



From the Board of Directors

NGRA started the year with some successful events, some trips to the Phoenix Rodeo, membership renewals, and further anticipation for the upcoming IGRA University and Royalty Competition.

We encourage all members to take whatever part they can in IGRA University. Members of Gay Rodeo Associations will be in town, at the Tuscany Hotel, to teach classes in all aspects of running a rodeo. If you are interested in learning rodeo from the arena ground up to timing and marketing, now is your chance. Contact Brian Rogers at bhr9@cox.net If you would like to volunteer or sign up for classes. As part of IGRA University weekend we will also be holding dance classes throughout the day at the Tuscany, and capped off with an evening dance.

Taking place the same weekend will be NGRA's Royalty Competition. The candidates for these important public relations, rodeo spokespersons, community outreach, and fundraising positions have been busy all month preparing for the competition. The competition is based on participation with NGRA, knowledge of rodeo, community involvement, public presentation, personal interview, entertainment and western wear. A panel of judges drawn from NGRA and the wider IGRA will act as judges in all the categories. Join us Friday evening, February 22nd at Charlie's for the big night.

We are also very happy to announce David Blackwood as the newest member of the Board of Directors. David was heavily involved with last year's rodeo as Vendor Coordinator, and is now our Board's Secretary. Congratulations David!

The board is currently working on putting



Nevada Gay Rodeo Association presented 15,000 dollars to the GLBT Center of Las Vegas

together a Scholarship Program to financially assist those members in the most financial need, to attend University, Convention and other NGRA functions. Stay involved and in touch with us as this develops.

Membership Renewals went out last month. Current members can renew throughout February for the standard \$24, but will need to pay an additional \$10 late fee. After the end of February, current members, who have not renewed, will be taken off of the membership list. As of this writing, we have a little over 70 renewals, which is a very healthy number, and of course new memberships come in throughout the year.

Our first General Membership Meeting of the year, held at our new time and location, at The Center, on January 14th, was a resounding success. Not only did we make quorum, but topped it as well. There were several members who had never been to a

GMM and others who we haven't been able to see in a long time. Good discussion and information was shared, before, during, and after the meeting. We also held our first BigHorn Rodeo Planning Committee meeting, immediately afterwards. We are still in the very early stages of planning, so now is a great time to get involved. The next GMM and RPC meeting will take place on Monday, February 18th, at The Center, 6:30pm.

Events-wise, we had blast at Charlie's for our Wild and Wooley Wodeo bash. Contestants ran through several campy recreations of rodeo events, and yes, there were more than a few 'broken patterns' and disqualifications as the fun intensified. Our Country Fair event at Badlands was a success, with over \$600 being raised. The highpoint of this event was being able to hand over NGRA's check for \$15,000 to The GLBT Community Center, which were the proceeds from our very successful 2007 BigHorn Rodeo. Thank you to Rodeo Director 2007 Gerry Gomez and Trustee Brian Rogers for being there to present the check. It was a very proud moment for NGRA. Thank you to Kandice Kane for a great job in organizing this event, and to IRSCDE members Empress X: Tago LaFemme, Emperor X: Uncle Bill Warbeck, for hosting, and to Civil Wrights, for running the sound and tech end of things.

February will prove a great month with a lot going on. There are many opportunities this month to get involved, in a wide variety of events and functions. We hope to see you all out and about with us!

DANCIN' IN THE DESERT

Join NGRA, through the IGRA University, in a day of Country Western dance classes and a night of dancing at the Tuscany Suites Hotel and Casino. Classes include Two Step, Waltz, Line Dance and Competition Prep for Beginners, all taught by IGRA Dance Champions. Learn some new moves that you can use that night at the dance or the next day at our local clubs!

Classes are from 9:00 to 5:00 on Saturday, February 23 in Florentine Room D on the second floor of the Tuscany. Register that day and pay only \$5.00 for any and all dance classes! Then join us that night at 8:00 for a dance with no cover charge where you can put those new moves to work! The night will include Jack & Jill and Line Dance competitions.

