



September 2011

Ric Franklin-Sewell-Editor

BigHorn Gazette

Monthly Newsletter for the Membership of the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association.

Letter from the President

Dr. Shaun Franklin-Sewell,
NGRA President



Well, we're almost through the dog days of summer, and I hope you all have managed to stay cool!

This month, I'm looking forward to the first Rodeo Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 7 at The Center (6:30 p.m.). Laura Scott, BigHorn Rodeo 15 Rodeo Director, hit the ground running, but it takes a village to "raise" a rodeo! You're invited to help plan the rodeo! All you have to do is show up!

I hope to see you all at our monthly Charlie's night - Country Proud & Strong - Saturday, September 10! We'll be showing our country western pride in advance of the Pride festivities the following weekend, and we'll announce the candidates for Mr., Miss, Ms. & MsTer NGRA! Information about competing for the titles is on the front page of the NGRA website.

Continued
On Pg. 2

My sincerest
apologies for the
late release of this
month's
newsletter!
Due to travel and
the holiday/rodeo
weekend I am late!
Sorry! Ric

Inside This Issue:

President	Pg. 1
Mr. NGRA	Pg. 2
Blaine Woodie	Pg. 2
T List	Pg. 3
Event Announcements ...	Pg. 4/5
Board Member Bio	Pg. 6
Rodeo Director	Pg. 7
Webmaster	Pg. 8
Birthdays	Pg. 9
Calendar	pg. 10

President's Letter Cont.

The following weekend, NGRA will, once again, be manning the front gates at the PRIDE Las Vegas festival. See more details about our participation in this newsletter! Remember, NGRA earns \$10 for every volunteer hour, so sign up and help us out!

Finally, our next Board and General Membership Meeting is on Monday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m. at The Center. We're posting the agendas and meeting materials for each meeting on the website now, so check it out on September 15. Then, join us at the meeting - this is YOUR association and the Board wants - and needs - your participation!

Until next time!

BLAINE WOODIE Blaine Woodie, 48, passed away peacefully in the loving arms of his family, July 16, 2011, after a brief illness. He was a 1981 graduate of East Burke High School in Drexel, N.C. He was a longtime resident of Las Vegas. He will be greatly missed at Clark County Credit Union, where he was employed as an information systems project manager. Blaine was an active member of the NGRA until 2009. Blaine was an amazing person. He had a wicked sense of humor and a smile to go with it. He had a good heart and was loved by all. When he saw unjustness, he spoke up. He was truly the measure of a man. He was honest, artistic, intelligent, kind and loving. His laughter and warmth will be missed by all who loved him. He is survived by his sister and best friend, Myriam Garcia; three nephews, Shane Cuthbert, Jeremiah Garcia and Cody Garcia; one grandniece; and one grandnephew. "I will always love you, my Buster Brown." A special thank you to Drema and the nursing staff of Summerlin Hospital.

A celebration of his life and potluck will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, at 8225 Cimarron Ridge in Las Vegas. In lieu of donations or flowers, please make a contribution to the Humane Society of Las Vegas in Blaine's name.

From the Desk of Mr. NGRA

The dog days of summer finally hit this last two weeks of Aug. The hottest weather on record for this year and I have



a feeling it will go right into September. September marks the winding down of the gay rodeo circuit with the last two rodeos, Missouri over Labor Day weekend and San Francisco Sept 9-11. That weekend also marks the deadline for anyone competing for Mr., Miss, Ms or MsTer IGRA 2012 in San Diego at convention in November. Yours truly will be joining my title wife, Miss Taylor Trash and we will both be competing. But, before we get to convention, we have the World Gay Finals Rodeo in Ft Worth, Texas in Oct. It will be a wild time and I for one can't wait to get there.

This last month has been busy with the decision to compete for Mr. IGRA and learning that one of the deadlines was moved from Oct 10 to Sept 10. So, busy, busy, busy, getting all that taken care of.

