



August 2014 BigHorn Gazette

NGRA Mourns the Passing of Two Members of the 2012 Royalty Team



It is with great sadness that NGRA announces the recent passing of two members of our 2012 Royalty Team: Miss NGRA 2012 and Miss IGRA 2013, Sabel D'Zyre, and Mr NGRA 1st Runner-Up and Mr IGRA 2013 2nd Runner-Up, Curtiss Lewis.

Joel Castillo (aka Sabel D'Zyre)

Joel passed away on Saturday, July 26. He was born in Mexico City, Mexico on July 4, 1971. He lived in Las Vegas since 1973, although in 1996 he ran off to "join the circus" and his boy persona played a 7-year stint in Orlando, Florida working and performing for Walt Disney World, Universal Studios Orlando, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, and Nickelodeon Recreation. Joel returned to Las Vegas in 2004 and joined NGRA back in 2008 after experiencing his first rodeo as a timer for BigHorn Rodeo. He volunteered at several rodeos across the IGRA circuit and served as Assistant Rodeo Director for BigHorn 14 & 15. Joel also had the privilege of representing NGRA as part of their 20th Anniversary Team as Miss NGRA 2012. Sabel's "drag career" began back in 1993, when she won the title of Miss Vegas Gay Pride for Las Vegas' first Pride Pageant competition.



Joel had a soul that was funny, irreverent, welcoming and a generous individual who turned up to all the fundraisers, never failing to support whenever called upon.

Joel was instrumental in raising a large amount of money for the Las Vegas and International Community and had a lot of fun doing it. Joel showed everyone what fun was in "fundraising" and continued that tradition with his terms as Miss NGRA 2012 and continuing on as Miss IGRA 2013. Joel will be missed by all and remembered by many throughout this community and nationwide.

Not only was he a wonderful and giving individual, but also he was a great friend to all. He will always be remembered as a great man and loving friend. We are lucky to have someone such as Joel watching over us all. There is now one more star in the heavens shining down on us.

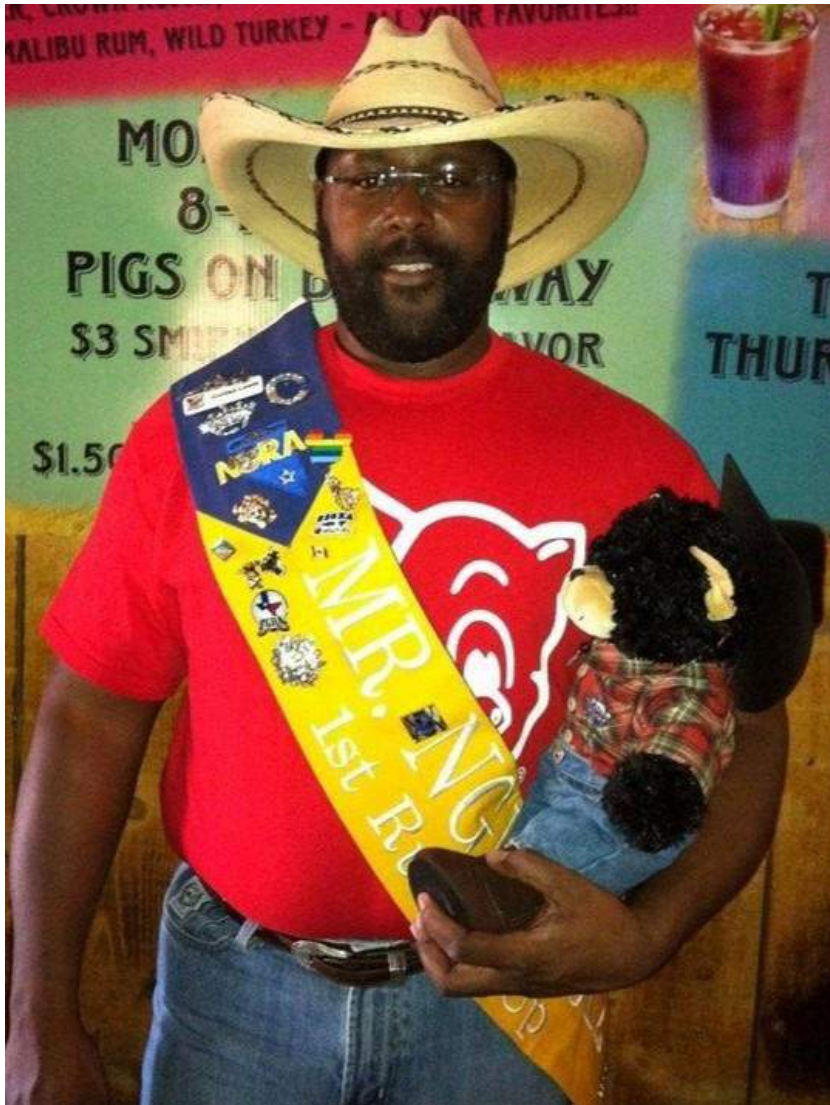
Condolences go out to his family and dear friends, he will be dearly missed.

Joel's Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, August 5th from 4-6 pm at Palm Mortuary located at 1325 North Main Street, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Joel Castillo will be cremated.