The classes and evening dance will be a part of IGRA University this year for the first time. Starting in 2009, the IGRA Dance Competition will be held during University, so we're gearing up for that change now. No partner is required. The two step and waltz classes are intended for those who already know the basic steps to those dances and want to add some new moves. The line dance class will teach a new dance and will show students how to put some style and variations into their line dancing. In addition, there will be a class in Competition Prep. This is for those who are thinking of competing, but aren't sure how to go about it or how to start.



**Saturday,
February 23**

**Dance Classes
9 AM to 5 PM
\$5.00 all day**

**Evening Dance NO Cover 8:00 PM
Tuscany Hotel Ballroom**

MEMBER OF THE MONTH, NOVEMBER 2007



Jeff Germany

Jeff has lived in Las Vegas for most of 2007, and only recently had to move back to Texas.

For those of you who didn't get the chance to meet him... he is 'the tilted hat' guy... but for those of us who had the pleasure to get to know him... we are honored to call him a great friend. While he lived in Las Vegas he put himself wholeheartedly into NGRA, helping at events, bringing his years of experience in TGRA and IGRA to us, and mentoring several NGRA members. He also served as a Member at Large on our Board of Directors.

Jeff is happy to be back in the Lonestar State, but remains a close friend of NGRA, and we hope to see him visiting us soon. We Love You Jeff!

Celebrating NGRA Members' February Birthdays



Kirtus Veater	2/3
Victor Lane-Evans	2/4
Stuart May	2/5
Michael Bishop	2/7
Daniel Roybal	2/8
Chris Hunter	2/9
Dale Loftin	2/9
Rolando Rodriguez	2/9
Bruce Parrott	2/12
George Vierra	2/12
Jim St.Marie	2/17
Gerry Gomez	2/20
Robert Salcedo	2/20
Randy Wehling	2/24
Cory Trujillo	2/28

TRUSTEE REPORT

Brian Rogers



The first rodeo of the 2008 season has come and gone. By all accounts, Road Runner Regional Rodeo and the Rodeo School in Phoenix were very successful events. The weather cooperated this year by warming up and I understand some shirts came off! RRRR had 146 contestants and the rodeo ran smoothly. Richard A, Chris D and Lee H competed for NGRA. There may have been others, but the contestant results have not yet been posted to the website as I write this article. Attending for NGRA were many members and individuals from the Las Vegas community including David B, Eddy K, Darren W, Tom C, Michael J, Bill T, Claude M, Mitch G, Robbie D, George V, Mike W. Sorry for any I missed listing. Everyone had a great time – what a great way to start off our rodeo year. Congratulations AGRA!

NEW IGRA TRAVEL SITE: The new IGRA Travel site that was previewed at Convention is now up and operating with a link off of igra.com or directly by bookmarking www.igratravel.com. Use it instead of sites like Travelocity and Expedia and help support IGRA. IGRA will use the proceeds to support the member associations.

Here is how it works: when you use a travel booking site, the sponsoring company gets a monetary commission (typically a small percentage, built in to the cost of travel, NOT added to it). With the new IGRAtravel.com site,

IGRA receives a split of that commission percentage for every item booked using the site. For those with frequent flyer accounts, you can enter your account number to be credited with your frequent flyer miles.

I just booked my OKC trip in May using the site and found this program to offer travel prices equal to, in most cases, and sometimes better than other group travel websites sites like Travelocity and Expedia. Please, next time you book travel thru a site, consider using the igratravel.com site and help IGRA build new revenue sources to support GLBT rodeo.

