



BigHorn Gazette

Monthly Newsletter for the Membership of the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association



Letter from the President

Dr. Shaun Franklin-Sewell
NGRA President 2011-2012

Happy Holidays!

I hope your holiday season is filled with warmth and joy.

Just a few reminders this month:

The Rodeo Planning Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month – in December, that’s the 7th – at 6:30 p.m. at the Center. We need your help to put on BigHorn Rodeo 15. Just show up, and we’ll be glad to have you!

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2012 NGRA Royalty Candidates: l to r Mormanizer, Jason Jewel, Sabel D'Zyre, Curtiss Lewis

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You're invited to the 20th Anniversary Royalty Contest Weekend beginning Friday, December 9 with "Royalty in Review" from 8:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. (before the Charlie's Man-of-the-Year Contest), continuing with the 20th Anniversary Royalty Contest Extravaganza – Celebrating 20 Years of Rodeo Royalty in Southern Nevada – on Saturday, December 10 at 9 p.m., and wrapping up with a Congratulations Brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and "Meet the 2012 Team" Beer Bust from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 11. All events are at Charlie's Las Vegas, the gracious sponsor of this year's competition. Come out and celebrate these folks who do so much for us!

Finally, just a reminder that all members are invited to attend the Board and General Membership Meetings, where we do the business of the association. In fact, we want members there! The meetings are always the third Monday of the month; that's December 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Happy Holidays to you all!



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR NGRA MEMBERSHIP!

The expiration date of all current NGRA Memberships is **December 31, 2011**; however, you have until January 31, 2012 to renew without a penalty. After that date you will incur a **\$10.00** reinstatement fee to renew.

The renewal membership fee is **\$24.00** and may be paid by mail, online at www.ngra.com or at any NGRA Membership meeting (credit cards are accepted).



The photo above is of 18 year old Go Raise Cash at the RRRR 2011 rodeo; Chris Due, rider.

GO RAISE CASH 1993 – 2011

On November 6th, the IGRA circuit lost one of its greatest equine competitors. Go Raise Cash, aka Cash, owned and loved by long time NGRA member and contestant Richard Armstrong, was humanly euthanized due to complications from colic. In the many years that Richard competed on the powerhouse barrel horse, Cash won numerous buckles at several different IGRA Rodeos on the IGRA Circuit, including many invitations to IGRA Finals. Cash was semi-retired in 2008 but came out of retirement to compete with another NGRA Member, Chris Due, in the 2011 rodeo season. After only running at the RRRR in Arizona, Cash was able to qualify for IGRA Finals one last time. Cash will be greatly missed by Richard and Chris as well as many on the IGRA Rodeo Circuit who had come to know and love him over his many years of competition.

We will see you at Rainbow Bridge.



Member of the Year!

If anyone would like to nominate a member (a single member only, not a group) to be recognized as the Member of the Year for 2011, please submit their name, and a brief explanation as to why you feel they should be included on the ballot. Anyone already awarded a Member of the Month in 2011 is automatically included on the ballot. Nominations are due by December 31, 2011. Voting will begin on February 15, 2012. Please submit your nomination to vicepresident@ngra.com. For more information please see Standing Rule #4 (pages 24 and 25) in the Bylaws.

The Importance of Royalty

By Dr. Shaun Franklin-Sewell

Recently Melissa Lawrence, Miss NGRA 2006, reminded me of something I said when I first became involved in NGRA. I didn't understand the role of rodeo royalty in our organization. Since 2006, my understanding has grown by leaps and bounds. Now, I can't really imagine how our rodeo association would survive without royalty.

In NGRA and IGRA, the royalty work very, very hard to raise money for our charity partners and for our associations.

For BigHorn Rodeo 14, the royalty teams from 2010 and 2011 raised nearly \$12,000. The 2011 team has continued to raise money (for BigHorn Rodeo 15) since May. (The teams also raised money for the association; the money is split between the association and the rodeo.)

NGRA was able to donate \$10,000 to our charity partner for BigHorn Rodeo 14. Without the fundraising efforts of our royalty, that might not have been possible.

I want to take a moment to say Thank You to our royalty – past, current and future – for all the work you have done, do, or will do to raise money for us and for our charity partners:

- The Past 20 Years of Royalty! – Especially those still involved today like Chris Due, Laura Scott, Lize McDonald, Guy Puglisi, Michael Judkins, Katrina Davenport, Melissa Lawrence, Joe Cervantes, and Benjamin Avant (please forgive me if I missed you)
- Our 2010 Royalty Team: Miss NGRA 2010 Kimberli Foxx and Mr. NGRA 2010 JD Jensen
- Our 2011 Royalty Team: Miss NGRA 2011 Taylor Trash, Mr. NGRA 2011 Chris Reynolds, and Miss NGRA 2011 First Runner Up Mormanizer
- Our 2012 Royalty Candidate Team: Sable D'Zyre and Mormanizer – Candidates for Miss NGRA, Jason Jewel and Curtiss Lewis – Candidates for Mr. NGRA.



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Royalty's Importance Continued...



