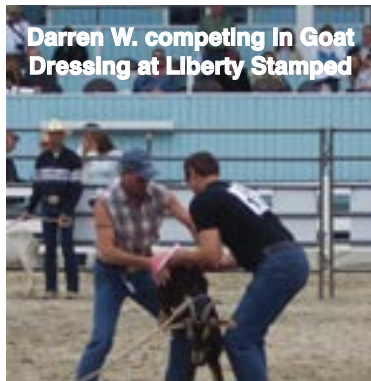




BigHorn Gazette

JUNE 2008 ISSUE



Darren W. competing in Goat Dressing at Liberty Stamped



Brian M. at PRIDE Festival with Sister Glori-Areóla



The Sage Brush Gang and their trusty steeds

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Whew! May was a hugely successful and busy month for NGRA. Not only our usual two fundraisers, but a significant presence in the Pride Parade, Pride ticket booth sales, Helldorado Days Parade, a horseback ride, along with an out of town rodeo or two as well. A huge thank you to all those who got involved and represented NGRA marching, volunteering, attending events, and gave so much of themselves, without personal gain or attention.

The new board of directors had their first meeting this month, and all went smoothly. Welcome to newly elected board members, Bill Watkins, Brian Maley, and Boan Jordan. Website changes are moving along and we now have a new host, with visible changes in the site coming soon. A date was set for 2008 Convention, and we hope everyone can attend. This is a vital function of NGRA, where bylaws and standing rules are examined, debated, and often changed. Please read further on in Lorry King's article for further details.

The Rodeo Planning Committee is in full swing, and now moving to two meetings a month. The RPC meeting is still held the third Monday of the month, immediately after the General Membership Meeting, but that is likely to change in the near future, so

stay tuned for details. We will, as always, need a great amount of volunteers for rodeo weekend. Please consider volunteering part of your time in one of the many areas that it takes to pull off a great rodeo.

Our presence in Las Vegas' Helldorado Days Parade was significant. Several of us, along with our huge BigHorn Rodeo sign, marched along side other local groups, businesses and charities, and were the only presence from the Gay/Lesbian community at this otherwise entirely 'straight' mainstream event. The crowds were good, and NGRA received a very warm welcome from just about everyone. It was great exposure outside of our usual avenues, and inspiring to march openly as gay men, pushing open boundaries among the wider Las Vegas population.

Many Thank You's to go around to so many this month...

Thank you to Brian Maley, who organized a great horseback ride this past month. It was his inspired idea, and it was fun to get together outside of our fundraising capacity, for a relaxing morning ride and rustic lunch out on the range. Princesses and sunburn and all!

Thank you to all those who contributed to

the Pumps and Pearls event, which, headed up by Kandice Kane and Jason Dyer, sold up by \$1000 in 'mini pearls' to get Boan Jordan in drag for one night. Boan was a real site to behold, and a damn good entertainer.

Thank you to Katrina and Darren for an exhausting month of travel and representing NGRA. Both attended the Liberty Stampede rodeo in Philadelphia (where Darren brought home a ribbon for Goat Dressing) and Great Plains Rodeo in Oklahoma City. Katrina was even very warmly mentioned and thanked in a fellow IGRA members MySpace page for her efforts.

Thank you to Brian Rogers, who is tirelessly working on sponsorships for rodeo. He recently nabbed a \$5000 sponsorship from SNAPI.

There are too many others to thank in one small newsletter. You are all appreciated and valued members. Many events are coming up in June, including a great 'Chuck Wagon Brunch' with Mr. and Miss NGRA, and other representatives of the Gay/Lesbian community, on June 29th. Proceeds from this special event will go to our Rodeo beneficiaries F.O.C.U.S. and The Sin City Sisters. We hope to see all of you out at this and other events throughout June. June is truly 'bustin' out all over'! 1

Celebrating NGRA MEMBERS' JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Kip Kipilla	6/3
Randy Meadows	6/4
Robert Tyler	6/7
Ron Cox	6/13
Marcus Grissom	6/15
Jason Dyer	6/17
David Hering	6/17
Helen Alcaraz-Motl	6/18
Will Douglas	6/20
David Wrigh	6/20
Matt Hedin	6/21
Richard Armstrong	6/22
Jason White	6/22
Blaine Woodie	6/22
Chris Due	6/27
Darwin Trotter	6/28
Vito James Rizzo	6/29

April 2008 Member of the Month



Jason Dyer

Our Member of the Month for April is Jason Dyer. Jason is well known to many in NGRA, as well as IRSCDEI. He works tirelessly at volunteering whenever NGRA needs him. In April he was once again found selling jello-shots, raffle tickets, and entertaining. His wonderful rich singing voice brings Cowboy Class to our events. Jason is one the all-around 'nice guys' that is outgoing, friendly, and giving at any event. NGRA is proud to have him as a member. Congratulations Jason!