IGRA University is coming up in a few weeks. NGRA is proud to host his great event and we all look forward to showing all our visitors from around IGHRA a great time! If you are interested in registering to take classes you have two options: NGRA members are also encouraged to participate in the scholarship program where NGRA covers your tuition. The application is available from Shaun Sewell. Please contact him for additional information or to apply. Alternately you can register directly by going online at www.igra.com and register online. \$75 (after Feb, 1) covers all classes for the weekend, a special badge magnet back university badge and the Sunday luncheon at The Tuscany. NGRA needs volunteers to work this event as well. Please contact David Hering if you have time to volunteer or email any Board member who can refer your inquiry to David.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR IGRA UNIVERSITY



Rodeo Director for BigHorn Rodeo 2008

In December of last year, the board interviewed and elected to appoint Mitch Gill as our 2008 BigHorn Rodeo Director. We welcome him and we ask for all of your support in working with Mitch towards a successful rodeo. That's what we are here for.

Mitch has been active in NGRA and IGRA for over fifteen years. He has been the president of several rodeo associations, was the founder of the Reno Gay Rodeo, and the Reno rodeo director for two years. He has served on the boards of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association and on committees for the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association. He was the Vice-President of IGRA for four years, and has served as fundraising chairperson for both TGRA and NGRA. His experience also includes that of secretary for IGRA, and as scorekeeper. He has taught courses at every IGRA University event. He has been a rodeo contestant and the Grand Marshall of the 20th Annual IGRA Finals. As 'DeShannon', Mitch has served the gay rodeo community as Miss NGRA in 1998, as Miss TGRA in 1994, and was Miss IGRA in both 1995 and 1999. Other involvements and skills Mitch brings to us are his years of involvement in community fundraising, with IRSCDE, the Dallas Chapter of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, and other AIDS crisis and awareness organizations in Washington DC and around the country. Mitch is not afraid of hard work, and looks forward to listening and working effectively with the wide variety of people that compose NGRA and the wider community.

You'll see Mitch out with NGRA a lot. Don't be shy about introducing yourself, and be prepared to be brought into the volunteering mode!

Let's Rodeo!

NGRA Royalty 2008
Competition is being held
the weekend of
February 21 - 23

The Titles will be awarded
Friday February 22
at Charlie's Las Vegas

It's Royalty Competition Time!



**LUPID,
COWBOYS
AND
COWGIRLS**

AT
Charlie's
Las Vegas

**Saturday February 9th
Event starts at 9:30 PM**

Benefiting NGRA and BigHorn Rodeo





Mr. NGRA 2007 Tom Coleman's Step Down Address

The journey has come full circle. And I think Darren and I set a new record, and it is true, gay guys don't know math. A full year is 12 months, not 15 months, but it was an enjoyable 15 months. Starting out in November 2007, Darren and I were on trip that we had very little idea where we were going, what we would see or do, and who we would meet. Now here it is February 2008 and time to hand over the reins to a new Royalty team.

Darren and I kicked the year off by attending our first rodeo in Phoenix and ironically we ended our time in Phoenix just recently as our last Royalty visit for 2007. At least for me, but Darren has decided to throw his hat back in the ring.

I know Darren went to Phoenix last year, Dallas, San Diego and Albuquerque rodeos and if I missed any others Darren, sorry. I also hit Phoenix as a starter, then onto Dallas, Little Rock, Oklahoma City, Chicago, Denver, our Rodeo and then back to Denver. Kansas City found both Darren and I at convention as delegates.

Part of my journey led me back to Denver for the IGRA finals rodeo and royalty competition. I didn't come back with a sash, but something much more important, bringing home the "Spirit Stick" and also being recognized as the highest charity fundraiser for IGRA. Just having the honor of competing with some of the nicest people in rodeo, the backbone of the fundraiser aspect of rodeo, the IGRA Royalty team, was a great experience.

I have to say I enjoyed myself immensely, volunteering wherever I could, doing contestant registration, selling tickets, handing out programs, being a runner, being a timer, entertaining, etc. at the different rodeos and What a fun year it has been.

But the biggest thing of going to the rodeos was meeting the greatest people in the world. I have found new acquaintances and

made life-long friendships all over the country because of rodeo.