Curtiss Lewis, Jr. (aka Mocha Grande)

Curtiss passed away unexpectedly Friday, July 18, 2014. He was born June 15, 1970 in Austin, Texas. He will be buried next to his mother in Kinder, Louisiana on August 23, 2014.



Curtiss was a valued member and leader in the Desert Empire during Reigns 1 through 3 as Grand Duchess in Reign 1, Marquesa in Reign 2 and finally Crown Princess Royale in Reign 3. He had a sweet and gentle soul and loved to make people laugh. He was one of the original members of the Cheerleaders of Heffer U, who dazzled crowds doing his mid-air splits at rodeos starting in 1998. Curtiss also joined the Church Ladies of Tupelo Mississippi after DeShannon moved.

Curtiss continued his tradition of hard work with his terms as Mr. NGRA 1st Runner-Up 2012 and continuing on as Mr. IGRA 2nd Runner-Up 2013.

Condolences go out to his family and dear friends, he will be dearly missed.

Curtiss' viewing will take place Friday, August 15th from 4pm-8pm and again on Saturday, August 16 from 11am-2pm at Ebenezer Church of God in Christ, 1072 W Bartlett Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89106.

Rest in Peace Joel Castillo and Curtiss Lewis. Take care of each other as you both fly high with the angels.

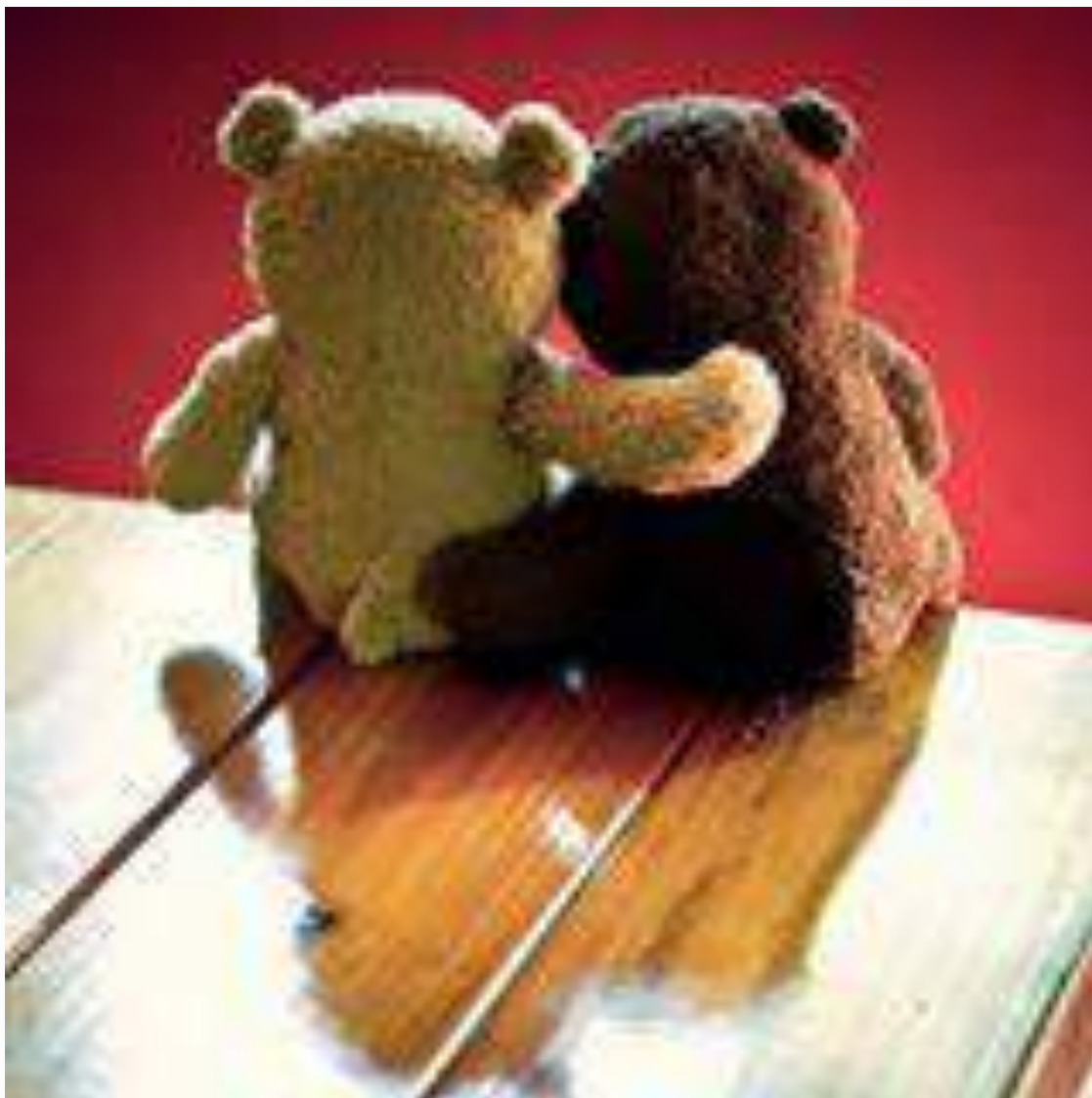
With love, afro circus, and world peace,

NGRA

More Information:

Curtiss Lewis Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1422626607962092/>
Joel Castillo Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/550701995056886/>

A commingled Celebration of Life for both Joel & Curtiss
Charlie's Las Vegas
Saturday, August 16 from 3pm-6pm.



