



JOEL CASTILLO , EDITOR

MAY, 2010

BIGHORN GAZETTE

In this issue... 2010-2011 NGRA Board of Directors Results, Miss Closet Ball, and so much more !

Email any submissions, photos, etc to: BigHornEditor@ngra.com



FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we start May, a number of things kick off the month. SNAPI (Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc.) has their big PRIDE Festival, NGRA has new Board Members and we are left to wonder do we need to keep our winter coats handy. SNAPI had the numerous events leading up to PRIDE, in which a number of NGRA members made appearances at. It is nice to see the support that our community shares between organizations.

May, as mentioned before, starts the 2010-2011 term for the Board of Directors. I would personally like to thank those that served as your Board of Directors for 2009-2010. Colin Moulton, thank you for your service as Vice-President and representing NGRA and the Board of Directors. I look forward to working with you during this new term as you continue to serve on the Board but as a Member at Large. Jeffery Neal, what can I say? I am truly grateful having someone like you that has kept our meeting minutes together and look forward to our second year together as a team. Ken Wong, thank you for your support and contributions to the Board and Association this year as Member at Large, taking on the task of getting us a cost savings for our NGRA Shirts was greatly appreciated. JD Jensen, I thank you for contributions to the Board and the Association and while your term as Member at Large has now ended, you continue to represent the Association with a title that will stay with you forever as Mr. NGRA 2010. Winsor Cooper, your were my first board appointment to fill a vacancy in the Member at Large position, I appreciate your knowledge of NGRA and energy that you have brought to the board and look forward to this coming term. Doug Graff, my second appointment brought on by another Member at Large Vacancy, I appreciate your vast knowledge with IGRA and other associations and look forward to this coming year. Not to be left out is Brian Rogers. You are on a different term schedule, one that ends at the end of this year, and I thank you for the support and knowledge during my first year as President. Lastly, I have to thank David Hering, our Treasurer, as we both have the same 2-year term cycle. I couldn't have asked for a better person to be responsible for maintaining our finances.

And welcome to the 2010-2011 Board of Directors. Seeing how I have mentioned most in the previous paragraph I have two more positions to name. Rounding out the 4 Member at Large positions is Mitch Gill. I welcome your experience and look forward to working with you. Finally, I would like to congratulate our New Vice-President. Oh, wait. I don't know who this is yet. We had to have a run-off election between the two candidates. So to either Joel Castillo or Shaun Sewell, whoever takes office, I look forward to having either one of you as my Vice-President. I am truly grateful to be working with such a great team of individuals. I also want to thank those that threw their hat into the arena and chose to run for office but were not elected. I can say that this year's election was that of a true election. I look forward to having your support during the year.

Now that all that is covered, one of the first orders of business that we will conduct is going through the process for appointing our Rodeo Director for BigHorn Rodeo 14. Look for the announcement next month as to who will take on that role. Also we will be working on setting up our Annual State Convention, more information to follow.

With that being said, until next month as we celebrate PRIDE, I am Proud to be Country.

-David Blackwood
NGRA President

Western Heritage Royalty
Team

Dedicates a photo to NGRA





During Miss Cow Patty 2010, Miss Cow Patty 2007 Bearyl Manwyck, (aka Eddy Krien) gets her just desserts from Bill Trunzo as Laura Scott watches.



Miss Cow Patty 2007 Bearyl Manwyck & our 3 fabulous contestants for the title of Miss Cow Patty 2010. (Jimmy, nice legs!)

FROM THE EDITOR:

Another month down, and here I am with my 4th installment of the NGRA BigHorn Gazette. As it is PRIDE month, I want to tell you how proud I am of the NGRA and its contribution to our LGBT Community. I challenge each of our members to recruit one friend to become a member of NGRA.

Look for new additions to the BigHorn Gazette in June! Remember, this is **your** newsletter, if you are interested in contributing an article, please let me know. All submissions are welcome. Thank you. You can always email me at: BigHornEditor@ngra.com. Thank you!

