



February 2009



BIGHORN GAZETTE

Eddy Krien, Editor

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

All reports from Phoenix are that IGRA had a great start to its rodeo year with AGRA's Road Runner Regional Rodeo. The weather was warm and I understand the shirts came off! Kudos to AGRA for a great event, we look forward to many more RRRR's.

Things are shaping up well for the NGRA-hosted IGRA University. This busy event kicks off Thursday, February 19 as we host the IFRA Finals Committee, which is scheduled to meet at the Tuscany at 6pm. Then we loosen up and welcome all our guests at Badlands with our annual "Back-to-School 2009 Homecoming Bash" where we can enjoy entertainment from many of our out-of-town celebrities as well as our NGRA Royalty contestants.

On Friday we host the IGRA Executive Board meeting, the IGRA General Board meeting, the Trustee's meeting and the first Track of classes. Following the classes, grab dinner then come enjoy the excitement of the 2009 NGRA Royalty competition at Charlie's Las Vegas.

Saturday we have four tracks of classes and Saturday night we host the International Country/Western Dance Competition at the Tuscany,

starting at 8pm. This competition features individuals, couples and teams from throughout IGRA as they compete for the coveted award buckles, ribbons and trophies.

Admission is FREE so be sure to bring your friends and come cheer on our NGRA contestants; Darren Wernette and Ken Wong. We are hoping for a big NGRA and Las Vegas community turnout. There will also be open dancing before and after the competition.

For you dancers, IGRA University's Dance Institute is offering dance classes all that weekend for beginners and for experienced dancers. Classes are only \$5 each and you don't have to be registered for IGRA-U to participate. These classes are open to the general public. See the advertisement in this newsletter.

Sunday we wrap up IGRA University with the final track of classes, followed by the graduation luncheon for the class of 2009. Afterwards we all head over to Charlie's for our after school graduation Bud Light Beer Bust Bash.

See you at School!

Brian Rogers, NGRA Trustee
Save A Horse...



Darren & Johnny Bob



Bill (Miss NGRA), David, Bill, Colin & Eddy in Phoenix, AZ



Michael (Mr. NGRA) & Darren (Mr. NGRA 1st Runner-Up)

What happens in Vegas...



February 19-22, 2009



INTERNATIONAL DANCE COMPETITION

Registration: \$60

If postmarked by February 1.

\$75 after February 1

Registration includes Sunday Luncheon

Host Hotel:

Tuscany Suites & Casino

\$75.00 Sunday – Thursday

\$110.00 Friday & Saturday

All Rooms are Suites

877-887-2261 ask for

IGRA University Rate

Deadline January 29, 2009

THURSDAY: February 19, 2009

Meet the NGRA 2009 Royalty Contestants Show

FRIDAY: February 20, 2009

University Registration

IGRA Executive & Board Meetings

First Track of Classes

NGRA 2009 Royalty Competition

SATURDAY: February 21, 2009

Late Registration

Morning and Afternoon Class Tracks

International Dance Competition

SUNDAY: February 22, 2009

Final Track of Classes

Awards Luncheon and Roundtable Discussion

Free Time on Sunday afternoon



Welcome to the City of Lights!
No Last Call - Ever!

Royalty and Fundraising Reports



On behalf of the 2008 Royalty Team.....

THANK YOU, to each and everyone of you. We so appreciate your assistance in helping us to raise funds for 2008 BigHorn Rodeo and its beneficiaries. We look forward to helping the 2009 Royalty Team work

towards the success of BigHorn Rodeo 2009.

Though it is the shortest month of the year, February is jammed packed with events and we hope you can find the time to join us. We'll have fun and raise some money while doing it. At Charlie's for our Valentine Day's celebration, bring your sweetheart (or your ex!) and celebrate a night of 'Love and Scorn' and then also at Badland's for our 'Best Butt's in Jeans Contest' (always a fascinating experience).