Both Curtiss' and Joel's favorite foods will be served at the Celebration of Life services. The suggested menu is: "Blaxican Mexican Soul-Food." We are inviting anyone interested in bringing a dish to do so. Please email Brent Rosinski at pr@ngra.com with what you are bringing and the serving amount. Jim McCoy and Brent Rosinski will be coordinating the food.

So that we may get an accurate account of the amount of food needed for the Celebration of Life, please RSVP to this event by marking your attendance on the Facebook event pages.

From Your Royalty Team

Howdy, NGRA!

It's hot outside! So, we hope you're staying cool!

We want to thank everyone who has supported our NGRA fundraisers we've had all year long! It really is a team effort to raise money for our community and for BigHorn Rodeo.

Your Royalty Team represented NGRA at Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo in Denver in July, and boy does Denver know how to put on a rodeo! All four of us worked Arena Crew and had a blast. Thank you CGRA!

On July 19, A'Lotta Trash had her fundraiser to meet her IGRA Competition requirements and it was a huge success. She raised \$583. Jason and A'Lotta will be having their final IGRA Competition fundraisers titled "Redneck Recovery Party" on July 27 and August 3 at Charlie's from 4pm-8pm. Please show them your love and support.

In August, we're looking forward to the August Party - Summer Sunset Show at Charlie's on Saturday, August 9, with the beer bust beginning at 9pm and the show beginning at 10pm. Brent, A'Lotta, and Jason will be attending Gay Games, so we will see you when we return.

Be sure to come out for the Keepin' it Country fundraiser on Friday, August 1, at Charlie's. This event will benefit IGRA and the Sin Sity Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, while meeting Brent's requirements to compete in the International Gay Rodeo Association competition in November!

MsTer NGRA 2014, Preston, will be announcing her bar fundraising event shortly and has begun raising money online to meet her IGRA Competition Requirements. It looks as though the entire NGRA Royalty Team will be heading to Texas to compete for an IGRA title. GO NGRA TEAM!

Finally, on August 30, head on down to Flex Cocktail Lounge with the folks of NGRA. We're hosting "Hot August Night," and will be announcing the 2015 NGRA Royalty Contestants. The event is from 9pm-11pm.

Thank you, again, for all your support throughout the year.

Your 2014 NGRA Royalty Team:

Mr NGRA – Brent Rosinski

Miss NGRA – A'Lotta Trash

MsTer NGRA – Preston

Mr. NGRA 1st Runner-Up – Jason Metzger

From Your Volunteer Coordinator

Pride

The time has come for the Volunteer Team to look forward to its next project with NGRA. On September 5 the annual Pride Parade will take place Downtown and NGRA is hoping to enter a float. This means I shall be looking for volunteers to both build the float and walk in the parade. Details of the float design are still being worked on but keep looking out for more details of how you can help us make this a great success for NGRA. If you are interested in being involved in any way please let me know. A sign up form will appear shortly on our website but please feel free to contact me with offers of help or ideas in the meantime.

Enjoy the monsoon season.

Carolyn Jones, Volunteer Coordinator
volunteers@ngra.com

Seeking BigHorn 2015 Rodeo Director

All those interested in being considered for the position of BigHorn 2015 Rodeo Director should contact NGRA President, Doug Graff, at president@ngra.com to get all the requirements and information, and to make an application, which must include an outline budget, before the August Board and General Membership Meeting (Monday, August 18, 2014).

NGRA 2015 Royalty Contestants

If you are interested in running for the titles of Mr, Miss, Ms, or MsTer NGRA 2014 your contestant applications are needed. The deadline for this year's competition is Saturday, August 30 at 9 pm. Applications, and your \$25.00 entry fee, are due to David Blackwood, Royalty Competition Director, on or before the deadline.

If you need more information, or if you have any questions, please contact David Blackwood at royaltycompetitiondirector@ngra.com.

Happy Birthday

To those Members with birthdays in August:

12	David Murie
14	Andrew Goodman
16	Joe McMullen
17	Garry Douglas Ryan McPherson
18	Frank Gardner
24	Janessa Anabelle Martin
26	Brian Rogers
29	Mark Smith

Welcome to the NGRA Corral

Phillip Lombardi

Editor's Bit & Pieces

Every time I ride on the Shuttle from McCarran International Airport to the Car Rental Center on Gilespe Street, I listen to the pre-recorded message that tells me all I have to do is "turn right out of the Center, turn right onto Warm Springs, and turn right onto the Strip, that's three rights and you're on the Las Vegas Strip", or something pretty close to that.

Doesn't anyone come to Las Vegas to do anything but head for the Strip? There is so much more within a hundred miles or so of Las Vegas. I wonder if some believe they will fall off the edge of the Earth if they venture out of sight of the Stratosphere.

