



# Big Horn Gazette

APRIL 2008 ISSUE

## From the Board of Directors

March came in like a lion, and went out like a lion as well. It's hard to believe, but it's been a full year, and it's time for board elections again. The positions of Vice-President, Secretary, and all four Member at Large positions are open. You should all have received your ballot online by now. There is an option to have the ballot mailed to you as well. Voting is open until April 11th. We encourage each of you to stay informed, talk to other members, learn about the board positions, and vote.

Fundraising went very well in March, raising almost \$2000 between our two main events. First was our annual Closet Ball competition. We had two incredible contestants, including board member David Blackwood, who made a tremendous Celine Dion-like transformation. The winner was Joel Castillo, who wowed everyone with his magnificent new look and presence. Jaws were dropping at the two contestants and their performances, and it was a truly great evening. The Board of Directors show at Badlands, towards the end of the month, was a wonderful way for the board to end an often tumultuous year. Thanks to David Blackwood, Rob Saunders, and Brian Maley, for their Saturday Night Live style opening sketch, spoofing key members of the board. The 'Pay to throw a pie in the face' of a board member of your choice, was truly inspired, and grew in popularity as the whip cream kept being flung. Special thanks to Boan Jordan of Charlie's, for volunteering to get a pie in the face as well, and of course special thanks to Miss NGRA 2008, Katrina, as she too volunteered to 'take one in the face' for rodeo, make up, little black dress, and all.

In other news, we are working on a redesign of our website. The different options are being looked at, and it should not be too long before you see a streamlined and easier to navigate NGRA website.

The Rodeo Planning Committee meeting in March was productive as well, with several key questions and issues being resolved. Primarily, we will have Sam's Town as our host hotel, which, as most of you know, is literally walking distance from the rodeo grounds at Horseman's Park. We are planning more activities at the grounds themselves this year as well. We need everyone's involvement to pull off another great rodeo. Please consider getting involved and coming out to the RPC monthly meetings. The RPC meets the third Monday of the month, right after the General Membership Meeting, at 6:30pm, at The Center.



**MEMBER OF THE YEAR  
2007!**

## **DARREN WERNETTE**

Darren, Darren, Darren... our own famous and wonderful Darren! All of NGRA Congratulates you on being voted the Member of the Year for 2007! Anyone who knows Darren will know of his usual 'Oh, I do it for the kids... not to win'. However, we are so very proud of you and your many efforts with NGRA are not unnoticed. Darren has won Mr. NGRA 1st Runner Up two times, and has been out there in the community representing us since he first joined in February of 2006. His contributions to NGRA have included almost every facet of involvement, from staffing volunteer booths when few else were there, to raffle sales and jello shots and performing. He has participated at rodeo and served as last year's Grand Entry Coordinator. He has taught at IGRA University, and has actively reached out to other organizations in our community. Mostly, Darren has been a great example of how to treat others well. He has done good work, and has then humbly moved onto the next need. No one could ever accuse Darren of crowing too much about himself. Congratulations again Darren, on your well deserved honor.

The next few months have a lot going on for NGRA. The Rodeo circuit begins in full force with the Fort Lauderdale Rodeo. April will bring the highly anticipated Cow Patty contest. All you butcher types are encouraged to join in, put on a dress, keep your beards, and entertain us with your best camp act. Las Vegas Pride is quickly approaching as well. See the article of needs and details further in the newsletter. We very highly encourage everyone to come out and march with the NGRA group in the Friday evening Parade as well.

Once again... Thanks to everyone who participated in March events, meetings, and fundraising. We look forward to a great April with you all!

# 2008 PRIDE FESTIVAL IS COMING!

By Darren Wernette

Join NGRA at the 2008 Pride Festival in the Government Center Downtown. We are offered a unique opportunity to raise funds for BigHorn Rodeo for a very small amount of volunteering. Pride organizers are paying local groups and charities \$10 per hour per volunteer. Our trustee, Brian Rogers, is in charge of the front gate and needs 18 volunteers to staff the gates in three shifts. Each shift is approximately 3 hours long and you gain free entry to the Pride Festival after your shift. Go to <http://www.lasvegaspride.org/volunteer.htm> to fill out your application and join us. Make sure that you specify "front gate" and NGRA as your desired charity.

NGRA will also have a booth at the Pride Festival and we will need volunteers to staff it as well. We will be passing out information regarding NGRA and BigHorn Rodeo as well as raffling off fun prizes. Speaking of prizes, WE NEED YOUR HELP. If you have the ability to get us anything that might be nice to raffle off, please contact Darren Wernette at [flabuzz@cox.net](mailto:flabuzz@cox.net) and I'll take it off your hands. We're looking for dinners, show tickets, even items in your closet waiting to be "gifted." We'll take anything you've got and try to make some money off of it!