Continued
On
Pg. 3



Mr. NGRA Continued

Plus, we have also had our share of community events around town to show our support, between the Imperial Court, SNAPI (pride), The Sin City Sisters, The Center and of Course the Men of Charlie's. This last weekend of Aug is especially busy with 5 events between Thurs and Sat night. Thank God I will be resting on Sunday!

I will be off to Missouri Rodeo the first weekend of September and then back here for my IGRA required function, "Bear it in the Desert" on Thursday, September 8 at Charlie's Las Vegas. There will be a show at 10, and raffles, shot specials, and of course, Charlie's offers ½ price drinks that night from 9pm – 12midnight. The money raised that night will go towards my IGRA requirement to compete. Haven't decided if I am going to SF rodeo this year, it has been moved from Treasure Island to La Honda, Ca which is about 45 minutes south of the city. They had a rough patch earlier in the year and I would like to show my support for the association. That weekend is our regularly scheduled show at Charlie's and for Pride month, our theme is "Country Proud and Strong!" a Pure Country extravaganza on Saturday, September 10, 2011. That night is also the deadline for 2012 NGRA Royalty Contestants. We will be announcing who the next group that will be competing for our titles in December. So, I will probably stay in town for that. Until next month, Safe travels to everyone. I'll be here hanging with my Gnomies!!



Chris Reynolds
aka The Traveling Gnome
Mr. Nevada Gay Rodeo Association
2011

My Life on the " T " List

Where has this year gone? It is hard for me to believe that we are already in September. It seems like just yesterday that I put my name in to run for the title of Miss Nevada Gay Rodeo Association 2011. Well now it is time for me to focus my efforts to November when I compete for Miss International Gay Rodeo Association 2012.

Taylor Trash presents Tic Toc was a big success and I owe it to everyone in the community. The event raised \$478.00 for a Thursday night at Charlie's. The love and support that night has me at a loss for words. I could not be making the next step and compete for Miss International Gay Rodeo Association 2012 with you. As they say, we are a close knit community and we help each other out. That has definitely been evident in achieving my fundraising goals to compete.

As you all know Las Vegas PRIDE is upon us, September 16 & 17. I know Las Vegas PRIDE has been working their tails off organizing everything. I do hope everyone gets a chance to make it out this year to PRIDE. I don't know about you, but I can't wait to see what outfits Miss Las Vegas Pride 2011, Diana Prince is going to bring out. Girl all I can say is make sure to wear sunscreen. I know I will be out there, wearing what, well that has yet to be determined.

Until next month, this is my life on the T-List.

Love,
Taylor



Chris Reynolds Presents:
Bear it in the Desert!
Thurs Sept 8, 2011 10pm – 1am



This event benefits the IGRA and the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada

Shot Specials

Raffles

Show

Don't forget 1/2 price drinks from 9pm – 12midnight

IGRA requirement to compete for the title of Mr. IGRA 2012



Country Proud & Strong

BigHorn Rodeo

RAFFLES



IGRA

JELLO SHOTS

Show Benefiting
The Nevada Gay Rodeo Association & BigHorn Rodeo 15

Charlie's
Las Vegas

Saturday, September 10th - 10pm
\$5.00 Beer Bust 9pm-Midnight

Hey Everybody! NGRA will once again be working the front gate at Las Vegas PRIDE, Saturday Sept 17, 2011! Thru the SNAPI LOVE Program we will earn \$10 for every hour worked by an NGRA Member/Volunteer! Please sign up at www.lasvegaspride.org/volunteer. Also please email Ken Wells, NGRA Board Member At Large, at kenwells1962@yahoo.com so he can keep track of the total number of volunteers.



TEAMFOXX PRESENTS

PRIDE AFTER PARTY

"TASTE THE RAINBOW"

NGRA

SATURDAY

SEPT 17TH - 10PM

Charles Las Vegas

JELLO SHOTS - RAFFLE PRIZES - \$5 BEER BUST 9PM-MIDNIGHT

Author Visit with Patricia Nell Warren:

Patricia Nell Warren will speak about growing up on the Gram Koters Ranch in Deer Lodge, her long career as a "Front Runner" in gay fiction and her latest anthology, *My West* where she unveils a collection of intensely personal writings about the American West - its past, present and future.

