



Big Horn Gazette

JANUARY 2008 ISSUE

PASSING THE TORCH

By Lorry King



Yes, its time to pass the torch on. Not the Olympic torch; that will be passed in Beijing in August, but our small, imaginary, NGRA Trustee torch. On January 1, it was passed form me to Brian Rogers, where I know it will rest safely.

Although I started my term as NGRA Trustee in 2005, I was Alternate Trustee at rodeos, conventions, and IGRA Board meetings 11 times during 2002-2004. So I've been to more than my share of meetings, made numerous motions, and for those of you who know me, you won't be surprised to know I've spoken up countless times on issues to be decided. NGRA isn't the first non-profit organization I've been involved with or been an officer for, so I was no stranger to meetings when I started. In addition, I was a Federal Manager for many years, and believe me; we feds can talk a subject to death! But I must say that I really felt a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie in both NGRA and IGRA. I truly believe that beneath all the talk and rules, both organizations are made up of people who truly want to give back to their community. Not just the gay community, although that is important, but to anyone in need, especially children and those with health problems. I have been proud to have served, in a small way, to further these goals and ask all of you to keep the charity aspect of our organization in mind. Yes, we have fun and meet new people, but when you're wishing a meeting would end, or are working your butt off at the rodeo in the heat, remember that the end result is money! Money that can be donated to organizations who serve people in need, and maybe to some of our own members.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Trustee, and please give Brian the respect and help you always gave me.

NEW GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Our General Membership Meetings have changed their time and place. We will now have our GMM at The GLBT Center, in Commercial Center, the third Monday of each month, at 6:30pm. January's meeting will be on the 21st.

As most of you know, several months ago, a survey was taken online, sent to all members, asking them when and where they would like to have out GMM. Of all those who responded, a large majority said they would prefer the meeting to be held once again at The Center, and on Monday evenings. We believe this move will make our GMM more productive, well attended, and generate more conversation and involvement all around. If you wish to become more involved with NGRA outside of our monthly events, the GMM is a great place to start. For more information contact any board member.



- | | |
|--------------|------|
| Ted Caldwell | 1/1 |
| Ken Wells | 1/6 |
| Jeffrey Neal | 1/10 |
| Bill Trunzo | 1/15 |
| Frank Feliz | 1/24 |

EDITOR'S LETTER

Eddy Krien

Happy New Year and welcome to NGRA in 2008! 2007 was an eventful year, full of new beginnings, losses, challenges and rewards. We started out the year rather routinely, but then mourned the loss of the community's Russ Mowery. We were privileged to know him, and stand behind his memory with his life partner, and NGRA member Chris Due.

Spring also brought new energy back with a highly successful Miss Closet Ball (after the previous year's lack of contestants), as well as a memorable Miss Cow Patty Contest. Both of these contests are still a burst of fun enthusiasm and positively benefiting NGRA.

A new board of directors took the reigns in June. Many of us traveled to other cities for rodeos throughout the year, and established members and newer members worked together to bring off a highly successful BigHorn Rodeo. October saw us heavily involved with the IGRA Denver Finals and Royalty Competition. Tom Coleman, our Mr. NGRA 2007 competed, and made us proud. The first time in a long time that NGRA had a royalty member take part. Despite the challenges and differences among us, we took home the IGRA 'Spirit Stick', thanks to the joint efforts of Tom, Darren Wernette, and the entire membership which made our presence known at out of town rodeos. We moved into the holiday season, still processing the events of the last few months, but in the end, we saw our way clear to profitable Christmas fundraisers. We end 2007 thanking Lorry King for her years of service to NGRA as Trustee, and look forward to the

experience and insight past president Brian Rogers will bring to the position.

When all is wrapped up, we will have the honor of presenting a check for \$15,000 to The Las Vegas GLBT Center, which are the proceeds from our 2007 rodeo. This was truly a group effort, and as anyone involved will tell you, it had it's bumpy spots. Ultimately it is about working as a team, supporting each other, despite differences, trusting each in each others new ideas, as well as proven experience, working out differences, listening, and respect. In the end, thanks to everyone involved, we came through this successfully. I have every faith that we will move on and remember why we are involved with NGRA and keep that our focus towards a successful 2008.