I have become involved in rodeo this year but in a different aspect. I got hooked on working with the IGRA staff and doing timing at the rodeos and hope to go on to be a certified scorekeeper.

The year is over now and would I do it again if I could? Definitely. It was a year to be savored, and enjoyed and I learned so many new things and was involved in things I never experienced before.

I hope that I have accomplished a lot for NGRA and have given back at least some of what they have given me. It was an honor and privilege to represent NGRA at many different rodeos, functions and fundraisers and to help other associations where I could.

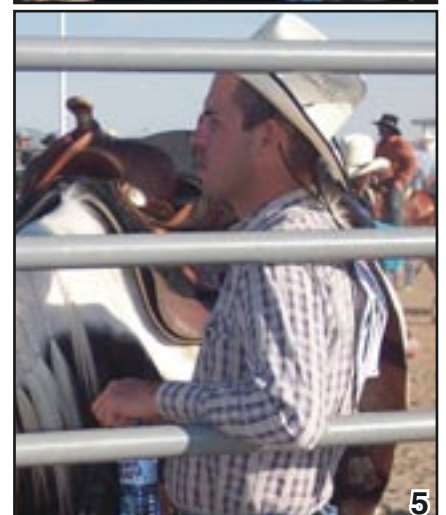
To the new royalty team, I wish you well and much success in your endeavor. Work together as a team, entertain, raise funds for charities and our rodeo but above all, enjoy what you are doing. It is a great experience to look back on after it is all over.

So many people to thank and so little space to do it in. My love and thanks to Mark and Bob, as they have been my staunchest supporters. To Boan and John King at Charlie's as they supported me in every way they could.

And at NGRA, my hat's off to Lorry King and what a learning experience to fill in for you as an alternate trustee at rodeos. To Shaun Sewell and Brian Rogers for their shoulders when I needed them. Their emotional support has meant so much to me. To the man behind the scenes, Joe, your words meant a lot to me.

But I guess rodeo is in my blood and I am off to Ft. Worth this month, Ft. Lauderdale and also Oklahoma City, and who else knows where this old man might just pop up and help out. It is a labor of love. And now, on February 22nd, I go on to my new title. A WAZZIE!!!!

MOMENTS CAUGHT AT RRRR IN PHOENIX



**NGRA
WILD
'N WOOLY
WODEO**



**AWESOME
CONTESTANTS**



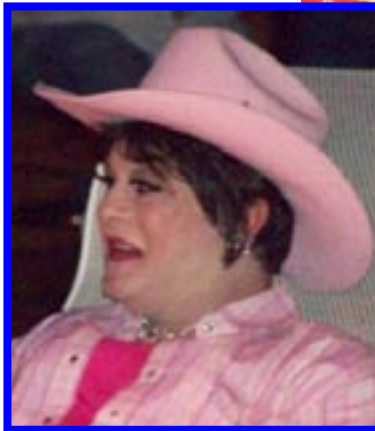
PHOTOS FURNISHED BY GUY



OUR ONE AND ONLY - SALTIVA



**ALL AROUND CHAMPION
ADAM**



WHAT'CH LOOKING AT SWEETIE



THE AWARDS AND CONTESTANTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	2
3	4	5	6 Fundraising Meeting 6:30	7	8 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	9 CUPIDS Cowboys and Cowgirls event at Charlies
10	11 NGRA Board Meeting at The Center 6:30 PM	12	13	14	15 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	16
17	18 General Member- ship meeting 6:30 RPC Meeting following	19	20	21 Back to School with IGRA Event at Badlands 9:00 PM	22 IGRA University NGRA Royalty Competition at Charlies	23 IGRA University Dancin in the Desert at the Tuscany Ballroom 8 PM
24 IGRA Frat Party at Chalries 4 PM	25	26	27	28	29 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	



**WE
WANT
YOU**

Vounteers needed to help Sell HOT DOGS!

We are averaging a couple hundred dollars each week for NGRA with this fundraiser. We will be selling hot chocolate and other goodies when it gets cooler.