In addition to writing her eight novels, Warren has spent the last 50-plus years carving out a body of short works that both celebrate and scrutinize her native West. In *My West* she collects a sagebrush bouquet of 47 favorites on everything from agriculture to zest, by way of cooking, ethnicity, history, politics and sexuality.

An Out West at the Library Event

Sunday, October 23 at 2 p.m.
Clark County Library
Jewel Box Theater
1401 E. Flamingo Rd.

Our West at the Library is a series of programs, scheduled to take place over the next twelve months that feature Western scholars, authors, performers and friends of Western LGBT in discussions at the Clark County Library. The series is made possible by support from HBO, the David Bohner Foundation, Gill Foundation, and the Gay & Lesbian Rodeo Heritage Foundation.

Free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by Our West. For more information, please call 507-3489.

Las Vegas-Clark County
LIBRARY DISTRICT
www.lvccld.org

"Get to Know Your NGRA Board" **Guy "Pork Chop" Puglisi- NGRA Trustee**

Brief life history

I was born in Buffalo, New York and have lived in Las Vegas since I was three. I graduated from Valley High School and later completed my BSBA at University of Phoenix. I have worked in human services for almost 14 years and have been volunteering for our community since I was 19 and always try to do my part to build or help our community. My primary focuses are NGRA (as a board member), IGRA (as a certified official and board member) and The Men of Charlie's (as one of the contest coordinators). Although these keep me busy enough to drive a crazy man sane, I also manage to volunteer a day here and there for organizations such as Golden Rainbow and SNAPI.

How long have you been with NGRA?

I have been a member since March 2000. I have been a Member-at-Large, Secretary, Vice President and Trustee in past years aside from being the current Trustee. I have also been an Assistant Rodeo Director, Co-Rodeo Director and was on the royalty team in 2001.

What caused you to join?

I used to go to Backstreet (now Charlie's) and used to hang out with several people who were members of NGRA. I attended their fundraising events often but never really had any interest in rodeo itself let alone joining a rodeo association. In January 2000, I went on a road trip to the Phoenix rodeo with my friends Benjamin Avant and Don Phillips. I had so much fun, I couldn't believe it! As a result, I let Don, Mr. NGRA 2000 at the time, talk me into working security at BigHorn Rodeo in March 2000. I had no problem volunteering a few hours to help out so I did. Little did I know, I was soon to be hooked for good! At the conclusion of BigHorn Rodeo, I finally completed a membership application because I knew I wanted to be a part of all this craziness!

What do you hope to accomplish by being a Board member of NGRA?

First, I want to represent NGRA well on the IGRA board and be an effective conduit between our association and the international organization. One of my goals since I took office has been to reach out to our membership, past and present, to get more folks involved or bring them back into the mix. I have said before that I know from personal experience that sometimes we all need a break from our routines no matter what they are. I took many years off from holding any positions when I went back to complete my Bachelor degree in 2004. I still renewed my membership, attended fundraisers and attended or worked as an official in many rodeos throughout the years—including BigHorn Rodeo. As part of this goal, I have also tried to do everything I could to make sure we do not infighting going on in our organization. One of the worst things we can do is to start tearing each other down from within when our goal is to become a larger, stronger and more united organization.

To contact Guy aka Pork Chop you can email him at

Trustee@ngra.com



Well folks, were back and ready for another great year of rodeo. I want to thank the Board of Directors for entrusting me for one more year. We are getting a little bit of a late start this year, but all is well. Our first meeting will be Wednesday the 7th of September at 6:30 at the Center. Starting in October, it will be the 3rd Wednesday of every month. I look forward to seeing you all and hearing your ideas for another successful year.