**-JOEL CASTILLO
BIGHORN GAZETTE EDITOR**

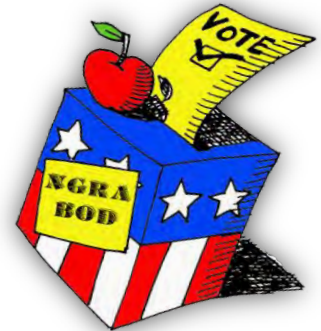
2010 NGRA Board of Directors Results

NGRA would like to thank everyone who ran for office in the 2010 Board of Directors election. Congratulations to the following individuals who were elected as a result of that election. These individuals will join the NGRA 2010-2011 Board of Directors effective May 1st.

Secretary
Jeffrey Neal

Members-at-Large
Winsor Cooper
Doug Graff
Colin Moulton
Mitch Gill

Vice-President
Because neither of the candidates running for Vice-President received the required majority vote, the result will be determined in a Run-Off election. The Run-Off election is underway now and the results will be announced at the May Board of Directors Meeting May 10th.



Miss Cow Patty 2010 Recap

On Saturday, April 10th NGRA held the 14th annual Miss Cow Patty Contest. There was wonderful assortment of Community Persons present there to cheer on the three contestants. I'm sure the judges had a tough time in their scoring. Only one contestant can enjoy the opportunity of having our unique crown placed upon their head. Our 2010 Cow Patty is Mormonizer (aka Randy Grant). May "she" wear it in the manner of fun in which it is intended. Also, congratulations to our two other lovely heifers, Jimmy Gattis & Emigdio Avalos (aka Sofia De La Noche) for their dazzling beauty as contestants!



- Faye Deway (aka Bill Watkins)

WANTED

Cleaning

Crew



NGRA is looking for some volunteers to help with our Annual Spring-cleaning and organization of the NGRA storage unit that will take place on Saturday May 15th at 9:00 A.M. The Location is: Allstate Storage at 4180 Boulder Highway, Las Vegas, NV 89121. (702) 451-8621

*All State Storage is on the North East corner of Desert Inn and Boulder Highway.



Fundraising Report



Our Fundraising meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 5th at Badlands Saloon at 6:30 p.m. This is open to all members, as your input and ideas are always welcomed.

Don't forget to head out to Charlie's on Saturday, May 8th as we look to crown Miss Closet Ball 2010. Come on out and see just who has been hiding in the closet. The night will have the Closet Ball Contest, Jell-O Shots, and "What's in your Closet?" Raffle. There is still time to sign up for your chance to becoming Miss Closet Ball 2010 those interested please contact David Blackwood (aka Taylor Trash) at president@ngra.com

Saturday, May 22nd join us for an early Memorial Day Celebration at Badlands.



January's
Member of
the Month
John Grubbs
Competing for
(and winning)
King of Hearts

Miss IGRA
1st Runner-
Up,
DeShannon
at Sierra
Stampede
Rodeo



TRUSTEE'S REPORT

By Brian Rogers

In early April, I attended the Clark County Fair and Rodeo in Logandale for the first time with NGRA Members, Lorry King and Bill Watkins. The fair was quaint and very enjoyable. It reminded me of the State Fairs of my youth. We toured exhibits of farm animals large and small, and looked at the entries for the crafts and cooking juried events. Some of them were amazing. We also watched a demonstration of lumberjack skills that was very entertaining and quite amusing.

The rodeo was especially impressive. The rodeo featured Bareback Bronc, Calf Wrestling, Team Roping, Bull Riding and Barrel Racing. It was very fast paced and the quality level of the contestants was surprising to me. There were many NFR champion Cowboys and Cowgirls featured.

While there, I ran into the Western Heritage Royalty Team led by Harmony Ricely. They visited with us for a while and signed a thank you postcard to NGRA they wanted me to share with all of you. (*Shown on Page 1*) The girls have all agreed to help us with Finals and I plan to ask them to ride our event flags around the arena.