## Congratulations Miss Closet Ball 2008



Miss Sable Desire



2008 Runner-up  
Miss Taylor Trash



Past Miss Closet Ball winners: L to R - Katrina, Diddy Revealya, Saltiva Cracker, Jasmine Guy.



## In Loving Memory...

We are sad to announce the death of a great friend to NGRA and the wider Gay/Lesbian/Transgender community. **Norm Goldstein** passed away in March.

Norm and his wife Phyllis performed regularly at many NGRA fundraisers, and countless IRSCDE events. One of Norm's last performances was raising money for NGRA at our January Badland's event. Norm was the wonderful keyboardist who, with Phyllis packing a wallop with her sensational and heartfelt vocals, brought energy and life to pop classic favorites. A service for Norm was held at MCC church on March 25th. Family and friends gathered to remember his warm and down-to-earth friendship, and shared individual stories of how Norm had touched their lives. Norm is survived by his loving wife Phyllis and daughter Maggie. NGRA will miss you Norm! You will never be forgotten!

## Royalty Column

By Katrina

Wow! A month has already passed by and I can see that this year is going to go by very quickly. Let's all give the Board or Directors a big round of applause, their good sportsmanship helped to make the 'Hang 'em High' event at Badlands a tremendous success. We on the Fundraising Committee are so pleased to see new ideas be so welcome and successful. To all of you out there, if anyone has an idea they think might be fun to try, and at the same time raise funds for BigHorn Rodeo, please let any one of us on the committee know. We will then brainstorm and bring it to reality. We will all be looking forward to our next big show event, Miss Cow Patty 2008. I have heard little bits of what Bearyl and Fay are pulling together, and it should be a very entertaining evening on April 12th at Charlie's. Just a note to please look at the calendar for ALL upcoming events, and we hope to see you there. If you can't make it, we hope your spirit is with us, and know that you will be missed. Please take note of Kandice Kane's (Pride Parade), Darren Wernette's (NGRA Pride Booth), and David Hering's (Pride Registration, request for volunteers. YOUR help is so important to us and to OUR success in promoting the gay/lesbian western lifestyle, and raising funds to give back to our community. Thank You Everyone!

Katrina

'Forever in a Cowboy's Rose Garden' 2



Spring weather is finally here and I for one am thrilled that the days are getting longer.

Now we can

really get in the swing of this as the rodeo season gears up.

First off I want to offer my congratulations on a great job by everyone at the Board of Director's event. It was a ton of fun and we raised some good money. It's good to be able to have a laugh or two.

By now you should have received an email inviting you to join us in celebrating SNAPI's 25th Anniversary Pride season. Events start Thursday, April 24 with a kick-off party at Charlie's and events continue nightly including the Parade on Friday night (May 2) and

the Festival on Saturday (May 3). It all wraps up with a T-dance at the Blue Moon Resort on Sunday. A full schedule of events can be found at [www.lasvegaspriide.org](http://www.lasvegaspriide.org).

NGRA has plans to participate in the parade and the festival again this year. We will have our Giant mobile billboard again advertising the dates of our rodeo. NGRA members and friends are encouraged to join us and walk with our group. Make plans to find us by around 7pm at 4th Street and Coolidge. Participation is FREE.

As you may already be aware, NGRA has also volunteered to operate the entry gates at the 2008 Pride Festival. This year's Festival will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at the Clark County Government Center.

We are need of volunteers from the NGRA Membership to work the various aspects of the entry gate. The best

part about this arrangement is that for every hour your work, NGRA will earn \$10.00. In addition, after working your shift, you be granted entry into the Festival for free! Think of it as another way to give back to your community. f you are interested in volunteering your time, please send an email to David Hering at [david.hering@cox.net](mailto:david.hering@cox.net) with the following information; Name, Address, Phone, Email, Shirt Size, Date of Birth (we won't tell)

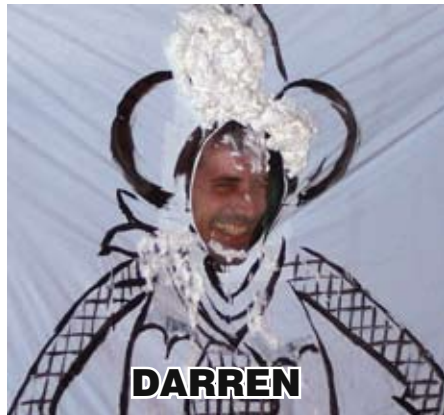
NGRA is also participating in the Pride Festival with a rodeo information booth. Please contact Darren Wernette to volunteer to work the NGRA booth.

Upcoming rodeos include - April 4-6, Fort Lauderdale, FL, May 2-4, Palm Springs, CA, May 9-11, Philadelphia, PA, May 23-25, Oklahoma City, OK and we will have representation at each.

