, DC
San Francisco, CA
Las Vegas, NV
Nashville, TN
Nashville, TN
Reno, NV

DATES

January 13 -15, 2006
February 17 - 19, 2006
March 3 -5, 2006
April 7 - 9, 2006
April 28 -30, 2006
April 28 -30, 2006
May 5 - 7, 2006
May 19 -21, 2006
May 26 - 28, 2006
June 30- July 2, 2006
June 30 -July 2, 2006
July 7 - 9, 2006
August 4 - 6, 2006
August 4 - 6, 2006
August 18 - 20, 2006
August 25 - 27, 2006
September 7 - 3, 2006
September 8 - 10,2006
September 15 -18, 2006
October 6 - 8,2006
October 19 - 22, 2006
October 19 - 22, 2006
November 10 -12, 2006

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|---------|-----------|----------|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Rodeo Planning Committee meeting at The Center 6:30 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 The Center's Annual Tree & Wreath Auction, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., at The Center |
| 11 | 12 NGRA Board Meeting The Center 6:30 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 NGRA Christmas Show Toys for Kids Spotlight 9:00 | 17 NGRA Country Christmas Badlands 9:00 NGRA General Membership Meeting, |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 NGRA & Charlie's Las Vegas Celebrating the epic "Brokeback Mountain" 9:00PM at Charlie's Las Vegas | 31 |

A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

WITH

**BADLANDS
SALOON
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 17TH**



Events starts at 9:00 PM

**Entertainment from NGRA
2006 Royalty Team and Guest
\$1.00 Jell-O Shots
Sensational Raffle Prizes
\$5.00 Bud Light
Beer Bust**





PRESENTS

TOYS FOR KIDS TODAY

A CHRISTMAS SHOW

Benefiting Golden Rainbow and St. Therese Center

Friday, December 16
Spotlight Lounge

Time: 9pm

Beer Bust : 9pm - Midnight

Raffle Tickets and Auction

Please bring TOYS for KIDS who may need a little joy this season.



BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

Love is a force of nature



NGRA and Charlie's - Las Vegas
present a special evening

Celebrating the epic

BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

Friday, Dec. 30 - 9 PM

At Charlie's (formerly Backstreet)

- Get your special advance screening passes
- Movie Soundtrack and poster giveaways
- Enter to win a poster signed by the cast
- View the trailer and hear the soundtrack

"Ang Lee's unmissable and unforgettable *Brokeback Mountain* hits you like a shot in the heart. It's a landmark film and a triumph for Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal, who bring deep reserves of feeling to this defiantly erotic love story about two Wyoming ranch hands and the external and internal forces that drive them from desire to denial"

Peter Travers - Rolling Stone

In select Las Vegas theaters January 6.

www.brokebackmountain.com



Verve Forecast invites you to celebrate the release of *Brokeback Mountain - Original Motion Picture Soundtrack*

featuring the moving original score from Gustavo Santaolalla (*The Motorcycle Diaries*) and new songs from Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris, Rufus Wainwright, Teddy Thompson and more. Soundtrack in stores now.

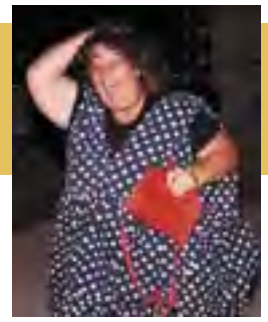
FOCUS
FEATURES

NGRA

Charlie's
Las Vegas

VERVE
FORECAST

Photos from Harvest Hoedown 2005



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