I can highly recommend this rodeo - check it out next year if you get a chance.

By the time you read this Las Vegas Pride 2010 will be history. As Logistics Chair for this event, I have been working very hard the last couple of months getting everything ready. NGRA participated in a big way by joining the parade and by running the front gate for the third year in a row.

Once I catch my breath from PRIDE, it will be time to focus exclusively on the World Gay Rodeo Finals, which we are hosting in October. The next NGRA Finals Committee meeting will take place following the General Membership Meeting on Monday, May 17. Come join us.

Finally, your Trustee will be headed to Oklahoma City Memorial Day weekend to attend the IGRA Executive Board and Trustees meeting. In addition I will hold an IGRA Finals committee meeting that same day.

Look for a full report in your June newsletter.

Save a Horse...

Your Trustee



Flanked by the Sisters (Sister Sioux and Sister Nina), Miss NGRA 2008, Katrina, at the AFAN AIDS Walk. The old gal hoofed it in face and heels! U Go Girl!



Laura Scott & Jeffrey Neal represent NGRA at FGRA's Sierra Stampede Rodeo 2010. Pictured with the Arena crew - affectionately renamed "The Spit Crew" for the weekend! (Ask



Member Jason C., Sister Roxxi, newly elected Member At Large Colin Moulton, & Mr. NGRA 2009 1st Runner-Up Adam Johnson at Phoenix Pride

The Royalty Roundup

From...
Mr. & Miss NGRA 2010

Happy Pride!

As I write this note, we are getting ready to host the 2nd Annual "Proud To Be Country: A Salute to the Grand Ole Opry" as part of the official PRIDE celebration! We hope we'll see everyone there! This is the second year that NGRA has been part of the official PRIDE festivities, and we're so happy to be involved in PRIDE and to show our "Country PRIDE" - since celebrating the Western lifestyle is part of NGRA's mission.

The month of April has been a busy month for us. We'd like to congratulate Mormonizer, who won the Miss Cow Patty competition and is now the reigning Miss Cow Patty 2010! The evening of the Miss Cow Patty competition, April 10, was also the night of the Youth Pride Royalty competition - which Kimberli was pleased to judge. Kimberli came over to the Miss Cow Patty competition after judging the youth pageant, while J.D. joined the League of Gentlemen at their monthly fundraiser (continuing to build our connections to other organizations in our community).

On April 22, we were pleased to be invited to attend, and perform, at the Official PRIDE Celebration Kick-Off Party at Charlie's Las Vegas. The evening was a blast! Hosted by Miss Las Vegas Pride 2010, Diva Delafuente, and her cohort, Mr. Las Vegas Pride 2010 Andy Dubois, the Pride Royalty team put on a great show. We were so proud to see a large contingent of NGRA members there to celebrate with us!

On April 23, Kimberli - who is also the Imperial Court's Queen of the Desert - hosted the court's annual King & Queen of Diamonds Pageant, along with NGRA member and Emperor 11, Chris Reynolds (Christopher the 1st). Congratulations to another NGRA member and member of the month for January 2010, John Grubbs, who picked up the title of King of Diamonds. John will compete for King of the Desert in September. We're sure John will continue to be around town, helping out wherever he's needed!

May promises to be another busy month! We hear rumors of many, many competitors for our annual Miss Closet Ball competition - one of the biggest events NGRA hosts each year. In Miss Closet Ball, as many members may know, participants first appear as male or female and then transform (in one hour!) to the opposite gender! There's a \$100 prize for this event, so sign up with our president - and last year's Miss Closet Ball - David Blackwood at president@ngra.com.

Finally, on a personal note, Kimberli wants to thank Joel - the man responsible for the BigHorn Gazette - for reminding her that she should announce her upcoming nuptials in the newsletter. Kimberli's alter ego, Pup Ric Franklin is marrying our immediate past president, Shaun Sewell, in Council Bluffs, Iowa on May 29! After the Miss Closet Ball competition, Kimberli and Shaun will be very busy finalizing wedding plans.