Royalty and Fundraising

Katrina, Miss NGRA 2008

Summertime is here and that means that NGRA is going to be rocking over the next few months. Your support has been tremendous in helping the Royalty team work towards our goals for BigHorn Rodeo fundraising. I am happy to report that in all aspects of our budget for the Rodeo we are on track or over our expectations, thank you ... thank you... thank you! A special thank you to Boan Jordon for putting the challenge out there for Pumps and Pearls and to Jason and Kandice and everyone involved for meeting that challenge! Also to Bill Watkins for the great job on Disco Wonderland held at Badlands. We hope to see each of you at our events in June. Michael and I want to thank those who are helping us with making the "Brunch on the Range" a success. Your support on our quest to the represent NGRA in New Orleans is so appreciated, it is our hope that we only make you proud! Please see Kandice, Darren/Mama Lasagne or De-Shannon (Mitch) who have accepted the honor of being just a few of many Table Hosts for our event. The \$40 per ticket includes hors d'oeuvres, a fine plated meal, entertainment, as well the fun of being seated with the Table Captain of your choice.

Several of us have also been racking up those frequent flyer miles representing NGRA at other association events in the past month. It was a pleasure (well except for the 4 hour delay in Chicago) traveling to Philadelphia to help the Liberty team put on their first Rodeo. Oklahoma City saw a tremendous representation of NGRA at Great Plains Rodeo and as a first experience came home with a great understanding of the warmth the Midwest has for hospitality and Rodeo! Between the cherry bombs and the whipped cream we had a great time. Look out Texas Royalty when you get to Vegas for payback!

Forever in a cowboy's rose garden

CONTESTANT RESULTS

There were three rodeos in May – Palm Springs, Philadelphia, and Oklahoma City and NGRA had contestants at all three!

In Palm Springs, our two fabulous horse people, Chris Due and Richard Armstrong, competed, along with Lee Hale, who entered Calf Roping on Foot. Both Richard and Lee placed in Calf Roping on Sunday, Richard in 3rd place and Lee in 7th. Richard also won 1st place in Barrels on Sunday and he and Chris placed 4th on Saturday and 2nd on Sunday in Steer Deco. Those efforts won them the Buckle! Our team point total placed NGRA 5th out of 11 teams.

In Philadelphia, we had one contestant, our own Mr. NGRA 1st runner-up – Darren Wernette. He actually wasn't thinking of entering, but during the four-hour delay (!) the NGRA contingent suffered in Chicago, he met up with Jay Field, the Trustee from Louisiana, and they decided to give Goat Dressing a go. (There is no late fee for camp event registration.) The arena was very muddy (or as the announcer said – moist!) and they weren't wearing tennis shoes, but they still placed 5th on Saturday and 8th on Sunday, for an overall placement of 3rd. This put NGRA 11th out of 13 teams.

Now that Darren has the Goat Dressing bug – he decided to enter again in Oklahoma City. Unfortunately, he and Jay didn't place either day. Maybe they can only run fast in the mud?! Our other contestant in OKC was Steve Minyard, who bravely (or crazily!) competed in Bull Riding. He didn't cover his ride either day, but no other contestant, male or female, did either. Good try, Steve!

The next rodeo is in Los Angeles, at a new arena and a new host hotel. There is sure to be a large group of NGRA folks cheering on our contestants. Join us!

Brian Rogers

WOW! May was a busy month for NGRA! In addition to our regular meetings and fundraising events, we marched in the Pride Parade. The very next day we ran the gate at the Pride Festival and manned our own booth there. Next up was the Helldorado Parade where NGRA was very well received, followed the next day by a Horseback Riding adventure at the Hidden Valley Ranch. Finally, 11 members in Oklahoma City represented NGRA for the Great Plains Rodeo. Whew!

By now everyone probably knows how successful our Pride activities were. NGRA did an awesome job running the festival gates and we processed over 6,000 people in just over 9 hours. The SNAPI Love Program awarded our volunteers \$684 towards BigHorn Rodeo.

Our BIG rodeo billboard was a hit at both parades. Everyone in town knows about BigHorn Rodeo now.

In Oklahoma City I attended a million meetings (almost). On Thursday we held an IGRA Finals Committee meeting which ran for four hours. We accomplished a lot of planning and things are on track. Certified Officials were selected and announced by the Committee for the 2008 and 2009 Finals Rodeos. NGRA is responsible for Marketing, Ticketing and Buckle & Arena sponsorships. As Asst. Rodeo Director I am also point person for the Rodeo Program and Grand Entry. Mitch Gill will be working with Tommy Channel of IGRA on ordering the Finals Buckles & Ribbons.