Later in this Edition, I describe one of my favorite drives in Death Valley.

Join NGRA Members travelling to Gay Games 9 Rodeo

August 9, 10 and 11 will be important dates for NGRA Members as Gay Games 9 comes to the United States. Specifically, the venues of the more than 35 sports and cultural activities will be held in Cleveland and Akron Ohio.

IGRA was honored to be asked to be a part of the event and NGRA Members are helping to make this possible. Opening ceremonies will be held the evening of August 9 and NGRA Members will be a part of the IGRA contingent, all marching into the stadium in jeans, boots, western hats and matching shirts. The Men of Charlie's have been honored with the important task of carrying all 50 state flags in the ceremonies and will be dressed in their trademark black and white.

The rodeo will be held August 10 and 11, starting each day at 9:00 am and ending at approximately 5:00 pm. Both days will include entertainment in an adjacent room from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm. Then on August 10 there will be dance from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am. NGRA Members who will be working hard to produce this historic event include:

- Guy Puglisi as Assistant Scorekeeper;
- Brian Rogers as Sponsor and Logistics Chair;
- Lorry King as Dance, Entertainment and Vendor Chair, with Bill Watkins assisting;
- Bill Watkins, Dance, Entertainment and Vendor Co-Chair;
- Miss IGRA 2014, Katrina Davenport as the Entertainment MC, and
- Doug Graff as an Announcer

Go to gaygames.org for more information or ask any of the above members.



KEEPIN' IT

COUNTRY

HOSTED BY NORMA LLYAMAN
FRIDAY AUGUST 1ST 2014



Charlie's
Las Vegas

CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS

9PM COCKTAILS | 10PM SHOW | RAFFLE | 50/50 RAFFLE | DRUNKEN GUMMIES | AUCTION
CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS, 5012 ARVILLE STREET, LAS VEGAS, NV 89118



MR. NGRA 2014, BRENT ROSINSKI, WILL BE COMPETING TO BECOME MR. IGRA 2015
ALL FUNDS WILL BE USED TO MEET HIS COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS
THE FIRST \$250 BENEFITS THE INTERNATIONAL GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (IGRA)
ANY ADDITIONAL MONIES RAISED WILL BENEFIT THE SIN CITY SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE



The Men of Charlie's is a social group that donates money to different charities. The first Saturday of every month contestants participate in raising money, playing games and having fun. Whoever raises the most money becomes Mr. Charlie's for that month.

MEN of CHARLIE'S

The First Saturday of Every Month!