Some important upcoming events to things to remember... Phoenix Road Runner Rodeo is January 18th to 20th. Please join the several of us traveling down to support them. Board President Shaun Sewell has received notice of those interested in the vacant Secretary position on the board. He will be making his recommendation and the board will be voting a new secretary in at the next board meeting. NGRA Royalty Candidate Show... Friday, February 1st. February will bring our next Royalty Competition on Friday, February 22nd. That weekend NGRA will also be honored to host the annual IGRA University, when anyone interested in learning more about the operation, business, and sport of rodeo is invited to attend classes, and volunteer.

It's been my pleasure be part of NGRA over the past year, and 2008 holds every good promise for us.

Come to our Country



Saturday January 26th

Event starts at 9 PM

BUD LIGHT \$5 BEER BUST

▶ **RAFFLE PRIZES**

COUNTRY JELL-O SHOTS

▶ **COUNTRY GAMES**

Proceeds Benefit NGRA and BigHorn Rodeo

TRUSTEE REPORT

Brian Rogers

2008 is finally here and NGRA is gearing up for another busy year of education, fundraising, rodeo and social activities. January is my first month as your new Trustee. I want to thank Lorry King for her exemplary service during her three-year term and for her help in getting me ready to step in. Lorry is widely admired in IGRA and has done NGRA proud. I have BIG boots to fill and I'm grateful that she has offered the guidance and advice I may need to ensure continuity.

Some of you may wonder what exactly the job of the Association Trustee is as the title is not very descriptive. The Trustee's job is to represent the Association at the IGRA level and is responsible for attending IGRA Board meetings and for serving as a conduit for information and communication between the Association and IGRA. Each Trustee has one vote on the IGRA Board, which meets four times a year. As with NGRA, the IGRA Board conducts the business of the organization and sets rules for Association membership, rodeo dates, approves contracts and investigates and rules on rodeo contestant protests of various kinds and generally provides the framework that allows our "rodeo circuit" to exist.

In addition to my role as Trustee and also in Lorry's footsteps, I was elected to the IGRA Executive Board to represent Division I. The IGRA Executive Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and one Trustee from each of the four Divisions. The Executive Board has broader powers to run the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Finally I am excited that I was selected as a member of the new multi-year IGRA Finals Committee. As such, I will be serving as Assistant Finals Rodeo Director in 2008 and 2009 and as Finals Rodeo Director in 2010. 2008 marks the first year that IGRA will be taking on the responsibility for

staging and financing IGRA Finals. Each Association has been asked to contribute to the event based on their expertise. NGRA will be handling the National Marketing of Finals in 2008. The idea is for the Associations to take ownership and pride in the production of our premier annual event. 2008 Finals will again be in Denver, and then we move to Albuquerque in 2009. The 2010 Finals location has not been decided.

AGRA is conducting their annual rodeo school January 17 & 18 just prior to Road Runner Regional Rodeo, which takes place that weekend on the 19th and 20th. RRRR is a perennial favorite for Las Vegans. The rodeo school is a great opportunity for any members interested in learning to compete. Additional information can be found at www.igra.com.

Rest up after RRRR, because in February, all eyes turn to Las Vegas where NGRA is hosting IGRA University at the Tuscan. NGRA members have an enviable opportunity to take advantage of over 30 different classes covering subjects like rodeo production, Association development, website development, community service, rodeo announcing and dance. A complete listing of class offerings with descriptions can be found on the IGRA website. Each class instructor is an expert recruited from the best that IGRA has to offer. We have a HUGE weekend of events planned. In addition to University classes, we're staging the NGRA Royalty competition, a public dance and hosting the IGRA Board of Directors meeting that weekend as well. Look for a complete schedule of events in this newsletter.

Hats off to a great 2008 for NGRA and all our members out there! I hope I get to meet each and every one of you in the coming months.

Save a Horse....

2008 ROYALTY CONTESTANT FUNDRAISING EVENT

Join all the
2008 NGRA
Royalty
Contestant's
at Charlie's
February 1st
Event
starts at
9:30 PM

The contestants
Team Up for
one combined
fundraiser!

Membership Renewal Time!

It's that time of year again. NGRA memberships expire on January 31st. If you wish to renew your membership, you'll need to mail or email your renewal form and \$24.00 membership fee by that date. Membership forms went out to all members last month.