Friday I attended the Executive Board Meeting, the Board of Directors Meeting, the Trustees Meeting and the Ethical Practices Review Board (EPRB) Meeting. A few highlights:

- IGRA University and Road Runner Regional Rodeo in Phoenix swapped dates starting in 2010.
- IGRA requests each association royalty to hold a brief fundraiser at each rodeo for the IGRA Crisis fund which assists injured contestants, officials, and volunteers. The goal is \$300 - \$400 per rodeo.
- We passed an IGRA Fundraising policy, which details cash handling procedures and permission policies on conducting any fundraising in the name of IGRA. I will forward a copy to the NGRA BOD once it is distributed by IGRA.
- Registration forms for IGRA Convention to be held in New Orleans Oct. 30 – Nov. 2 were distributed. The deadline is October 10, so be thinking if you'd like to be a delegate or alternate for NGRA.

Watch in this newsletter for Lorry King's report covering the last few rodeo competitions.

Upcoming rodeos include Los Angeles, CA - June 20-22, Calgary, AB - June 27-29, Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN - July 4-6, Denver, CO - July 11-13, Sacramento, CA - July 25-27. We will have Trustee representation at each.

Calling for Grand Marshalls!

BigHorn Rodeo 2008 is a mere four months away. The Rodeo Planning Committee has been very busy getting things in place. Among the many details are finding Grand Marshall's for the Grand Entry portion of the rodeo. This year the RPC has decided to have a Grand Marshall from the worlds of entertainment and public service, who have helped the Gay/Lesbian/Transgender community. We are also looking for a Grand Marshall from the wider community's volunteers. Some names have been brought up as a potential Grand Marshall representing Las Vegas Volunteers. We are asking the general membership for their input of any person they feel would be a worthy candidate for this highly honored position. Please contact Grand Entry Coordinator Darren Wernette at flabuzz@cox.net, if you would like to make a submission. Please include as much information as possible as to why you believe this person is a good candidate and what kind of volunteer work they have done. The RPC will be taking these submissions and bringing them to the board for election.



**NGRA'S
UPCOMING
EVENTS**

June 8	Laughlin Bus Trip	
June 14	Who's your Daddy	Charlie's
June 21	Sunrise Library	
June 28	Best Butt in Jeans	Badlands
July 12	Night of Wishes	Charlie's
July 26	BBQ	Badland
August 9	Hot August Nights	Charlie's
August 23	BigHorn Celebration	Badlands
September 13	BigHorn Celebration	Charlie's
September 27	Survivor's Party	Badlands
October 11	IGRA finials in Denver	
October. 25	Fright Night / Costumes	Badlands
November 8	Holiday Trims and Delights	Charlie's
November 22	Thanksgiving / Christmas	Badlands
December 13	Charlies' Christmas Celebraton	Charlie's
December 27	Celebrating Years End?	Badlands

Experience the fun of an NGRA

LAUGHLIN BUS TRIP



Enjoy a full day of amusement, friendship and games. You'll receive a free buffet at the Edgewater Hotel & Casino. Meet new friends at the Lariat. So get aboard you just never know what's in store.



SUNDAY JUNE 8th
BUS LEAVES COMMERCIAL CENTER

10:00 A.M.^{SHARP}

\$25.00 PER PERSON

INCLUDES BUS DRIVER GRATUITY

Here's your chance to get away for the day and have some fun along the way.

Tickets are on sale at these bars: Badlands, Spotlight, Snick's, Charlie's.
Ask your favorite bar tender to sell you one. the buses will leave Laughlin at 8 P.M.
We return to Commercial Center from a fun filled day at around 10:00 P.M.

**Try
your luck
BINGO**

**BEVERAGES AND JELL-O SHOT
may be purchased aboard the bus**

Proceeds benefiting BigHorn Rodeo

**Great
Raffle
Prizes**

NGRA ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

It's that time again! Once a year, NGRA's Bylaws call for an Annual Meeting to be held for the purpose of making changes, deletions, and additions to our Bylaws. Changes can also be made to our Standing Rules. The Board of Directors has set Sunday, July 20 as the date. The meeting will start at 11:00 AM at The Center, and lunch will be provided. Please think about any changes you would like to propose, and email them to the Convention Chair, Lorry King, at llwking@aol.com prior to July 3rd. Don't worry about the format, just tell me what section you'd like to change and what you'd like it to say, and I'll put it in the proper format for voting. You can find the Bylaws at ngra.com> Membership> NGRA Membership Information. On July 5th I will email/snail mail out to all members a list of the proposals to give you time to look them over before the meeting. So please put July 20 on your calendar. This is the only time of the year these changes can be made and it's all up to you!