**YOU could be
the next
MR. CHARLIE'S!**

Saturday, 2 August – Beneficiary: NGRA

NGRA PRESENTS

NGRA

BEER BUST

AUGUST PARTY

SUNSET SUMMER SHOW

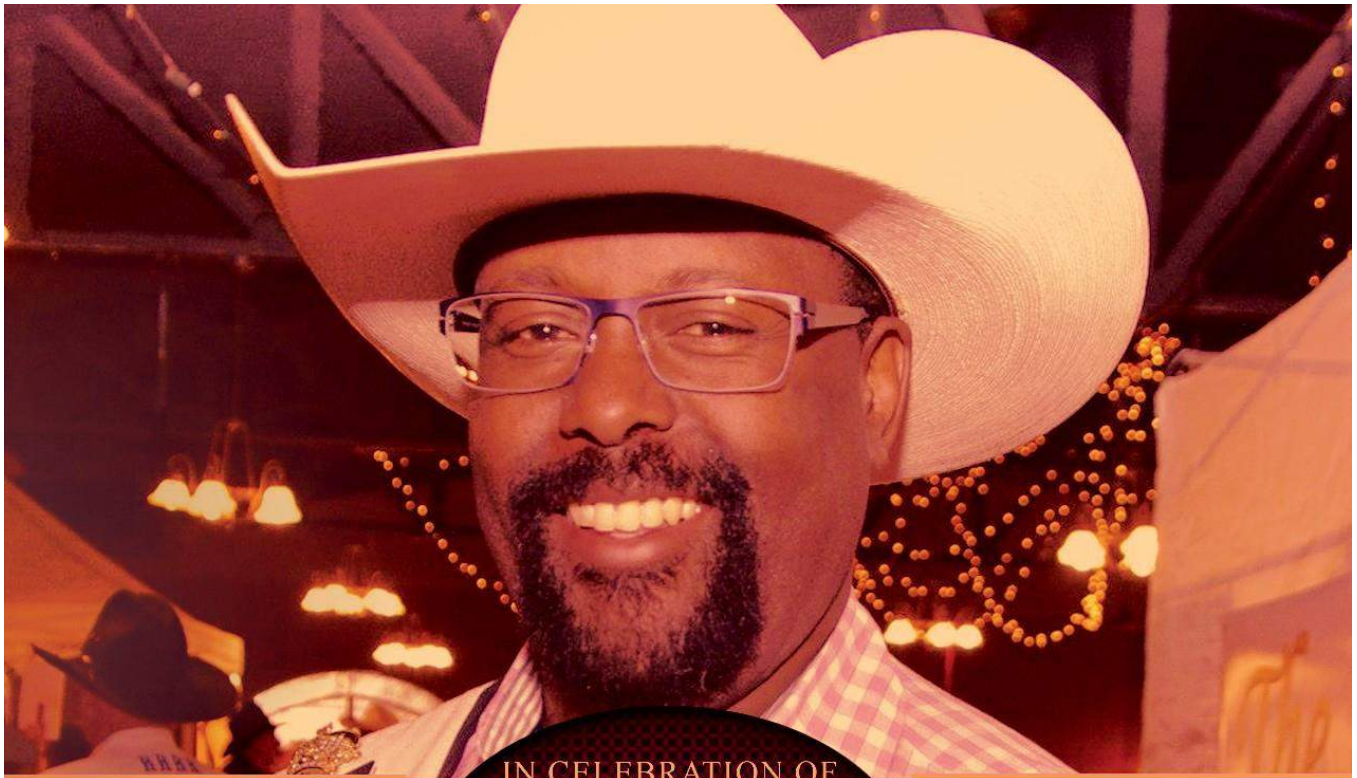
Charlies
Las Vegas

09 AUGUST 2014 | 9PM-12AM

\$5 DOM | \$8 PREM | RAFFLES | SHOW

CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS | 5012 ARVILLE STREET, LAS VEGAS, NV 89118

PROCEEDS BENEFIT NGRA AND BIGHORN RODEO



IN CELEBRATION OF

MR. CURTISS LEWIS, JR.

JUNE 15, 1970 - JULY 18, 2014

AUG. 16, 2014

ABOUT CURTISS

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain."

Curtiss epitomized the heart and soul of NGRA & IGRA.

He was a close friend, a true brother, and a presence that can never be replaced in any of our lives.

Rest in peace Curtiss; and never, never stop dancing in the rain.

Curtiss will be buried next to his mother in Kinder, Louisiana on August 23, 2014

3PM - 6PM

CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS

5012 ARVILLE ST, LAS VEGAS, NV 89118

FOOD WILL BE SERVED

In Loving Memory

Jul. 4 1971 *Jul. 26 2014*

MR. JOEL CASTILLO

SATURDAY AUG 16TH 3PM-6PM

Charlie's Las Vegas
5012 ARVILLE ST., LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89118

FOOD AND CAKE WILL BE SERVED



HOT AUGUST NIGHT



at  **FLEX**
COCKTAIL LOUNGE

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 30**

from 9pm - 11pm

Come on in and join us for
Drink specials, jello shots, raffles
The candidates for the 2015
NGRA Royalty Competition
will be announced at this event.

FOLLOWED BY WHAT A DRAG

Benefiting NGRA and Big-Horn Rodeo

Death Valley and Aguerberry Point

Barry Jones

I wonder what thoughts are conjured in the mind by the mention of Death Valley.



I imagine one thinks of an environment where life is barely sustainable, barren open space, perhaps with the occasional skull or some bones of a creature that did not survive the extreme conditions. There are extremes indeed, with daytime highs in the summer reaching well above 100°F and night time lows in the winter falling below freezing point. Just out of curiosity, I checked on The Weather Channel to find that the highest recorded temperature was 134°F on July 10, 1913, at Furnace Creek, which is the hottest atmospheric temperature ever recorded on earth; the lowest was 15°F in the same year. Annual rainfall is a mere 2.4 inches. It's quite astonishing that anything survives, yet there are wild flowers and small trees, and small creatures, mostly bugs and reptiles, eeking out a living.

Carolyn and I were in Death Valley, California at the end of August 2010, and we stopped at Stovepipe Wells Village for a few days. The daytime temperatures reached about 113°F. One evening, as the temperature cooled to a mere 104°F, we decided to drive to Aguerberry Point for sunset. We had been there a few year's before but it's good to repeat enjoyable experiences.

As usual, when touring the United States, we hired a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) so as to be prepared to take advantage of off-road opportunities. Couple this with Sat-Nav on board, Microsoft Streets and Trips with GPS on the laptop, and Google Maps on-line and we can find our way pretty well anywhere.

We picked up a copy of the Death Valley Visitor Guide from the Ranger Station just across the road from our room at the Stovepipe Wells Village and glanced at the map in the centrefold. Interestingly, it showed the last 6.4 miles of the drive to Aguerberry Point as a mixture of “unpaved road” and “high clearance recommended”. Whilst I would always bow to the advice given in National Park Service publications and by the rangers, in this instance the route can be negotiated by pretty well any vehicle with care. Ok, if you only have a modest car, you will need to be a bit more careful and drive more slowly. Get yourself something a bit more rugged and you can have some real fun.

So let's get down to the trip. Starting from Stovepipe Wells Village, head West on CA190 for 10 miles. Make a left turn onto Wildrose Road.



Don't get confused that the Death Valley Visitor Guide calls it Emigrant Canyon Road. Stay travelling South on Wildrose Road (or whatever) and when you pass a turn for Skidoo on the left you don't have long to wait for the fun to start.

After 11.8 miles on Wildrose Road, make a left onto Aguerberry Point [Road | Track].



Now you tell yourself what a good idea it was to rent an SUV. You are on what they call “unpaved road”. It looks as though they just ran a bulldozer across the desert and forgot to send along the tarmac-laying machine afterwards.