## PIE THROWING FUNDRAISER AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHOW



GERRY



DARREN



ROB



DAVID



KATRINA



FRANK



SHAUN

## Member of the Month February 2008



### David Hering

Congratulations David! David has been an NGRA member for a little over a year now, and has, in his quiet charming way, become a much valued and generous member of NGRA. He volunteered as Ticket Coordinator for BigHorn Rodeo 2007, impressing everyone with his calm, steady, and confident abilities, and wildly accurate and precise reports! At IGRA University in February, he stepped up and served as the Volunteer Coordinator, making life a whole lot easier for everyone. Thank you David, and we look forward to seeing more of you and working with you again!

# Get ready to have some great fun **NGRA'S ANNUAL MISS COW PATTY CONTEST**

if you normally see him like this



The competition is a fun camp drag event, where the butch get glamorous, dress up, and perform to outrageous, and over the top songs. Judging will cover talent (performance) and Cow Patty-ness! The winner is CROWNED as Miss Cow Patty and prize money is awarded.



See him like this

**\$100.00 IN PRIZE  
MONEY OFFERED**

## **SATURDAY APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**5.00 BUD LIGHT  
BEER BUST**

**1.00 JELL-O  
SHOTS**

**RAFFLE PRIZES**

*Charlie's*  
**Las Vegas**

**EVENT BEGINS AT  
9:30 PM**

**CELEBRITY JUDGES  
AND  
ENTERTAINERS**

If you're interested in being a Miss Cow Patty  
Contestant please contact Eddy Krien at [eddyskiva@yahoo.com](mailto:eddyskiva@yahoo.com) or 702-328-9627

Proceeds from the raffle and beer bust benefit NGRA



**Photo's taken at  
Miss Closet Ball  
2008**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	5
6	7	8	9 Fundraising Meeting 6:30	10	11 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	12 NGRA Annual COW PATTY event at Charlies 9:30
13	14 NGRA Board Meeting at The Center 6:30 PM	15	16	17	18 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	19
20	21 General Member- ship meeting 6:30 RPC Meeting following	22	23	24	24 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	26 NGRA Cowboy Spring Break Party event at Badlands starts and 9:30
27	28	29	30			



**WELCOMES  
NGRA'S  
NEWEST  
MEMBERS**

**Gene Fox  
Robert Tyler  
Joel Castillo**



**Celebrating NGRA  
Members'  
April Birthdays**

- Alika Borge 4/3
- Mark Remillard 4/3
- Jon Wall 4/3
- Adam Johnson 4/15
- Tracey Skinner 4/21
- Gary Wiens 4/21
- Winsor Cooper 4/23
- Bill Watkins 4/24
- Larry Lee Grigsby 4/27
- Guy Puglisi 4/30

**CONGRA**



# COWBOY SPRING BREAK PARTY



**NO SHIRT**

**NO BOOTS**

**NO PROBLEMS**

**SATURDAY APRIL 26  
THE PARTY BEGINS AT 9:30**



## NGRA Association Buckle

Jewelry Quality Rodeo Buckle Crafted by GIST Silversmiths, makers of the finest rodeo award buckles in the world

# \$120

These beautiful buckles are available for the purchase online. [www.ngra.com](http://www.ngra.com)



## I.G.R.A. RODEO/EVENT SCHEDULE RODEO YEAR 2008

For more detail information on these events you may go to  
[http://igra.com/Calendar\\_Rodeo.htm#top2007](http://igra.com/Calendar_Rodeo.htm#top2007)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
April 4-6	Sunshine Stampede	Fort Lauderdale, FL
May 2-4	Hot Rodeo 2008	Palm Springs, CA
May 9-11	Liberty Stampede	Philadelphia, PA
May 23-25	Great Plains Rodeo *	Oklahoma City, OK
June 20-22	LA Rodeo	Los Angeles, CA
June 27-29	Canadian Rockies International Rodeo	Calgary, Alberta
July 4-6	North Star Regional Rodeo	Menneapolis-St. Paul, MN
July 11-13	Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo	Denver, CO
July 25-27	Capital Crossroads Rodeo	Sacramento, CA
Aug. 15-17	More Bucks by the Bay Rodeo	San Francisco, CA
Aug. 15-17	Zia Regional Rodeo	Albuquerque, NM
Aug. 22-24	Windy City Rodeo *	Chicago, IL
Aug. 29-31	MGRA Show Me State Rodeo	Kansas City, MO
Sept. 5-7	Atlantic Stampede 2008	Washington, DC
Sept. 12-14	Greater San Diego Rodeo	San Diego, CA
Sept. 19-21	BigHorn Rodeo	Las Vegas, NV
Oct. 10-12	IGRA Finals Rodeo	Denver, CO
Oct. 31 - Nov. 2	IGRA Annual Convention / Royalty Comotion*	New Orlean

\* indicates a BOD Meeting to be held.

Please remember to support those who support our efforts within the community and BigHorn Rodeo