Until next time in rodeo spirit,

Kimberli Foxx
Miss NGRA 2010

JD Jensen
Mr. NGRA 2010

NGRA
WISHES
YOU A
VERY
HAPPY
PRIDE



Miss Closet
Ball 2010

Saturday May 8th

9:30 PM at
Charlie's Las
Vegas

Contact David
Blackwood at
President@NGRA.com

To enter!

Who will be
next? Come out
and find out. It
could be you!

**NGRA INVITES YOU TO A
MEMORIAL DAY THEMED SHOW &
FUNDRAISER**

SATURDAY, MAY 22 @ 9:30 PM

AT BADLANDS SALOON



(Left) NGRA
Member
Jimmy Gattis
with Saltiva
Cracker (aka
David Murie) at
Miss Cow Patty
contest.
(Right) Faye
Dewey (aka
Bill Watkins).
(Far Right)
Joel Castillo &
Taylor Trash



NGRA Featured Member Spotlight

Benjamin Avant, Member Since 1996



NGRA Member Spotlight: Every month we will begin featuring a long-standing member of NGRA and celebrate their contributions to NGRA. This month, may we present Mr. Benjamin Avant...

Benjamin first joined NGRA in June 1996, just after the first NGRA BigHorn Rodeo. I had the pleasure of meeting Benjamin for the first time during IGRA University this past January. I had often heard of this enigma known as Benjamin Avant. Benjamin is such an asset to NGRA. His IGRA University classes on Parliamentary Procedures are among the most sought after and quickly filled classes. His knowledge, his passion, and his ravishing (albeit "Closeted") beauty, NGRA is better for having had such a dynamic individual supporting this organization. I found him to be a lot more relaxed and easy-going than scary and intimidating. I guess a few margaritas will loosen a cowboy up!

Benjamin had been a regular at Backstreet - better known as Charlie's today. He knew a lot of the rodeo folks, but never really knew much about the organization until that first rodeo weekend. After attending the rodeo and meeting IGRA members from around the country, he was "roped". He says, "I had enjoyed watching rodeo and loved country dancing for many years, but I was never really interested in being a competitor in rodeo events." Not until attending BigHorn Rodeo did he realize how many other ways there were to get involved. He continues, "When I saw the Misters from other IGRA associations, I thought, 'Now THAT'S something I could do!'" He was so inspired that he spoke with NGRA's President Gary L'Abbe and asked if he was too new to the organization to run for Royalty that Fall. Benjamin said, "I'll never forget his words of advice. 'Your commitment and enthusiasm are as important as experience in working for the organization, so if you're interested, I would recommend that you run this year.'" Wise words Mr. L'Abbe. Benjamin did in fact run for Mr. NGRA that year and was sashed as Mr. NGRA 1st Runner-Up... and he hasn't looked back ever since!

In July 1996, a month after he joined NGRA, Benjamin attended his first IGRA convention in Omaha, Nebraska. He was one of a handful of delegates that included Johann Kristinsson, Gary L'Abbe, and Ken Carney. "I was as green as they come, but I dived right in, attending committee meetings and participating in debate on the convention floor. I remember being in awe of IGRA President Tom Vance, IGRA Parliamentarian Charley Lanier, and others in their positions on the dais, and thinking, 'Wow, I wonder if I could ever do something like that.' Little did I know..."