All it takes is a health card and if you need assistance with that, Contact me...

Tom Coleman at 276-8246.

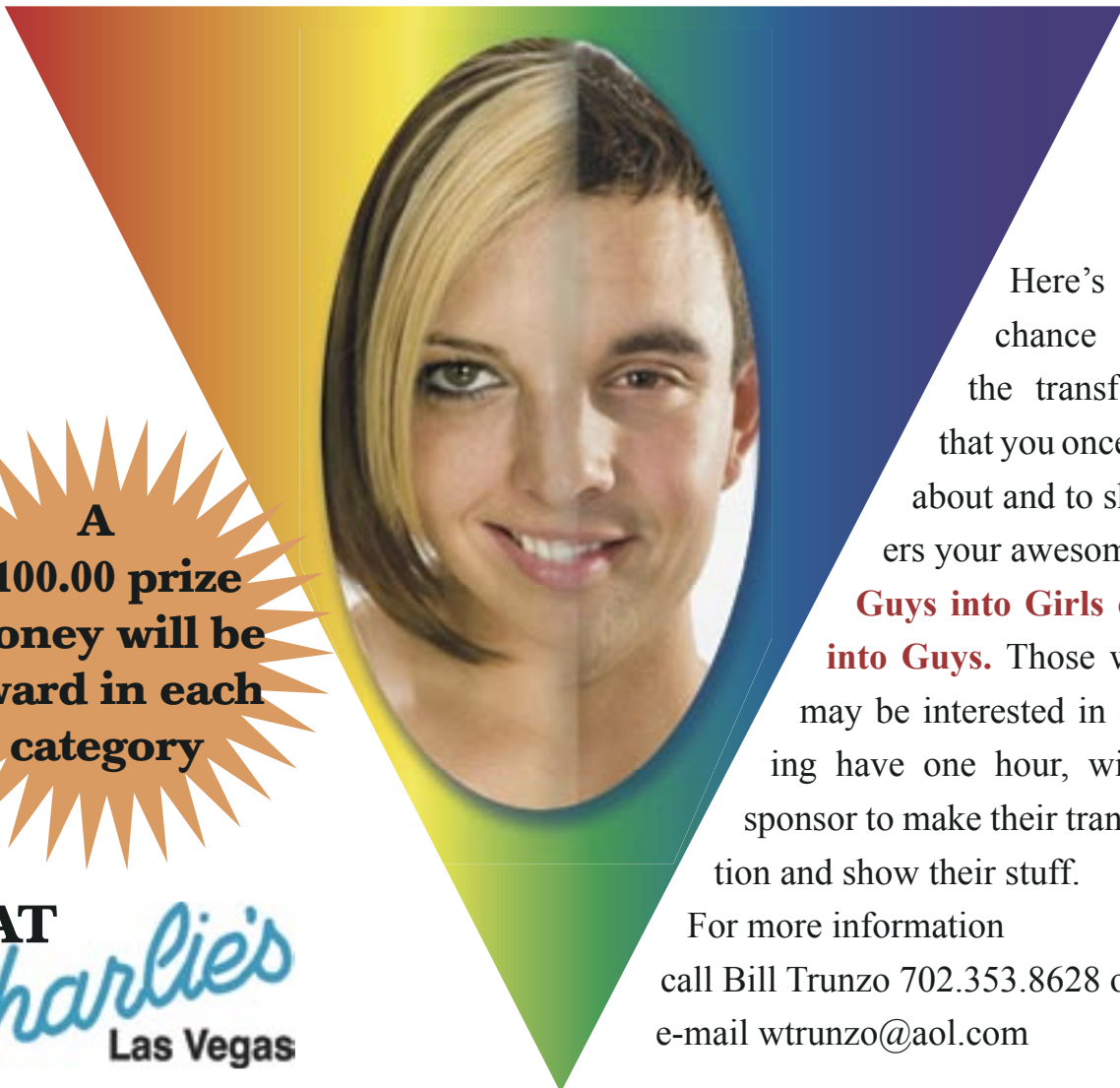
Shifts are only 2 1/2 hours each.