Eddy thought he could do the trail faster this way. NOT!



Making their selection

Shots taken by several members at our May 18th trail ride

Cowboys & Leather Go Together

 **Badlands Saloon**



Join the League of Gentleman and NGRA for an evening of action

SATURDAY JUNE 28

Event starts at 9:30

MR. NGRA 2008 & MISS. NGRA 2008

“Circle the wagons, y’all!”

**It's time
for some
chuck wagon
vittles.**

Join Mr. and Miss. NGRA 2008
for Michael & Katrina's
Brunch on the Range

June 29, 2008

At the
FOCUS center
1140 Almond Tree Lane
Suite 306
(Sahara & Maryland,
next to MCC Church)

12:30 PM

Tickets - \$40.00

Food catered by

Chef Dan Shannon of P&C Catering

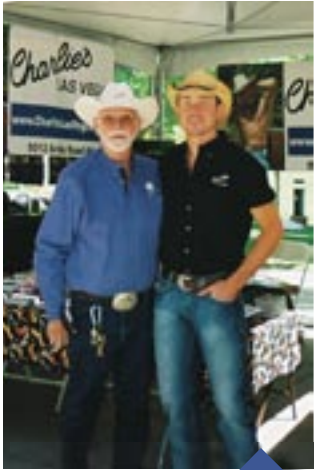
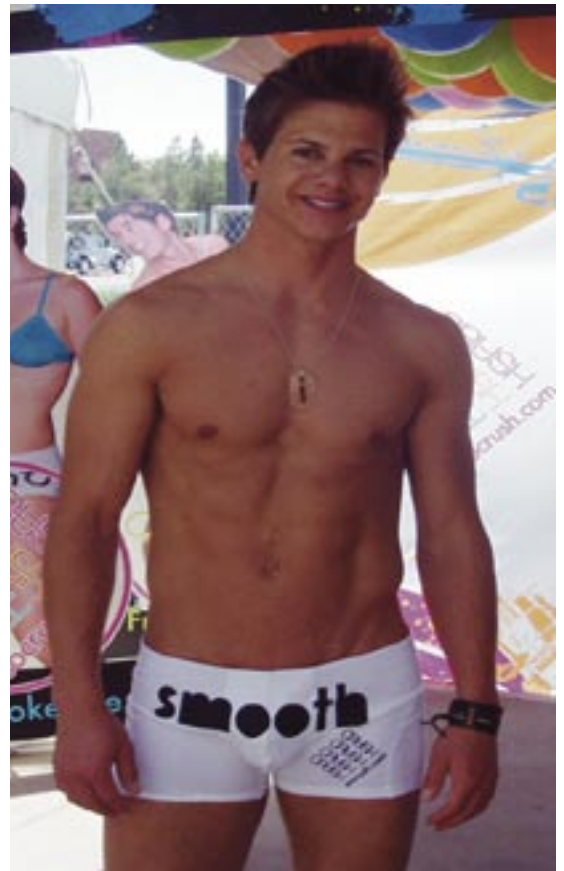
Brunch, entertainment and raffles

For more information contact: Michael @ Mr.NGRA2008@yahoo.com

Katrina @ MissNGRA2008@yahoo.com

Net proceeds benefit Sin City Sisters and FOCUS Hot Lunch Program





**SHOWING
THEIR
PRIDE**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Fundraising Meeting 6:30	5	6 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	7
8 Laughlin Bus Trip	9 NGRA Board of Directors Meeting 6:30	10	11 RPC meeting 6:30	12	13 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	14 Best Butt in Jeans at Charlie's 9:30 PM
15	16 General Membership Meeting 6:30	17	18	19	20 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	21
22	23	24	25 RPC meeting 6:30	26	27 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	28 Cowboys and Leather Go Together at Badlands 9:30 PM
29 Katrina and Mike's Bruch on the Range	30					

WE WANT YOU

Vounteers needed to help Sell HOT DOGS!



We are averaging a couple hundred dollars each week for NGRA with this fundraiser. All it takes is a health card. Contact Tom Coleman for more information at 276-8246. Shifts are only 2 1/2 hours each.

Look who's posing in pride booth



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



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

For more detail information on these events you may visit igra.com

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
June 20-22	LA Rodeo	Los Angeles, CA
June 27-29	Canadian Rockies International Rodeo	Calgary, Alberta
July 4-6	North Star Regional Rodeo	Minneapolis-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
Sept 4 - 7	Texas 25 Rodeo	Austin, TX
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. 30- Nov. 2	IGRA 24th Annual Convention / IGRA Royalty competition	New Orleans

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