We look forward to a great year of fundraising and another wonderful rodeo, but we can't do this without your help. If you've been an active member, thank you so very much. If you have not been able to participate as much, we hope this will be the year you can join us more often. Every bit of participation, volunteer time, and attendance is truly appreciated. If you have questions about membership or volunteering, please contact Winsor Cooper at ngravolunteers@aol.com

Happy New Year, NGRA!

*Darren Wernette
Mr. NGRA 2007, 1st Runner Up.*

I trust that you all had a wonderful holiday. Now it's time to get to work on 2008, continuing to make NGRA the best that it can be!

A big responsibility of your NGRA royalty team is raising funds, alongside the fundraising coordinator. This can seem like a thankless job that never seems to end. Coming up with creative and innovative ideas to raise funds has become a challenge. This is where I'd like to ask that you all collectively try to come up with fun ways to raise money for our BigHorn Rodeo.

NGRA currently has over 160 members. I know there is a lot of talent and opportunity out there. Please help us come up with ideas. Help us come up with prizes and reasons for the Las Vegas community to come out to our fundraisers. No idea is too small and anything that you can donate or get donated will be put to good use. Quite frankly, we are feeling a little tapped out, and any and all assistance is appreciated.

Thanks for anything you can do to help us out. Contact me at flabuzz@cox.net or Tom Coleman at silverfoxtc@hotmail.com and we'll put your ideas to work. Better yet, we'll put YOU to work!

NGRA Royalty 2008 Competition is being held the weekend of February 21 - 23

The Titles will be awarded
Friday February 22
at Charlie's Las Vegas

It's Royalty Competition Time!

January 18th-20th

ROAD RUNNER REGIONAL

RODIEO 2008

www.agra-phx.com

Rodeo Hotline 602-265-8166



Rawhide at Wild Horse Pass
Gila River Indian Community



SOUTHERN COMFORT



Charles
Phoenix





NGRA

WILD 'N WOOLY WODEO

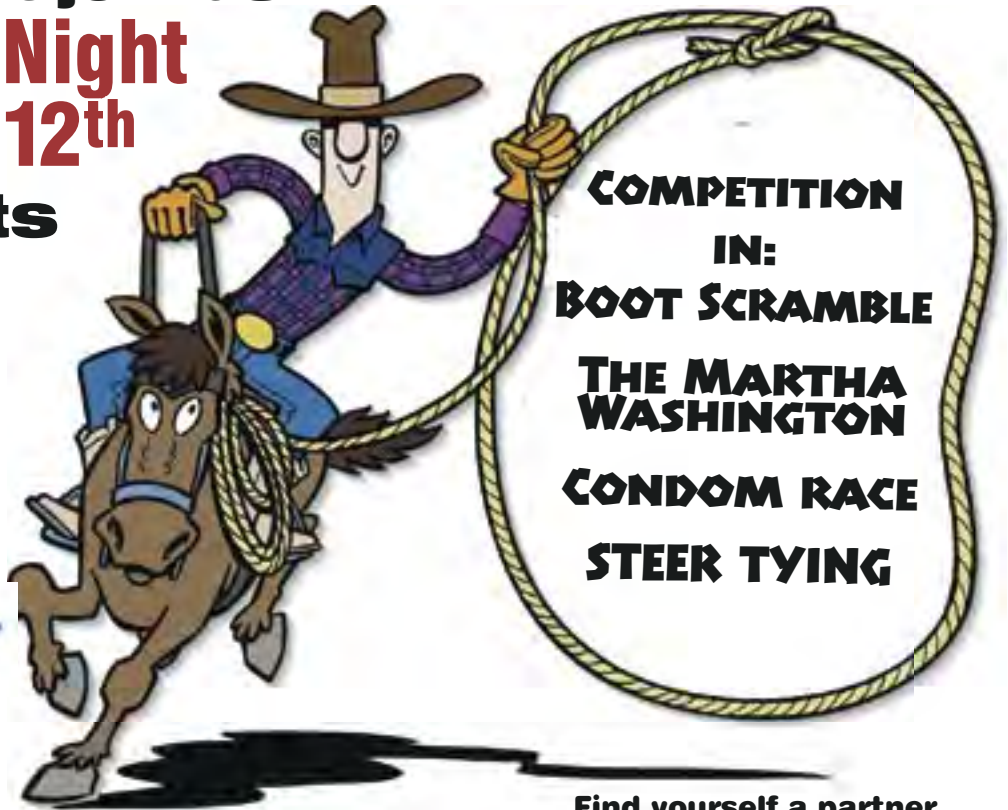
at
Charlie's
Las Vegas

For some hilariously funny entertainment join us

**Saturday Night
January 12th**

**Event starts
at 9:30**

Become a rodeo contestant
in the antics of
"Wild 'N Wooly Wodeo".
You may win a ribbon or a
wonderful prize.
Come join in the fun!



