

# WRITE IN THE SADDLE



## SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS

### **TWIN CITIES PRIDE:**

Volunteers needed for our NSGRA Twin Cities Pride Dance Tent June 28 & 29. We need help with assembling and disassembling the dance floor. We are working on returning the band Saddle Sores to our dance tent again this year so cross your fingers! They were quite popular and a hoot last year. This year we had to apply to be in the parade and our submission was vetted. Good news: we were accepted! If you are interested in participating in the Pride parade, in particular if you want to bring a horse in the parade, please contact Bart at [blackbart@blackbart.net](mailto:blackbart@blackbart.net).

### **WISCONSIN BARN DANCE:**

Saturday June 14th 3.5 hours drive from Twin Cities. Bring a tent or stay at one of the local motels. The pot luck dinner is not to be missed! There are also excellent biking trails nearby and great hiking, too. Details to follow soon.

### **INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND BARN DANCE & SHINDIG:**

Plans are afoot for an even bigger barn dance on July 5<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful Parey Farm in Elk River. This is our third barn dance at this location and each one has been better than the one before. We hope for an even bigger crowd this July on this long holiday weekend. How does a camp out sound? We are looking for membership input and volunteers. Please talk to any board member to participate or drop us an e-mail at [info@nsgra.org](mailto:info@nsgra.org)

**Board of Directors**

**Dan V W .....President**

**Mark L.....Vice President**

**Troy L.....Secretary**

**Colin S.....Treasurer**

**Colin S.....Contestants**

**Colin S.....Membership**

**Carl S.....Trustee**

**David M.....Public Relations**

**John B.....Fundraising**

**Newsletter Team**

**Colin S .....Editor**

**Open.....Assistant Editor**

*Please Help Us By*

Sending Your Updated  
Address Info &

Email Address To:

[membership@nsgra.org](mailto:membership@nsgra.org)

Or mail our PO Box



**MAY  
2014**

**2014 RODEOS**

May 2-4  
Hot Rodeo 2014  
Palm Springs, CA

May 9-10  
Bighorn Rodeo  
Las Vegas, NV

May 23-26  
Great Plains Rodeo  
OKC, OK

June 13-15  
ILGRA Rodeo School  
Chicago, IL

June 27  
Rodeo School  
June 27-29  
Canadian Rockies Int'l Rodeo  
Calgary, Alberta

Jul 11-13  
Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo  
Denver, CO

July 25  
NMGRA Rodeo School

See [www.igra.com](http://www.igra.com) for more  
information

**SUNDAY DANCES  
AT LEE'S**

[www.2stepmsp.org](http://www.2stepmsp.org)

**OTHER DANCE  
OPPORTUNITIES**

Saloon – 3rd **SATURDAY**  
**THIS MONTH** May 17<sup>th</sup>  
7-10PM  
Free line dance lessons  
6:30-7

**WRITE IN THE  
SADDLE**

NSGRA is a proud  
member of



We thank our IGRA  
Sponsors:



We thank our 2014 local



**Twin Cities Pride**

AND ALL OUR LOCAL  
NSGRA PARTNERS!

Please visit:



[WWW.IGRATRAVEL.COM](http://www.IGRATRAVEL.COM)

IGRA shares in the normal  
commission rate instead of sites  
like Travelocity and the funds  
are used to support IGRA  
Finals. It costs you nothing  
extra to use it, too!

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## **EVENTS/FUNDRAISING REPORT**

Greetings!

We want to thank everyone who came out to the monthly Country Dance/Beer/Soda bust at the Saloon. Remember every 3rd Saturday of the month the Saloon will host our monthly Country Dance/Beer/Soda bust. The Saloon has a beautiful wood floor for your dancing needs. All NSGRA members will get in for free and if you wish to partake in the beer/soda then the cost is \$5.00 for members and if you are not a member the admission is \$5.00 plus an additional \$5.00 for the beer/soda bust.

We are in negotiations at the moment to have The Saddle Sores to perform at the Dance Tent for Pride. We are trying to get them for Saturday and Sunday...times to follow in the June newsletter. We will also have a larger tent for your dancing needs. We at NSGRA are very excited to have the Saddle Sores and extended tent compliments of Twin Cities Pride.

NSGRA and our own Miss NSGRA Billie LaTease Austin are planning on riding horseback in the parade this year. We are looking for horses that are parade ready for the members to ride. If anyone has any connections please contact Black Bart or our President Dan.

Don't forget to stop by the Pride Dance tent and give us a holler and kick up your boots to a few numbers!