Notice how thoughtful are the Americans in providing a turnout for you to extricate yourself if you decide off-roading is not for you after all.

This is a good point to discuss a few points about driving technique. Choose an upright yet relaxed driving position; raise your seat to improve your view particularly just in front of the vehicle. Note how the emphasis is different from highway driving when you need good observation over all distances and all around.

Drive with the “Thumbs Out” and with a slightly loosened grip, thereby reducing the risk of broken thumbs should the steering wheel suddenly kick as the vehicle encounters a rock or hole. My apologies for this picture’s being of my Discovery back home. I only decided, late on, to include this piece in the article.



Whilst you do need to pick your course carefully, and avoid obvious obstacles, you need to “go with the flow” and not force the precise course. Be careful with rocks and other debris. The natural reaction is to steer to miss them with the wheels but, if you do, be careful the object doesn't hit the differential (usually the lowest point). It's worth checking your ground clearance beforehand.

So off we drove into the sunset. Doesn't it sound romantic? One couldn't help thinking that it was fortunate no-one was following. We were conscious that we were generating a localised dust storm. So I tried pulling up and grabbing the camera to try and capture the cloud I had whipped up. The dust did seem to settle fairly quickly and there as a light breeze helping to disperse it. So we tried a different approach. Carolyn stood by the track and I backed up a couple of hundred metres before hitting the gas. By the time I was alongside, I was doing about 45 mph and making a convincing cloud.

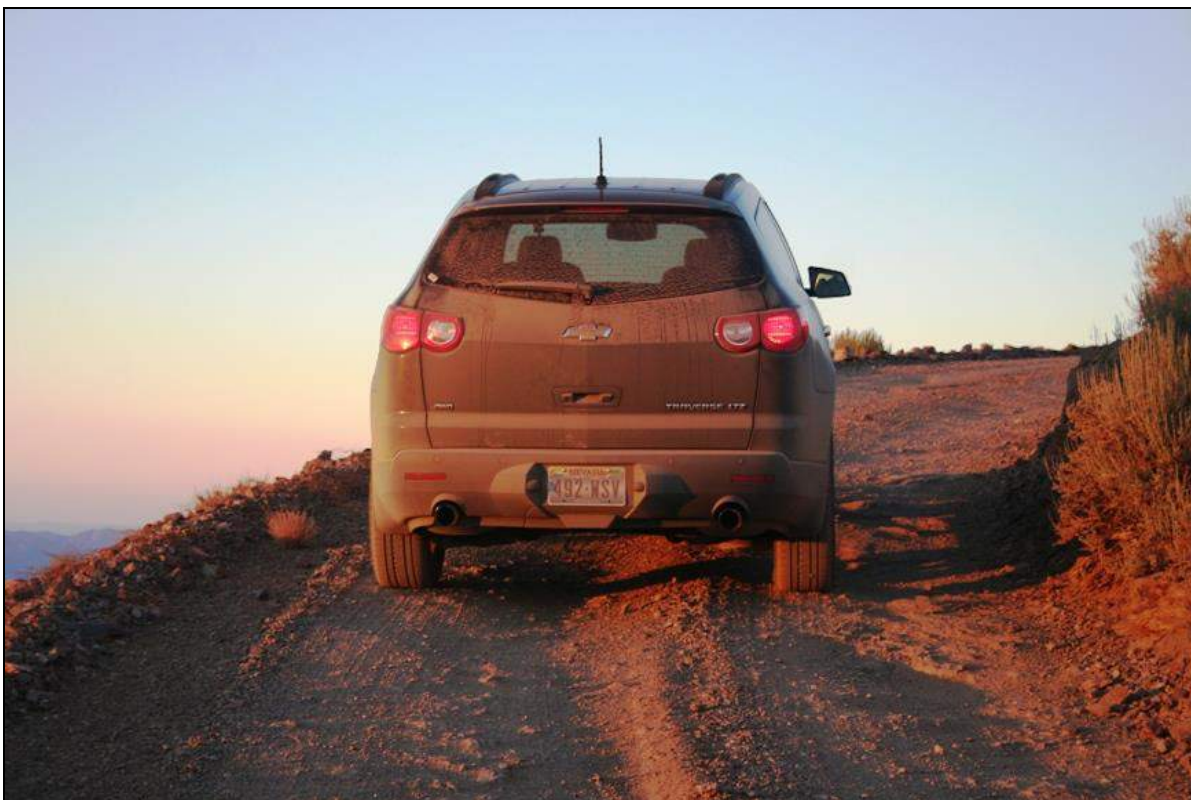


If you look at the bottom right-hand of the picture you will see ripples. Driving over these was quite exhilarating. We pressed on and promised to stop on the way back.

Presently, we started a more pronounced climb and we could see the Summit. If you look towards the left side of the next picture, you can see a flattened portion. That's where the track goes.