Benjamin came back from Convention fired up and ready to get to work for NGRA! As we mentioned before, in the Fall of 1996, he became Mr. NGRA 1st Runner Up. The following year he became Mr. NGRA for 1998. He adds, "I don't know what it is about Royalty, but that wasn't enough for some people. After a lot of cajoling, I was persuaded to run for Miss Closet Ball. Miss NGRA 1997 Anita Lei became my 'Drag Mama,' teaching me all I needed to know about how to place my feet, hold my hands and fingers, and walk like a lady. Well, I (aka Miss Victoria Blair) won the damn contest, so she must have taught me something!" While Benjamin doesn't think s/he was ever completely comfortable (or very good, honestly) as a lady, others in NGRA beg to differ. Benjamin tended to entertain and raise money more often as Mr. NGRA than as Miss Closet Ball. "I did reprise my role as Victoria couple of times at subsequent Closet Ball contests, and happily turned over my title to my good friend David Murie (Miss Dede Castle) the year after I won."

It was also during these early years that Benjamin ran for the NGRA Board of Directors. He became a Member-At-Large and later was elected as Public Relations Director and then Secretary. "My newsletters at that time weren't awful, but they didn't hold a candle to what NGRA is doing today!" [Editor's note: Thank you, Benjamin!]

"Eventually I was elected NGRA Vice-President, serving with President Ken Carney, Trustee Johann Kristinsson, and others. These two men probably taught me the most about the organization and gave me the foundation to take the next step. In 2001, I was elected president of NGRA. It's simultaneously one of the most challenging and most rewarding things I've ever done, and an honor and privilege I cherish to this day. In fact, although I am a native Texan and am currently living back in Texas, the NGRA honorary lifetime membership bestowed upon me as outgoing president is the only IGRA association membership I hold. NGRA will definitely always be first in my heart when it comes to gay rodeo."

NGRA wasn't the only organization he has given his time to over the years. After attending the IGRA convention in Omaha, he was hooked. He has attended every IGRA convention since July 1996. The first few years, he represented NGRA as a Delegate. Johann assigned him to the IGRA Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee the first year. "I don't know if he (Johann) was a genius or if he just thought I wouldn't know any better, but I definitely found my home." After a few years serving as a Delegate on the committee, IGRA President Linda Frazier asked if he would Co-Chair the committee in 1999, and in 2000, newly elected IGRA President Craig Rouse asked him to Chair the committee individually. Benjamin added with pride, "I'm honored and pleased to have chaired the committee since that time."

In 2003, long-time IGRA Parliamentarian Charley Lanier stepped down. Craig Rouse asked Benjamin if he would be willing to succeed him and Benjamin accepted. "I was stepping into the shoes of a man whom I had looked up to for many years. It was exciting and a bit scary. It's another position in which I've learned a lot, and I really enjoy the work."

Thinking of all his mentors - Gary L'Abbe, Ken Carney, Johann Kristinsson, Charley Lanier, Craig Rouse, current IGRA President Brian Helander, and corporate sponsor representative James Ramey, to name a few. "I am reminded of what the English physicist Isaac Newton said about his discoveries: 'If I have seen further than others, it's because I've stood on the shoulders of giants.'"

CONTINUED PAGE 9

Upcoming IGRA Rodeos & Events

BIG HORN 14 RETURNS IN 1 SHORT YEAR! GET INVOLVED TODAY...



May 28-30, 2010

Illinois Gay Rodeo Association

"RODEO BOOT CAMP"

"So you wanna be a Cowboy or Cowgirl?"
"Beginners Welcome"

June 5th & 6th, 2010

Six Guns Ranch and Arena
Crete, IL 60417-4858
World Gay Rodeo Champions
will teach you:

- * Chute Dogging
- * Calf Roping on Foot
- * Steer Riding
- * Goat Dressing

For more info go to www.ILGRA.com

WORLD GAY RODEO FINALS

LAUGHLIN NEVADA

OCTOBER 22-24
RODEO • BEACH PARTY • CONCERT

Your Ultimate Rodeo Vacation!

Presented by The International Gay Rodeo Association

For more information and to purchase tickets online visit IGRA.com

COMPETE



HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY



The Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence cordially invite all NGRA members to their monthly Oink Night at the Fun Hog Ranch! Also, this month please join them for:

"PRIDE BINGO"

Please come Join The Sisters at Goodtimes for Pride Bingo. Plenty of naughty prizes! Spankings! Free shots!