-Laura Scott
BigHorn 15 Rodeo Director



Community Events

NGRA Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Community Rodeo Events

Horses for Heroes Barrel Race **Saturday, September 10 at Horseman's Park**

Horses for Heroes is a celebration in appreciation of all our Community Heroes and the Heroes we lost on 9/11.

Activities include a Horse Show for Heroes (benefit youth horse show), Barrel Race, Grand Showcase, (featuring Grand Entry, Parade of Heroes, equestrian demonstrations and more), entertainment, free food and beverages, special appearances, horse-drawn "Cinderella" carriage rides, and other fun activities for the entire family.

Proceeds benefit the Firefighters of Southern Nevada Burn Foundation, the Injured Police Officers Fund of Nevada, and Soldiers & Families First.

Four or More Volunteers needed to set barrels & work gate at 5:30pm. If interested in volunteering for this fun event, please contact board member Brian Rogers at memberatlarge1@ngra.com.

Pride Parade **September 16, Downtown on 4th street**

Join NGRA for the parade. Watch for email blast and other info on www.ngra.com.

The Senior Pro Rodeo **October 5-8 at Horseman's Park**

Get ready for another exciting 3-day competition and fun filled event. National Senior Pro Rodeo contestants are 40-years-old and older. But you wouldn't know it to watch these seasoned cowboys. Here is a preview of some of the exciting events: Bareback Riding, Bull Riding, Ribbon Roping, Saddle Bronc Riding, Steer Wrestling, and Team Roping. Ladies Breakaway roping rounds out the event. Kids stick pony rodeo at 4pm each day.

Three volunteers needed to man gate from 4pm - 7pm each day. If interested in volunteering for this fun event, please contact board member Brian Rogers at memberatlarge1@ngra.com.

NCOD at the Fruit Loop **Saturday, October 15 in the Fruit Loop**

NGRA will be manning a booth.

Six Volunteers needed run fundraising activities
- contact Shaun Franklin-Sewell at President@ngra.com

From Your Webmaster...

Hi NGRA,

Some of you may have noticed changes with the NGRA website – www.ngra.com – and I'd like to let you know what's going on.

While we still have GayCowboyCentral as our web host, both our server and content management system have changed. This is all new to me so I'm learning as I'm going along. Please be patient with me as I implement changes to make our site more user-friendly and perhaps a bit flashier. We are in Vegas after all!

I've recently become the webmaster of GWGRA (Gateway Gay Rodeo Association) in St Louis as well. Don't think that NGRA doesn't come first, however! Even though I travel a lot, I've always got my laptop with me so I can usually get changes made pretty quickly.

Should you see errors that need to be corrected or you'd like something added or changed, please feel free to let me know at webmaster@ngra.com.

I hope you like the changes I'm making,
Darren Wernette



www.NGRA.com

L A S V E G A S
PRIDE
2011

Parade – Friday September 16 8pm

Festival – Saturday September 17 12pm

**For More Events and Info Check Out
www.LasVegasPride.org**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Katie Thomas	9/03
Brenton Lago	9/06
RJ Breceda	9/09
Rob Haggard-Bunting	9/11
Mike Windsor	9/18



NEW MEMBERS

Brenda Ben
Michael Charleboix
Pam Kazmarek
Justin Liming

WELCOME!

SEPTEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 IRSCDE Camptown Races Badlands 9pm	3 Men of Charlie's Charlie's 9pm
4	5	6	7 Rodeo Planning Comm. The Center 6:30pm	8 Bear It In The Desert Charlie's 10pm	9	10 Country Proud & Strong Charlie's 9pm
11	12	13	14	15	16 Pride Parade 7pm	17 Pride Festival 12pm Taste the Rainbow IGRA Charlie's 10p
18	19 Membership Meeting The Center 6:30pm	20	21	22	23 IRSCDE Entertainer Of the Year Charlie's 9pm	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 IRSCDE K&Q of the Desert Charlie's 9pm	