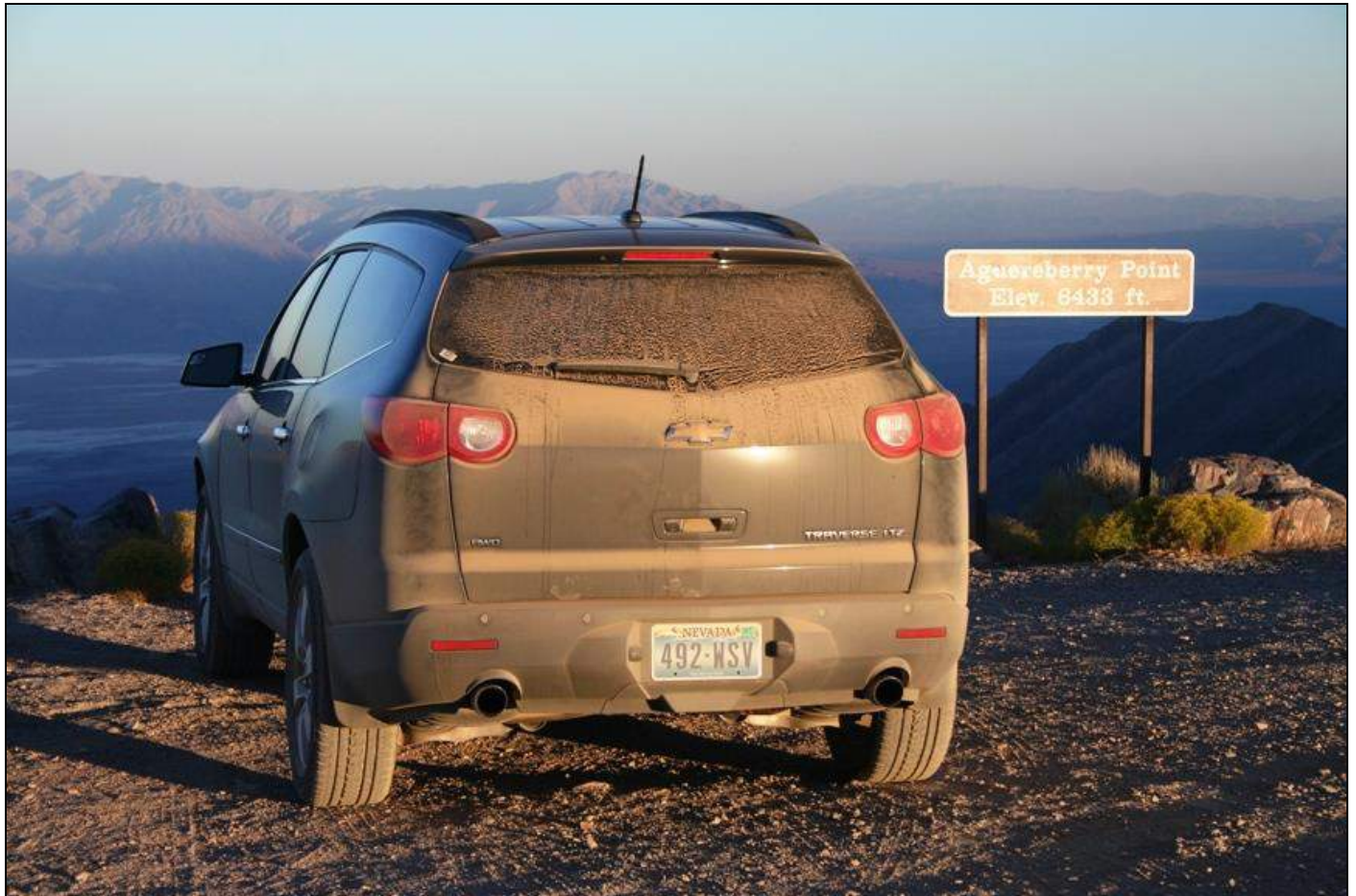
As we neared this point my co-driver said something to the effect of “Never mind the Thumbs Rule. Stick your thumbs where you like. Just make sure you hold the wheel tight. There’s oblivion a couple of feet over there!”



In case you were thinking, this isn't a ghost car. There is no-one inside. I just had to go back and stage this picture so you could get a better impression.

The track continues to curve to the right and, lo and behold, you're at the top and looking over Death Valley. From the SUV's Sat-Nav, the location of Aguerberry Point is 36°21'29"N, 117°02'52"W. These coordinates check out with Google Maps and Microsoft Streets and Trips. So, don't I trust Sat-Nav? Only after I've satisfied myself by a broad cross-check with another navigational method [or two]. Bottom line, there's nothing like a good map.

From the sign, the elevation is 6433 ft and due to the altitude, the temperature has fallen to 68°F.



Walk to the edge and this is the view to the South-East over Death Valley. The light coloured area beyond the crags on the left is the Badwater Basin, some 15 miles away and over 6,700 ft below. This is the lowest elevation in the United States at 282 ft (86 m) below sea level. The Badwater Salt Flats are 5 miles across and take their colour from the deposits of white salt.



As the sun began to set, it shone on the back of the SUV making it seem to glow as the reddening sun mingled with all the sand we had collected on the way up. Perhaps I'm just soft but I think it looks pretty.