Sunday, May 2, 2010 @ 5:00 PM



Four NGRA Members were recently featured and recognized by QVegas Magazine in their "32 People with PRIDE" issue for their work with NGRA and the Las Vegas LGBT Community.

Congratulations to NGRA Members: Joel Castillo, Tony Clark, Winsor Cooper, and Laura Scott!

Thank you for representing NGRA with Pride!

BENJAMIN AVANT (continued): Benjamin can't express how much he has learned from his experience and involvement in NGRA and IGRA. "Of course, I learned a lot about the organizations, gay rodeo, our history, events, and charities. But even more than that, I have grown on a personal level. As a Board Member, I learned what it takes to make a volunteer organization run successfully and how to motivate people to help get things done when their only incentive is their willingness to work with you. I learned how to organize events and develop successful business relationships with sponsors. As Mr. NGRA, I became comfortable hosting events, speaking on the microphone in public, and, yes, walking up to strangers to ask them for money. These skills have become a valuable part of who I am and what I offer in my career. When you read advice on job hunting and writing resumes, they always talk about including volunteer work that you've done. I can say it's unequivocally true. I'm a much stronger person from what the organization has given to me, and I am grateful."

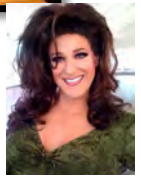
Benjamin moved from Las Vegas back home to Dallas, Texas in 2004. He is currently working for a training and consulting company for the hospitality industry. It's an exciting job with plenty of travel, which is both a good and a bad thing. "We have several clients in Las Vegas, so I get to visit rodeo friends from time to time. When I'm home in Dallas, I love going two-stepping at the Round Up Saloon. I guess you can't take the rodeo out of the boy. I'm pleased to be continuing my work at the IGRA level and it's always nice to see my NGRA family at the IGRA annual convention."

When asked for some parting words for our BigHorn Gazette readers, Benjamin states, "If you've been thinking about getting involved with NGRA, I whole-heartedly encourage you to do so. The rewards can be immeasurable. And if you ever want to hear an old-timer talk about the early days of NGRA, I'm always ready to share a story and a beer." Or a margarita, or shots, or a milkshake... he's not picky!



Straight From Horse's ...

By Joel Castillo

Welcome readers! This is a new, and will be an ongoing, column for the NGRA BigHorn Gazette called, "Straight from the Horse's..." (mouth). This will be an interview with Cowboys & Cowgirls from across the IGRA Competitive Circuit. We will highlight certain events in rodeo monthly and talk to the riders and their animal counterparts for an in-depth exposé into the world of competing in an IGRA Sanctioned Rodeo. Please join me in welcoming Miss IGRA 2001, Victoria London aka Scott Tickler.

Joel: Today we are joined by the lovely and talented Mr. Tickler. Tickle her? I hardly know her.

Scott: Yeah, I've never heard that one before.

J: Hello Scott, and thank you so much for making time for our readers today. How long have you been involved in AGRA?

S: Thank you for having me, Joel. I first got involved with AGRA in 1991.

J: In what year were you (aka Victoria London) crowned Miss AGRA?

S: I was actually Miss AGRA twice, in 1993 and then again in 2000. In 2001, I became the third girl from Arizona to be crowned Miss IGRA.

J: Congratulations! Rumor has it you were an amazing Miss. So tell us, what events do/did you compete in?

S: Oh, the usual - Public Readings, Competitive Barstool Diving, and Mid-Flight Face-Painting. But, for timed events I had to get myself up in drag, and to the rodeo grounds, with a carload of queens, bad directions, and no GPS before Grand Entry started.

J: Now that's how you separate the boys from the Queens! What got you interested in Rodeo Camp Events?

S: Oh, honey, I'm a hairy man who wears wigs and dresses for the entertainment of others. I AM a camp event!