John Bigger  
Events Coordinator

## **BEER BUST/DANCE**

### **Rope & Ride 'EM' Beer Bust/Dance**

**7-10PM SATURDAY**

**May 17th , 2014**

**The SALOON**

**9<sup>th</sup> and Hennepin**

**Downtown Minneapolis**

**FREE admission for NSGRA members!**

**\$5 Beer or soda**

**FREE LINE DANCE LESSONS 6:30-7**



**(Membership meeting precedes beer bust at 6:00)**

## MEMBERSHIP

Howdy, all!

Look for my membership activities on page one. I am squeezing in articles this month so my usual format is being adapted. **Shout out for our free line dances lessons 6:30-7 on May 17<sup>th</sup>!**

~Your friendly editor & Membership Chair

## VICE PRESIDENT

Howdy everyone! First of all, I will apologize for not being in touch for a few months. Here's what's been going on...

January. I was at IGRA University in St. Louis. As I had previously mentioned, I was part of the judging panel for the IGRA International Dance Competition. Dancers, we need some of you in the dance program next January. I also put together the Roadkill/Chuckwagon--IGRA Royalty Review which was a huge success for the first production.

February. Working on future Roadkill shows. Pulling together the IGRA representation at the March GLBT Expo in NYC. AJ and Sonny from ASGRA took the lead and I helped where I could. We were able to get Brutus, the mechanical bull, a "hip replacement" so he's once again fully functional, and better than ever.

March. GLBT Expo in NYC. What could be better than to spend a few days with your best buddies doing something that you love? Also made it back home for the dance. Thanks to everyone who attended. A special thanks to Roger for getting in touch and making the drive in to Minneapolis and getting back in with NSGRA. Also to Tim for joining us. I hope you enjoyed your visit and hope we'll see you again.

April. FGRA (Florida) Sunshine Stampede. Janet and I were North Star's reps although she is also with Cotton States out of Alabama. They did a phenomenal job. With the incredible fundraising efforts of James Young, the rodeo was paid for before it started. This is absolutely amazing. Kole and Voni ran a spectacular show. Kami was an incredible hostess and also did an amazing job with fundraising efforts over the weekend. This is a great weekend for anyone who wants to escape our winter for a few days. Think, 2015, Florida Sunshine Stampede.

I am also part of the IGRA Hall of Fame Committee. We take the submissions for the IGRA HoF and make the inductee selections. If you have someone you would like to nominate, there is a nomination form on the igracom website. Frank Harrell has been working hard putting together the Gay Rodeo History website. This is a pretty amazing feat and I encourage you to take a look at it. We have a very rich, diverse culture in our gay rodeo past.

May. This weekend, Hot Rodeo, Palm Springs.

Upcoming events to look forward to. Rope & Ride 'em beer bust and dance each month. Billie LaTease Austin. Pride Weekend and the NSGRA dance tent, horses in the parade. Independence Weekend Barn Dance, barbeque/roast, camp out and bonfire breakfast. Be there.

Yours in Rodeo, Mark Larson, NSGRA VP

## TRUSTEE

Howdy all!

Just a quick shout out to say hi and to let you all know that the Rodeo season is well under way. Palm Springs May 2-4 then Las Vegas May 9-10 and then Oklahoma 23-25 there will be a trustee board meeting at the Oklahoma rodeo.

Have you wanted to get more involved but not sure how? Here is a great opportunity. The International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) "Rodeo at Gay Games 9" Rodeo Director Judy Munson is calling on all interested parties to step forward and participate in the historic rodeo that will be held on August 10 and 11, 2014 in Akron Ohio.

Now that the dates of the rodeo are confirmed, I am asking that everyone across the IGRA family who wants to participate in the rodeo in any capacity to come forward and be given a role or task, both big and small that will culminate in an event at GG9 that all IGRA members will be proud of.

The first step is to make sure you can commit to being in Cleveland/ Akron for all or most of the time period of August 8-12, 2014....since IGRA does not have a lot of "boots on the ground", we will all have to converge in Akron in advance of the rodeo to prepare the venue. There is also lots to do well in advance of the rodeo, so people who have time to help out over the next 6 months are asked to join us in the endeavor...we are looking to expand the Rodeo Committee to 30-40 people all doing a critical piece of the total effort.

If you would like to meet and share Gay Rodeo with people from all over the world this is your chance. There are unlimited ways for you to be involved and contribute to a fun, exciting and successful IGRA Rodeo at Gay Games 9. Sign up and be part of IGRA history.

Once you feel you can make the commitment we are asking interested IGRA officials, chute/arena crew, and arena volunteers to respond to Judy Munson at: [runninghorseranch@platinum.ca](mailto:runninghorseranch@platinum.ca)

Once you feel you can make the commitment we are asking potential volunteers for all other areas to respond to: Sandy Bidwell, volunteer coordinator at: [bsandyj69@aol.com](mailto:bsandyj69@aol.com).