**COMPETITION
IN:
BOOT SCRAMBLE
THE MARTHA
WASHINGTON
CONDOM RACE
STEER TYING**



**Bud Light \$5 beer bust
starts at 9:00**

**Find yourself a partner
and take a spin around
the dance floor**

Proceeds Benefit NGRA BigHorn Rodeo



Dancing In The Desert

**Saturday,
February 23**

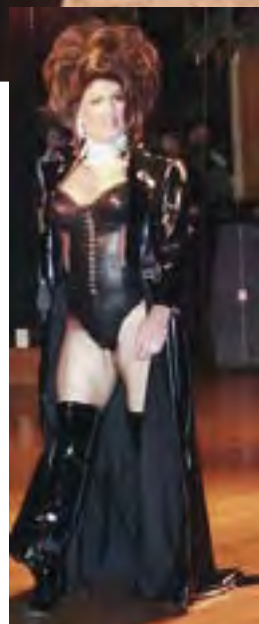
**Dance Classes
9 AM to 5 PM
5.00 all day**

**Evening Dance
No cover
8:00 PM
Tuscany Hotel**

Join NGRA, through the International Gay Rodeo Association University, in a day of Country-Western dance classes and a night of dancing at the Tuscany Suites Hotel and Casino. Classes include Two-Step, Waltz, Line Dance and Competition Prep for Beginners, all taught by IGRA Dance Champions. Learn some new moves that you can use that night at the dance or the next day at our local clubs! Classes are from 9:00 to 5:00 on Saturday, February 23 in Florentine Room D on the second floor of the Tuscany. Register that day and pay only \$5.00 for any and all dance classes! Then join us that night at 8:00 for a dance with No Cover Charge where you can put those new moves to work! The night will include Jack and Jill and Line Dance Competitions. For a detailed explanation of the classes, go to igra.com and click on "University".



VIEWS OF 2007





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	5
6	7	8	9 Fundraising Meeting 6:30	10	11 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	12 Wild and Wooly Wodeo at Charlie's
13	14 NGRA Board Meeting at The Center 6:30 PM	15	16	17	18 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	19
20	21 General Member- ship meeting 6:30 RPC Meeting following	22	23	24	25 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	26 NGRA Event at Badlands 9:30 PM
27	28	29	30	31		



**WE
WANT
YOU**

**Vounteers needed
to help Sell
HOT DOGS!**

We are averaging a couple hundred dollars each week for NGRA with this fundraiser. We will be selling hot chocolate and other goodies when it gets cooler.

All it takes is a health card and if you need assistance with that, Contact me...

Tom Coleman at 276-8246.

Shifts are only 2 1/2 hours each.

NGRA Association Buckle

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

\$120

These beautiful buckles
are available for the purchase
online. www.ngra.com
www.ngra.com



I.G.R.A. RODEO/EVENT SCHEDULE RODEO YEAR 2008

For more detail information on these events you may go to
http://igra.com/Calendar_Rodeo.htm#top2007



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Jan. 18-20	Road Runner Regional	Phoenix, AZ
Feb. 22-24	IGRA University *	Las Vegas, NV
Feb. 29 -March 2	Cowtown Rodeo	Fort Worth, TX
April 4-6	Sunshine Stampede	Fort Lauderdale, FL
May 2-4	Hot Rodeo 2008	Palm Springs, CA
May 9-11	Liberty Stampede	Philadelphia, PA
May 23-25	Great Plains Rodeo *	Oklahoma City, OK
June 20-22	LA Rodeo	Los Angeles, CA
June 27-29	Canadian Rockies International Rodeo	Calgary, Alberta
July 4-6	North Star Regional Rodeo	Menneapolis-St. Paul, MN
July 11-13	Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo	Denver, CO
July 25-27	Capital Crossroads Rodeo	Sacramento, CA
Aug. 15-17	More Bucks by the Bay Rodeo	San Francisco, CA
Aug. 15-17	Zia Regional Rodeo	Albuquerque, NM
Aug. 22-24	Windy City Rodeo *	Chicago, IL
Aug. 29-31	MGRA Show Me State Rodeo	Kansas City, MO
Sept. 5-7	Atlantic Stampede 2008	Washington, DC
Sept. 12-14	Greater San Diego Rodeo	San Diego, CA
Sept. 19-21	BigHorn Rodeo	Las Vegas, NV
Oct. 10-12	IGRA Finals Rodeo	Denver, CO
TBA	IGRA 24th Annual Convention	*

* indicates a BOD Meeting to be held.