J: I wish my Summer Camps were more like you! So, tell us about the "Martha Washington Race" in Washington, D.C. that you participated in. I heard it was a HOOT!

S: Lord, how much space do I have? This event is only done at the Atlantic Stampede, because those East Coast people are a special kind of "sick." It's a timed event, and consists of a team of 3 people. Two of the team members have to carry "Martha Washington" through an obstacle course set up to emulate Mrs. W's heroic adventure to save priceless White House treasures during The Revolutionary War. Michael Cunningham (Mr. IGRA 2001) and I carried Minerva Rex (Miss IGRA 2001 1st Runner-Up) through this entire event and managed to resist the urge to drop her on her head! It was a beautiful thing. And we won the event that year!

J: Congratulations! What are your current rankings in any other IGRA Camp Events? Or, what was your ranking for your best year and which year was it and which events?

S: In my day (God, I sound old!) the Royalty wasn't required to compete, so some of us didn't. I only competed at one rodeo as a Title Holder. I was there to raise money for the Associations, and to donate my time to make sure that they had an amazing rodeo.

J: Have you ever buckled in any of these events?

S: Only the events that I could do on stage in a beaded gown.

J: I heard that Victoria London actually competed in face once upon a time? I believe it was in Goat Dressing? (Miss London nods in agreement) So, let's focus on Goat Dressing for the remainder of the interview... What is your best time?

S: Usually mid-afternoon and after a nap.

J: Well I am sure many of our readers will be taking special note of that information. I am sure you will find many cowfolk lining up at your door! Do you think Goat Dressing is more difficult for women than men? What about the difficulty level in drag?

S: I think it's equally difficult for either gender, depending on their personal experience with Y-fronts. I did it in drag, but it was lesbian drag. The sensible shoes were great for the event, but the tool belt kept getting in the way.

J: Tool belt? Really? I bet it was an orange one from the Homo Depot. How do you practice for this event? It's not like mounted Speed Events I am sure, then again for you it may very well be. Enquiring minds want to know... what's your training regimen?

S: To be honest, I've had a little more practice taking underwear OFF of something rather than putting it ON, so I'd have to say about 2.5 seconds.

J: What is the most difficult element? Is it having to use Fruit of the Loom tighty-whities? Do you prefer G-Strings or Jocks? What's the secret to a good dressing?

S: Personally, I prefer 2Xist. And the secret to a "good dressing" is always to go a little lighter on the balsamic.

J: Have you ever hit the proverbial wall?

S: Oh Lord! Yes. As Miss IGRA I was traveling constantly. I was required to do 6 events: 4 rodeos plus convention and Finals the next year. With the help of MANY friends, I went to 26 functions. At one point, I had been out of town 6 weekends in a row. I was so tired when I got back from one of them that I just took my entire suitcase down to my dry cleaners. They cleaned, folded, and repacked the entire thing. But, my wigs were never really the same after that...

J: Any remaining battle-wounds, or are they all psychological?

S: I still wake up in the middle of the night having flashbacks to all of the security check points and pat downs. But to be honest, it's the only reason I still fly!

J: Ever get fined for a dropped F-Bomb, lost hat, fallen eyelash, Wardrobe Malfunction, etc.?

S: Are you kidding? I was never fined, but there was always a bet with the other Royalty Team members as to when it would happen. I love the "F" bomb. I learned it from my mother.

J: I learned it from my Mother too. We must be cousins. So, as most of my friends know, I am engaged to my Goat, but for you, why Goat Dressing? What's the draw?

S: I had to do goats.

J: Me too!

S: I lost a bet. It was either that or arm wrestle Candy Pratt, and I knew I wasn't going to win that one!

J: Is there any event you have not competed in you would like to try?

S: I thought about chute dogging, but I got over that when I realized that I had to stick my finger in the steer's mouth. I'm not taking the chance on breaking a nail for anybody!