Here is an up coming event in March you don't want to miss. This competition is open to the entire community. Talk it up with your friends. You never know. They may walk away with the title of Miss Closet Ball 2008 or King Closet Ball 2008.



ANNUAL CLOSET BALL 2008

**Saturday, March 8th
Event starts at 9:30**



**A
\$100.00 prize
money will be
award in each
category**

AT
Charlie's
Las Vegas

Here's your big chance to make the transformation that you once thought about and to show others your awesome talent.

Guys into Girls or Girls into Guys. Those who that may be interested in competing have one hour, with their sponsor to make their transformation and show their stuff.

For more information
call Bill Trunzo 702.353.8628 or
e-mail wtrunzo@aol.com

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
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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Feb. 22-24	IGRA University *	Las Vegas, NV
Feb. 29 -March 2	Cowtown Rodeo	Fort Worth, TX
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
TBA	IGRA 24th Annual Convention	*

* indicates a BOD Meeting to be held.



JOHN HAGGERTY'S "LITTLE SOMETHING" TO HIS FARMERS® AGENT FOR SETTING HIM UP WITH AUTO, LIFE AND HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE.

They say nothing says "I love you" like flowers. Good thing I have a high tolerance for pollen. You see – when you go above and beyond to help your customers, they can't help but express their gratitude. So whether it's car or home; or car, home and life; or RV, watercraft and business; or life, motorcycle and...well, you get the picture—I am committed to getting you the right coverage. If you'd like to feel the love too, please contact me today and let's chat – insurance, flowers or otherwise.



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If any NGRA members is interested in attending the classes listed below you may register on line at www.IGRA.com. The cost for registration is \$75.00 after February 1st. NGRA does offer members a scholarship to IGRA University. For an application contact Shaun Swell at ngrapresident@cox.net or 702.300.6111.



GayCowboyCentral.com
cowboys make better lovers

2008

WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, February 21, 2008

- NGRA Royalty Competition: Interview & Spirit and Community Service Segments 5PM-8PM – The Center
- 4PM - 6PM: IGRA Finals Committee meeting: The Tuscany Rotunda
- "Back To School Bash" 9PM – 11PM– hosted by Melissa Lorence: Party and Fundraiser featuring Las Vegas Celebrities, NGRA Royalty Contestants and Out of Town Royalty -Badlands

Friday, February 22, 2008

- 8:30AM – 9:45AM: IGRA Executive Board Meeting
- 10:00AM – 2:00 PM: Board Meeting
- 2:00 PM-3:00 PM Trustee/EPRB Meeting
- 3:30 PM: University Staff Orientation
- 4:00 PM: Student Orientation
- 4:30PM – 6:30PM: Track 1 of university classes
- 8PM – 11PM: Step-Downs and NGRA Royalty Competition - Western Wear, Public Presentation, and Entertainment. Winners Announced - Charlies

Saturday, November 23, 2008 (dance room available all day)

- 9AM – 10:00 AM: Track 2 of university classes
- 10:00AM – 10:30AM: Break
- 10:30AM – 12:30 PM: Track 3 of university classes
- 12:30PM – 2:00PM: Lunch Break (free time)
- 2:00PM – 4:00PM: Track 4 of university classes
- 4:00PM – 4:30PM: Break
- 4:30PM – 6:30PM: Track 5 of university classes
- 8PM – MIDNIGHT: "Dancin' In The Desert" Public Dance - Tuscany Ballroom

Sunday, November 24, 2008

- 10:00AM – 12:00 PM: Track 6 of university classes
- 12:00PM – 1:30PM: University Awards Luncheon and Round Table Discussion with Brian Helander
- 1:30PM – 2:30PM: Post University staff wrap-up meeting
- 4PM: University Frat Party (Bud Light Beer Bust) at Charlie's

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



Findlay Volkswagen