Taylor Trash, Miss NGRA 2011(center), was sashed as Miss IGRA 2012 2nd Runner Up. Taylor is pictured with her IGRA sash "husbands" Nic Wells, MsTer IGRA 2012 2nd Runner Up (far left) and John Paul Soto, Mr. IGRA 2012 2nd Runner Up. This marks the 3rd consecutive year that NGRA Royalty has brought placed on the IGRA Royalty Team.

NGRA Says
Congratulations
to the Entire
2012 IGRA
Royalty Team!

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge all of our association royalty who have gone to compete at the International Gay Rodeo Association Royalty Competition. In the last three years, NGRA is proud to have had one of our own bring a colored sash (indicating they placed on the team): DeShannon Christie, Miss IGRA 1st Runner Up 2009; Kimberli Foxx, Miss IGRA 2011; and, Taylor Trash, Miss IGRA 2nd Runner Up 2012. These three ladies helped us continue the legacy begun by DeShannon, Laura Scott (Miss and Ms. IGRA 1999), and Lize MacDonald (Ms. IGRA 2002). We congratulate and thank you all.

I don't have totals for the teams in 1999 and 2002, but the 2011 IGRA Royalty Team raised over \$15,000 and Kimberli Foxx raised over \$3,700. That's amazing and inspiring. I hope Taylor and her team can do it, too! And, I hope the 2012 NGRA Royalty Team continues to meet their goals with such panache – they've already raised well over their initial goal of \$1,000. When you see any of the folks I've mentioned here or those that I've not mentioned that you know are working hard to raise money for our organizations, please take a moment to pull them aside or just shoot them a text or an e-mail and say thank you. They deserve all the gratitude we can give them.

My Life on the "7" List

I can't believe that we are about to name the 2012 NGRA Royalty Team. I have had one amazing year representing NGRA as Miss NGRA 2011. The fundraisers, rodeos and friends that I have met along the way are something I will cherish forever. I can't begin to thank everyone that has helped me out this year and believed in me.

The IGRA Royalty Competition in San Diego is something I will never forget. I enjoyed and had fun with everything I did. I am proud with my performance and being named on the team as Miss IGRA 2012 2nd Runner-up. It wasn't until I returned that I hit me that I now join a small group of 4 other individuals that have represented NGRA and brought a colored sash back to Nevada.

As one journey ends another door opens. I could ramble on forever but want to keep this short as not to get emotional, I'm sure that will happen on December 10th.

It has been an honor representing NGRA this past year and I look forward to next year.

With All My Love-

Taylor

Miss Nevada Gay Rodeo
Association 2011





Nevada Gay & Lesbian
Association

& Charlie's
Lounge
Proudly Present



The 2012 NGRA Royalty Contest Weekend

December 9-11, 2011

Charlie's

5012 Arville Street #4 Las Vegas, NV

Friday Dec. 9	Candidate Meet-&-Greet 6pm-9pm "Royalty-In-Review" Show 8:30pm-9pm
Saturday Dec. 10	20 th Anniversary Royalty Contest Extravaganza 9pm
Sunday Dec. 11	Congratulations Brunch 11am-2pm "Meet the 2012 Team" Beer Bust 4pm-7pm



Proceeds From the Weekend Will Benefit the NGRA and Big Horn 15

Charlie's
Las Vegas

*The Men of
Charlie's*

Proudly Present
**The 2011
Charlie's
Man of the Year Contest**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 9TH, 2011
9PM
AFTER THE NGRA ROYALTY IN REVIEW SHOW**



SKIN UNDERWEAR NIGHT
"COME STUFF YOUR STOCKING"
SHOW HOSTED BY KIMBERLI FOXX

**A BENEFIT FOR
THE GAY AND LESBIAN
RODEO HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

Wear Your Sexiest Holiday Skivies & Jingle Your Balls!

WEDNESDAY DEC 14TH - 9PM

Boxer Decorating Contest, Jello Shots, Raffle Items
Hot Go Go Boys Sharing Their Candy Canes
Guys in Undies Drink FREE!
Sexiest Underwear Contest!

DECEMBER

				1 I.R.S.C.D.E., Inc. Coronation 14 Weekend	2 I.R.S.C.D.E., Inc. Coronation 14 Weekend	3 I.R.S.C.D.E., Inc. Coronation 14 Weekend Men of Charlie's December 9pm Charlie's
4 I.R.S.C.D.E. Coronation 14 Weekend	5	6	7 Rodeo Planning Committee Meeting 6:30pm GLBT Community Center	8	9 NGRA Royalty Contest Weekend MeetnGreet 6-9pm Charlie's MOC Man of the Year 9pm Charlie's	10 NGRA Royalty Contest Weekend Contest 9pm Charlie's
11 NGRA Royalty Brunch 11am-2pm Beer Bust 4-7pm Charlie's	12	13	14 "Come Stuff Your Stocking" 9pm Charlie's	15 Charlie's Employee Turnabout Show 10pm Charlie's	16	17
18	19 NGRA Board/General Membership Meeting 6:30pm GLBT Community Center	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas 	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 