That's all I have for this month.

Aj Vawter

Trustee

**Gay Games August 9-16 in Cleveland/Akron  
IGRA Rodeo at the Gay Games August 10-11  
<http://gaygamesrodeo.org/index.htm>**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Howdy Gentle Readers!

Thank goodness Spring has sprung! I see a few patches of winter trying to hang on but it can't last long. My new horse is happy to have fresh green grass coming up. Birds are singing, bulbs are starting. It's enough to make you feel 100% better! Of course spring signifies the need to shift into high gear for a very busy summer. Even without a rodeo, we have plenty of things planned (and to plan!) Your board is working diligently to make this the best summer in years.

First up, we have Pride. We have negotiated with the Saddle Sores to perform live again, the schedule is being negotiated as I write this. Scott will also be coming out from California again to teach new dances we don't know here, and NSGRA will catalogue these so we can teach them at our new monthly dance lessons at 6:30 before the monthly beer bust. We will have a larger tent this year, it's going to be a banner year! Make sure to read everyone's articles to see more of what we are planning!

Second, we will have a summer barn dance at Parrey Farm on the July 4th weekend. Again, details are still in the works, but plan on Saturday for a fun event. Remember to check NSGRA.org for details, as well as follow us on Facebook to see what the latest news is.

There is a third event we are hoping to host in fall, it involves water, music, dancing, and fun. But it's still too early to pop the bubble, you'll have to check back next month!

Thanks to everyone who participated in Dining Out For Life. NSGRA members attended multiple venues, had great food and met many nice folks, including Blake McCoy from Kare11 who posted a photo on their webpage with Miss NSGRA 2014 Billie. Woot woot!

I know there's a lot more to read, so I'll let you get to it. Just remember, many of the events we host are free or discounted for NSGRA members. If you know someone who likes to attend 4 events or more per year, remind them joining will pay for itself! Talk to Colin for details.

See you on the dance floor!

Dan

### **CONTESTANTS**

NSGRA received 100 points at the Sunshine Stamped in April. Mark Larson's team took 1st place in Wild Drag Race on Saturday and 1st place both days in Steer Riding—congratulations! I also understand he got pretty beat up bull riding—hope he is back to snuff soon!

OKC has a big rodeo coming up over Memorial Day weekend. If you are looking for a road trip, this could be an excellent rodeo to attend. Please visit [www.ogra.net](http://www.ogra.net) for all the details.

Let's rodeo!

“Black Bart”

**North  
Star  
Gay  
Rodeo  
Association**



PO Box 11199  
St. Paul, MN  
55111-0199

[HTTP://WWW.NSGRA.ORG](http://www.nsgra.org)

**NSGRA BEER BUST/  
DANCE LESSONS/  
COUNTRY DANCE  
MAY 17TH**

As always, PLEASE let us know if your mailing address or e-mail address has changed. We don't want to lose touch when you change addresses (either kind). Sending newsletters in electronic formats is faster than a printed version and saves postage and trees. Nevertheless, we will send a printed version to any member who requests it. If you are a current NSGRA member and have not been receiving the email versions of the monthly newsletter, please check your Spam guard. The emails are sent blind carbon copied to respect our members' privacy, and they will come from [blackbart@blackbart.net](mailto:blackbart@blackbart.net). NSGRA encourages all members to contribute articles for Write in the Saddle. Ideas for articles and other submissions are always welcome! It is our connection with each other. Let us hear from you! Oh, and please invite your friends to join NSGRA and help us grow in 2014.

**2014 SHERIFFS AND MARSHALL  
SHERIFFS (INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS)**

Mark L	Linda R	Zane R
Jack R	Black Bart	Mark D
Todd P	Gary S	Del G

**MARSHALS (BUSINESS SPONSORS)**

Dance Hall Creek Farm      Parey Farms

Want to be listed above? Being an NSGRA Sheriff (Individual) or Marshal (business) is a type of membership where the amount over your normal membership dues is tax deductible. Your contribution helps us meet our goals "assisting our local community and charities through support, education, and fundraisers while providing a friendly environment for all persons to participate in and learn about the western lifestyle and skills." For those interested, you can upgrade your regular membership to either Sheriff or Marshal with an additional contribution of \$75.00 or more. Let anyone wonder, your contribution of time is also greatly valued by NSGRA. No matter your financial resources, everyone's participation is needed and appreciated! We also thank those who have donated time and financial support in other ways!

# NSGRA CALENDAR

May 2014						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Membership meeting Free Line Dance lessons Beer Bust/Dance	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31	

**CHECK OUT NSGRA ON FACEBOOK!**