



Big Horn Gazette

MARCH 2008 ISSUE

From the Board of Directors

NGRA had an incredible February, and we thank all of you who took part in the special events and fundraising.

February was highlighted by IGRA University as well as our annual Royalty Competition. Members from many other gay rodeo associations came to town to partake in university weekend, where classes in the business of running a rodeo, from marketing, vendors, tickets sales, to the rough stock and arena crew were conducted throughout the weekend. We also saw a good turnout at the 'Dancin' in the Desert' event the Saturday. Thanks to all those who organized and participated in University. More details are included in the Trustee's Report.

The same weekend saw our highly anticipated Royalty Competition take place. We started with a 'Back to School' fundraiser on Thursday the 21st at Badlands. Many of our out of town guests were here and helped us raise over \$1100. We extend a special thanks to Miss NGRA 2006, Melissa Lorence, for her contributions and hosting of the event. Contestants for the titles sweated through their interview process only a few hours before the show, but came through like trouper. Friday the 22nd was the

final Royalty Competition evening. DeShannon hosted, and many out of town royalty helped make this a night to remember. Congratulations to our new Royalty Team:

Miss NGRA 2008: Katrina

Mr. NGRA 2008: Michael Judkins

Miss NGRA 1st Runner Up 2008: Kandice Kane

Mr. NGRA 1st Runner Up 2008: Darren Wernette

This promises to be a very powerful quartet, and NGRA is lucky and happy to have them representing us. They have a busy year of fundraising, travel, community involvement, and public relations ahead of them, so please lend them all the

support you can.

In other news, be watching for a ballot with Member of the Year nominees in your email. We will be holding that vote through online voting. It also seems hard to believe, but it is almost time for board of director's elections again. The board positions that will be voted on in the next few months are for vice-president, secretary, and four member-at-large positions. If you are interested in getting further involved and running for a board position, stay in touch with us, and come to the board meeting, which is held the second Monday of the month, 6:30pm at The Center.

Our General Membership meeting went well again, and we look forward to seeing even more of you there the next time. General Membership meetings are the third Monday the month, at The Center, 6:30pm. Stay on for the Rodeo Planning Committee immediately afterwards. Rodeo is still in the works, and we will have more to report on BigHorn Rodeo 2008



NGRA'S 2008 ROYALTY TEAM

DARREN WERNETTE, MICHAEL JUDKINS,
KATRINA aka BILL TRUNZO, KANDICE KANE aka RANDY MEADOWS

now that some initial financials are worked out, and will be presented to the board this month.

Overall, NGRA is in a very good state. To date, we are far ahead of where we were last year in fundraising. Membership renewals went well, and we now have, over 110 new and renewed members. Our thanks goes out to all of you, and our invitation is always there... Please come on out and join us! We need you, and would like nothing more than to have each of your unique talents and skills involved with NGRA's monthly events, and especially for BigHorn Rodeo! *Let's Rodeo!*

Message from Katrina

Miss NGRA 2008

Well the Fun Has Begun!!! What a wonderful weekend we had while hosting IGRA University, and being given the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. Thank you to everyone who made the royalty competition an exciting experience; from mother DeShannon who hovered over her flock, judges (for our internal members it was so hard to sit across from you as our friends and act as if you were strangers... not in my character to not be able to give a big smooch!), out of town royalty who helped to make the stage sparkle and most importantly...you the members who were there to support us collectively, it overwhelmed me. I hope you know how proud I am to have been selected Miss NGRA 2008 and I look forward to a year of promoting our cause and our rodeo around Las Vegas and the International Gay Rodeo Association.



Thank you for your trust and support, now for my first call for help! March 29th we will be the one of the recipients of the proceeds received at "Putting on the Ritz" being held at the Alexis Park Hotel. For those of you that wouldn't be having fun in CA on the bus trip, if you could spare some time in the afternoon to help with the set up of the event it would be a pleasure having you there. Each of the organizations which will receive funds from the benefit have agreed to take on a different aspect of it's organization, I volunteered NGRA for the slot which wouldn't cost you anything except a little sweat. More on this and the times we're needed will come as we approach the date in email blasts.

It is great to be a part of a strong team, it is our hope that we will generate some new and exciting ways to raise funds, please keep in mind though that we still will need your participation to be successful. If you're interested, please come to our monthly Fundraising Committee meetings. Please contact me at missngra2008@yahoo.com for details of dates and times. We hope to see you all on March 8th for Closet Ball, where as Darren said It all started for me! Don't let that scare you away though..... this is a fun event and if you are crowned the new Miss Closet Ball, your reign is to do with as you wish!