J: What is your goal for the 2010 IGRA Circuit Year?

S: To attend Convention in Reno, NV this November. To get my 10 -year crown and buckle. To help groom the

NGRA Members Celebrating Birthdays in April:



David Blackwood	May 1
Johann Kristinsson	May 1
Randy Parker	May 2
Michael Hayward	May 4
Boan Jordan	May 5
Edgar Garcia	May 16
Doug Gordon	May 21
Pat Hicks	May 23
Caidyn Edlund	May 27



NGRA's Member of the Month - March

Congratulations to the March, 2010 Member of the Month, Michael Judkins! Michael is once again being recognized for his dedication to NGRA. He was nominated by Boan Jordan for constantly donating his time to decorate Charlie's Las Vegas for NGRA's events and shows to give them that extra bit of Las Vegas dazzle! Way to go, Cowboy!

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH CONTINUED: next generation of AGRA Royalty to take their place on the IGRA Royalty Team! Oh... and to hopefully see the Royalty Contest moved back to Finals where it belongs. That one I just don't get...

J: Who is your favorite Rodeo Competitor (both IGRA Circuit and Non-IGRA)?

S: I have always loved watching John "Nelly" Beck from Colorado. He's proven that even at 115 years old, he can still hang with the big dogs. And really, I can say the same about DeShannon! I have an incredible amount of respect for anyone that wants to compete in rough stock events. I have had friends get seriously hurt, and come right back and compete in the same event. Personally, I'm not going to wrestle something that big and hairy unless he's buying me dinner first.

J: Any last parting words of "wisdom" for our readers? What would your favorite Goat say to our readers about you?

S: My favorite goat? He was served on toast with a side of greens a few years back. As for words of wisdom, just get involved! I see the same 10 people doing the same 10 jobs every year. We need some new blood! Don't expect your Rodeo Association to work miracles unless you are willing to donate some of the magic. And whatever you do, just have fun with it!

J: Thank you so much for your time and (ahem) wisdom for our readers! We'll see you at the Rodeo!

(Editor's Note: Miss London's Goat, Ty, declined an interview. However, he did send along the following statement from his staff of Physicians.) Ty: "While I greatly appreciate an invitation to re-live the single most traumatic moment of my life, I had to respectfully decline. Your Editor sent me a list of questions to answer, but my only reply to that is, 'can't you afford better tasting paper?' I mean really? It's a Recession, not a Depression. Anywhaaaaa, I remember that dreadful day as if it were just yesterday. I don't know how my heart's palpitating beat survived the drama! Imagine my lithe, little Kid body, tethered down like a submissive leather boy. And then, all I see charging at me, is a voracious drag queen, dressed like a Lumberjack, clenching onto a pair of Kmart underwear. They weren't even my color, my size, or FRESH. How rude! Well, without even getting a cocktail or appetizers, that bionic lesbianarian, takes a cheap feel of by private parts, and decided I was not pretty enough, so she covered up my naughty giblets and ran away as fast as she could. My fragile ego has never been the same and I have been in therapy ever since. I cannot look at alcohol without seeing her face. I am sober, I am crazy, and I am in recovery. Thank you for making me re-visit this experience. You're a peach!"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 *Men of Charlie's Monthly Contest, 9:30 PM * PRIDE
2	3	4	5 HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO!!	6	7 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	8 *NGRA Miss Closet Ball Contest @ Charlie's 9:30PM
9	10 *NGRA Board of Director's @ The Center 6:30 PM	11	12 *Fundraising Meeting @ 6:30 PM at Badlands. All are welcome	13	14 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	15
16	17 *NGRA General Membership Meeting 6:30 PM *NGRA Finals Planning Committee Meeting	18	19	20	21 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	22 *NGRA Memorial Day Themed Show @ Badlands 9:30 PM
23 *Deadline for June Newsletter	24	25	26	27	28 *OSGRA Rodeo 5/28-30/10	29
30	31					