We waited while the sun sank further below the horizon. The earlier light breeze had dropped and nothing stirred. Not a soul was in sight. No words can describe the solitude. It is absolutely quiet. Just sit on a rock and enjoy it. As you try to listen for anything, all you can hear is a kind of white noise. I guess your ears are telling you "no signal".



Remember to use the gearbox or transmission to give improved control and to prevent brake fade on steep descents. The way back from Aguerberry Point offers an opportunity to practice this skill. Remember the ripples? The best way I can liken the experience is to say it felt as though you were driving over a cattle grid except that it went on for hundreds of metres at a time.



We stopped for a picture with light from the SUV. The ripples had a fairly regular pitch of about 450mm (actually about one and a half boot's worth) and a depth of a few 10s of millimetres. If you travelled at about 5 mph, it was perfectly smooth but, above that, the regular "drumming" set in. It didn't really get much worse if you speeded up so we pressed on. We returned to Stovepipe Wells, sea level and 104°F.

Finally, I hope I've given some of you a taste for driving off-road. Something like this trip is fairly safe, and a good way to start.



Photographers

WANTED

Seeking photographers to capture live events for NGRA at local bars, casinos, rodeos, and fundraising events. Digital camera required.

Email Brent Rosinski: pr@ngra.com

Calendar

August

Fri 1	9:00 pm	Keepin' it Country Brent's IGRA Competition Fundraiser	Charlie's
Sat 2	9:30 pm	Man of Charlie's Contest Beneficiary: NGRA	Charlie's
Sun 3	4:00 pm	Redneck Recovery Party Jason and A'Lotta's final IGRA Competition Fundraiser	Charlie's
Tue 5	4:00 pm	Joel's Memorial Service	Palm Mortuary, 1325 North Main Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101
Sat 9	9:00 pm	August Party: Summer Sunset Show	Charlie's
9-16		Gay Games	Cleveland + Akron, Ohio
10-11		Gay Games 9 Rodeo	800 North Avenue, Tallmadge, OH 44278
Fri 15	4:00 pm	Curtiss' Viewing	Ebenezer Church of God in Christ, 1072 West Bartlett Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89106
	11:00 am		
Sat 16	3:00 pm	Celebration of Life: Joel Castillo and Curtiss Lewis	Charlie's
	9:00 pm	IRSCDE 14 th Annual Back to School Bash Scholarship Show	Charlie's
Mon 18	6:30 pm	NGRA Board and General Membership Meeting	Gay & Lesbian Community Center
Sat 23		Curtiss Lewis' Burial	Kinder, Louisiana
29-31		Show-Me State Rodeo (MGRA)	Lone Wolf Ranch Arena, 22801 South State Line Road, Cleveland, MO 64734
Sat 30	9:00 pm	Hot August Night	Flex Cocktail Lounge, 4371 West Charleston Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89102

Calendar (continued)

September

Fri 5	8:00 pm	PRIDE Night Parade	The parade route begins at West Charleston Boulevard and heads north along 4th Street to Ogden Avenue.
Sat 6	Noon	PRIDE Festival	Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89106
5-7		Sierra Stampede (SCCGRA)	Central Park Horse Arena, 848 Elkhorn Boulevard, Rio Linda, CA 95673
12-14		Best Buck in the Bay (GSGRA)	Bill Parmeter Field, 23450 Moscow Road Duncans Mills, CA 95430
Sat 13	9:00 pm	NGRA Fundraising Event	Charlie's
Mon 15	6:30 pm	NGRA Board and General Membership Meeting	Gay & Lesbian Community Center

October

Sat 11	9:00 pm	NGRA Fundraising Event	Charlie's
16-19		World Gay Rodeo Finals	John Justin Arena, Will Rogers Memorial Center 3401 West Lancaster Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76107
Mon 20	6:30 pm	NGRA Board and General Membership Meeting	Gay & Lesbian Community Center

NGRA Board of Directors

Effective May 1, 2014

President	Doug Graff	president@ngra.com
Vice President	Ken Hruby	vicepresident@ngra.com
Secretary	Jeffrey Neal	secretary@ngra.com
Treasurer	David Hering	treasurer@ngra.com
Director	Laura Scott	director1@ngra.com
Director	Christina DiGioia	director2@ngra.com
Director	Jason Metzger	director3@ngra.com
Director	Brent Rosinski	director4@ngra.com
IGRA Trustee	Guy Puglisi	trustee@ngra.com

NGRA 2014 Royalty

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Mr NGRA, 1 st Runner Up	Jason Metzger	mrngra1st@ngra.com
Miss NGRA	A'Lotta Trash	missngra@ngra.com
MsTer NGRA	Preston	msterngra@ngra.com

Other NGRA Contacts

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Historian	David Wright	history@ngra.com
Marketing / Media Director	Brent Rosinski	pr@ngra.com
Membership Secretary	David Blackwood	membership@ngra.com
Newsletter Editor	Barry Jones	news@ngra.com
Rodeo Education	Laura Scott	education@ngra.com
Royalty Competition Director	David Blackwood	royaltycompetitiondirector@ngra.com
Sponsorship Director	Roger Bergmann	sponsors@ngra.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Carolyn Jones	volunteers@ngra.com
Webmaster	Brent Rosinski	webmaster@ngra.com