HELLO NGRA

Darren Wernette Mr. NGRA 2008 1st Runner Up

You're stuck with me another year! It's my sincere honor to be a part of the 2008 Royalty team, and even more of an honor to continue to be a part of NGRA.

The past year made a positive impact on my life, and I hope that I was able to impart a sense of pride in our organization. I continue to be in awe of the caliber of people that we have in our organization and consider myself lucky to have made friendships with so many of you. I know the new members of our Royalty team will experience the same pleasure that I have received from NGRA.

The past year that I spent alongside Tom was such a learning experience for me, and I hope to be able to impart some of that knowledge to this year's team. We've got big boots to fill and I've got every confidence that we can do it and make you all proud of us.

We may be part of the 2008 Royalty team; however we are also part of something much more special - the NGRA team. Each of us has something special to offer and I hope to continue to help NGRA grow even bigger and better than it's ever been.

Thanks for all of your support. I couldn't do it without you all.

**Greetings
to all my
fellow
NGRA
members!**



Michael Judkins Mr. NGRA 2008

Could it really be true? I'm still not done pinching myself to see, but on Friday, February 22 I was named Mr. NGRA 2008. From the first NGRA event I attended right through to the NGRA Royalty Competition, I have been amazed and inspired by each of you to become a bigger part of rodeo. Could a group of men and women really share their love for rodeo, their objective to give back to the community, and have a ton of fun doing it? The obvious answer is yes and it is with great honor, pride, and responsibility that I accept my part in this statement. Darren, Miss Katrina, Kandice Kane, and I will be very active in Las Vegas and abroad promoting Bighorn, supporting our fellow organizations, and in the forefront of fundraising activities.

Without much more, please - don't ever hesitate to contact me with questions, comments, concerns, input, ideas, or just to say howdy!

*A Note
From
Kandice
Kane*



Miss NGRA 1st Runner Up 2008:

I just want to thank NGRA for their faith in me, in being part of the Royalty Team.

I also want to thank Katrina, Michael, and Darren for their support. I also want to thank the NGRA members for the honor of being the 'Member of the Month' for January of 08.

We are going to be a very strong team for NGRA, and I am very much looking forward to this coming year as your 1st Runner Up. I love every member of the team so much....

So, Team... Let's kick some rodeo butt! **2**



IGRA University has come and gone and all I can say is that we blew the lid off. All kinds of records were

set and the feedback we received has been fantastic. We ended up with 99 registered students plus about 24 staff for the event.

On Thursday, I attended the 2008 IGRA Finals committee meeting where we made several important decisions regarding Finals. As I have reported before, IGRA has taken ownership of Finals Rodeo and will now be responsible for all the costs and revenues related to the event. The associations will be more directly involved in running the event as well. We spent time on the organizational chart and determined what areas we would ask associations to cover. NGRA will design and coordinate national marketing and media for the event and we will provide coordination of event ticketing; both advance and on-site. Other associations have accepted responsibility for other areas such as stock, barn security, grand entry, buckles and ribbons, rodeo program, etc. We also determined the prices for various sponsorship opportunities available to associations and individuals. I will give a full report on these at the Board and Membership meetings and make a recommendation.

The Thursday night event at Badlands was a blast and we raised a lot of money (see fundraising report). Melissa and Jackson did a great job of putting that project together.

Friday I attended the IGRA Executive Board meeting, General Board meeting and Trustee meeting. To summarize, IGRA approved several new policies regarding Fundraising, IGRA merchandise, rodeo liability insurance and approved a new "Member Support Fund" to aid member contestants, volunteers and rodeo staff who are injured at a rodeo.

The Royalty Competition on Friday was unbelievable. Charlie's was packed and the energy was electric. The competition went off without a hitch and featured some of the best performances I have ever seen at one of our competitions. Scheduling our Royalty Competition to coincide with IGRA-U was a hugely successful idea (though slightly exhausting). Congratulations to the new Royalty team and to Mitch Gill for a night we won't soon forget. Also I'd like to offer special thanks to Tom Coleman for all his many contributions to the cause over this last year.