JOHN HAGGERTY'S "LITTLE SOMETHING" TO HIS FARMERS® AGENT FOR SETTING HIM UP WITH AUTO, LIFE AND HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE.

They say nothing says "I love you" like flowers. Good thing I have a high tolerance for pollen. You see – when you go above and beyond to help your customers, they can't help but express their gratitude. So whether it's car or home; or car, home and life; or RV, watercraft and business; or life, motorcycle and...well, you get the picture—I am committed to getting you the right coverage. If you'd like to feel the love too, please contact me today and let's chat – insurance, flowers or otherwise.



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ROYALTY COLUMN

By Tom Coleman

Well the year is closing in fast and what a year 2007 was. We completed the 2007 rodeo season, finals are over and here it is January already and off to Phoenix to start 2008. Having our Royalty year extended a few more months has given Darren and I good opportunities to make more friendships.

Between the 2 of us I think we probably went to about 10 or 12 IGRA rodeos this past year. It has been a great year, and though we've had our ups and downs, the positives far outweigh the negatives.

This past year I've had the opportunity to serve in the timing in the booth and have really come to enjoy it. I will be a timer at the Road Runner Regional Rodeo. I also hope to become a certified scorekeeper and stay fully involved in rodeo.

Darren has decided to run for Mr. NGRA for 2008. I wish him and all the other candidates the best in the competition. I was asked to run again myself but even this old man needs to take some time off.

I will say my goodbyes next month but for now, please support all rodeo functions this year as much as you can. We have several fundraisers coming up in the next 6 weeks and don't forget IGRA University in February. Please make any effort you can to attend.

Take care, wishing you all a Happy New Year and the best of health to you all. God Bless and let's RODEO!



2008

WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, February 21, 2008

- NGRA Royalty Competition: Interview & Spirit and Community Service Segments 5PM-8PM – The Center
- 4PM – 6PM: IGRA Finals Committee meeting: The Tuscany Rotunda
- "Back To School Bash" 9PM – 11PM– hosted by Melissa Lorence: Party and Fundraiser featuring Las Vegas Celebrities, NGRA Royalty Contestants and Out of Town Royalty –Badlands

Friday, February 22, 2008

- 8:30AM – 9:45AM: IGRA Executive Board Meeting
- 10:00AM – 2:00 PM: Board Meeting
- 2:00 PM-3:00 PM Trustee/EPRB Meeting
- 3:30 PM: University Staff Orientation
- 4:00 PM: Student Orientation
- 4:30PM – 6:30PM: Track 1 of university classes
- 8PM – 11PM: Step-Downs and NGRA Royalty Competition – Western Wear, Public Presentation, and Entertainment. Winners Announced – Charlies

Saturday, November 23, 2008 (dance room available all day)

- 9AM – 10:00 AM: Track 2 of university classes
- 10:00AM – 10:30AM: Break
- 10:30AM – 12:30 PM: Track 3 of university classes
- 12:30PM – 2:00PM: Lunch Break (free time)
- 2:00PM – 4:00PM: Track 4 of university classes
- 4:00PM – 4:30PM: Break
- 4:30PM – 6:30PM: Track 5 of university classes
- 8PM – MIDNIGHT: "Dancin' In The Desert" Public Dance – Tuscany Ballroom

Sunday, November 24, 2008

- 10:00AM – 12:00 PM: Track 6 of university classes
- 12:00PM – 1:30PM: University Awards Luncheon and Round Table Discussion with Brian Helander
- 1:30PM – 2:30PM: Post University staff wrap-up meeting
- 4PM: University Frat Party (Bud Light Beer Bust) at Charlie's

Please remember to support those who support our efforts within the community and BigHorn Rodeo