Dance came to IGRA-U for the first time this year and we were very pleasantly surprised at the turnout of locals at the dance classes on Saturday. Fifteen locals showed up and joined 11 IGRA-U students and Dance Dean Lorry King for classes in Two-Step, Waltz, and Line Dancing. That evening the dance committee hosted "Dancin' in the Desert" at the Tuscany and we got a great crowd. Sunday's Round Table luncheon was packed and we distributed awards and had a few laughs. IGRA President Brian Helander officially announced that because of the commitment NGRA has given to IGRA-U over the years and

how much we have developed the program that IGRA-U belongs to NGRA as long as we want to host it. At that meeting I also officially passed the torch to, Chief Administrator Patrick Terry who will serve as Chancellor for 2009 University. Patrick has served as my Assistant for the last three years and I am confident he will maintain the high level of excellence we have established. I am stepping down to concentrate on my duties as Asst. Rodeo Director for IGRA Finals in 2008 and 2009, but will continue to serve on the University Committee and will assist at the event.

I have to thank a few people without whom University would not have been such a success. Richard Schlegel served as our host hotel coordinator and did an awesome job. Everything went smoothly and our guests loved the hotel. Ken Wells worked tirelessly all weekend serving as our A/V coordinator and helped keep me sane. David Hering organized the volunteers for the event, which was a big help to me. Finally I want to thank Laurie Banks for her third year as our office manager. I also want to thank the other volunteers who worked registration or worked in some other capacity. Thanks to Mike Windsor, Adam Johnson, Colin Moulton, and Randy Meadows. Special thanks to Brian Maley who donated the copying and a lot of equipment that made our job much easier and who kept our 2008 Finals Rodeo Director entertained for the whole weekend. Great job to all!



Member of the Month JANUARY 2008

Randy Meadows (aka Kandice Kane) was voted our January Member of the Month. Randy has been a member of NGRA for a year now, and has been an active and avid supporter of rodeo and the IGRA. He volunteered as arena crew in last years BigHorn Rodeo. As 'Kandice Kane' he was an active and positive presence as a candidate for Miss NGRA. In January, Randy organized our monthly event at Badlands, which was a great success for us. He also did not ask for reimbursement for the money spent on raffle prizes. Congratulations Randy! We look forward to more of the good things you bring to NGRA!

NGRA
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

Event benefits NGRA and BigHorn Rodeo



HANG 'EM HIGH

If you have never seen this show, here's your chance to see some very memorable performances. This is one time where Board Members who are not so inclined to perform have an opportunity to show their talents. NOT!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL SHOW

Saturday • March 22

Show starts at 9:30

PIE IN THE FACE FUNDRAISER

\$1 JELL-O SHOTS

\$5.00 BUD LIGHT BUST Starts at 9:00.

Proceeds Benefit NGRA and BigHorn Rodeo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
32	3	4	5 Fundraising Meeting 6:30	6	7 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	8 NGRA Annual Closet Ball event at Charlies 9:30
9	10 NGRA Board Meeting at The Center 6:30 PM	11	12	13	14 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	15
16	17 General Membership meeting 6:30 RPC Meeting following	18	19	20	21 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	22 NGRA Annual BOD Event "Hang 'um High"
23	24	25	26	27	28 NGRA Appreciation Night at Charlie's	29
30	31					

**WELCOME TO THE
NEWEST NGRA
MEMBERS FOR THE
LAST TWO MONTHS**

- Matt Hedin
- PJ Jantzen
- Rich Levine
- William Douglas
- George Vierra



**Celebrating NGRA
Members'
March Birthdays**

- Tom Coleman 3/1
- Rob Saunders 3/1
- Colin Moulton 3/4
- John King 3/6
- Laurie Banks 3/13
- Michael Dybus 3/13
- Michael Green 3/26
- Martin (Jeff) Manning 3/26
- Darren Wernette 3/28
- Ron Swegle 3/31

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 12TH

**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 or 702-328-9627

Proceeds from the raffle and beer bust benefit NGRA

CONTESTANT RESULTS

Due to a delay in posting on the IGRA website, we were unable to bring you the contestant results from the Phoenix Rodeo in February. But we are here to correct that problem. Three of NGRA's most dedicated cowboys competed in Phoenix: Richard Armstrong, Chris Due, and Lee Hale. Their points combined to put NGRA in 12th place of the 18 teams in attendance.

Richard was our star, placing 6th in Pole Bending on Saturday and 2nd in Flags on Sunday. He and Chris teamed up to place 3rd on Sunday in Steer Deco.

There is only one rodeo in March—Ft. Worth's Cowtown Rodeo March 1 and 2.



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 go to
http://igra.com/Calendar_Rodeo.htm#top2007

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