Packed between these events though, is a most exciting weekend for our local association. Once again we will be hosting all of the associations at the IGRA University. Not only will this be a great learning experience for making better local associations and rodeos, but also filled with great social events. Thursday the 19th please join us at Badland's for the 'Homecoming Celebration' featuring many association royalty representatives from around the circuit performing, along with a special auction item provided by Chuck Browning. He has graciously donated back to our organization the buckle he won at BigHorn Rodeo 2008 for Goat Dressing. Now let me tell you... who wouldn't want to own a buckle that has been worn by this man..... bring your dollars and lets see the action on this. Last but not least, of course, the most special of nights, I hope each and everyone of you place February 20th on your calendars to join us at Charlie's for the 2009 Royalty Competition. Our schedule that night is a little different than most events in that we will begin the celebration at 8:00 PM. This will be a night filled with "special" entertainment, the excitement of competition, the 2008 Royalty Team step-downs, and the wonderful introduction of the 2009 Royalty Team!

Katrina
Miss NGR 2008



Hello NGRA,

My year of Mr.NGRA 2008, 1st Runner Up is quickly coming to an end. It's been quite a year for me and I consider myself lucky to have been involved with such a wonderful group of royalty members. I trust that I've done

everything that I could have done to help make NGRA the best it can be.

Some of the highlights of this year for me were the ability to compete in several rodeos out on the circuit. I can proudly say that I entered the GOAT DRESSING competition in 6 rodeos and even managed to ribbon at the Liberty Rodeo in Philadelphia. I know, it's not the toughest event at Rodeo but still an accomplishment for me. Those goats can be rough!

I've been very involved throughout the Las Vegas community, and am proud to count so many friends from NGRA as well as many other groups. It seems like there's not a week that goes by that I'm not involved in some kind of fundraiser. That's a lot of beer busts under my belt.

I hope that you have enjoyed the changes that I've been able to make on the NGRA website. As your NGRA webmaster, I've gone from knowing next to nothing to being able to say that our website was ranked #4 from the 20+ IGRA associations. I also hope that you all enjoy the email blasts that I send out reminding you of upcoming events. That's me who keeps filling up your inbox with NGRA information.

In short, it's been a great year for me and I am looking forward to competing in the 2009 Royalty competition this month. No matter what color sash I wear for NGRA, I'm here to continue the tradition of our fine organization.

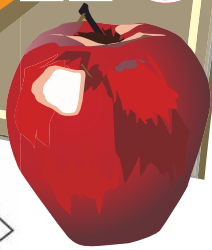
Thanks for your support!

Darren Wernette
Mr. NGRA 2008,1st Runner-Up

BACK-TO-SCHOOL



**2009
HOMECOMING**



NGRA WELCOMES YOU BACK

**Join us for the fun of meeting old and new classmates
at a super reunion before we hit the books again.**

Thursday February 19, 2009



**Badlands
Saloon**

953 East Sahara Ave. (in the Commercial Center) 702-792-9262

Awesome line up of Out-of-Town Entertainers

Super Auction

\$5.00 Beer Bust

\$1.00 Jell-O Shots

Proceeds from the Entertainment tips and auction goes to IGRA • Proceeds for Beer Bust and Jell-O Shots go to NGRA

Member of the Year Nominations:

It's time again for all of NGRA to celebrate and honor one of our members as Member of the Year 2008! Each of the year's Member of the Month honorees are nominated. We've listed here the contributions each member gave during the month they won the honor, but your voting may certainly be based on the over-all contributions that you know these fine members have given to NGRA. Ballots will be going out to all of you via email by February 15th. Ballots must be received by the last day of February.

The winner will be announced at the March General Membership meeting.

Randy Meadows (aka Kandice Kane) was voted our January Member of the Month. Randy has been an active and avid supporter of rodeo and the IGRA. He volunteered as arena crew in BigHorn Rodeo 07. 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.

David Hering Member of the Month for February, 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.

David Blackwood, our Member of the Month for March. David contributed much more than his expected duties as board secretary. He volunteered; set angst aside, shaved his goatee, and made an astounding transformation at our annual Closet Ball contest. Who knew there was an inner fabulous Celine Dion waiting to come out from David? He also was instrumental in putting together the wonderful Saturday Night Live style skit which opened our very successful 'end-of-year' Board of Director's show.

Jason Dyer, Member of the Month for April. 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 Jell-O 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.

Adam Johnson, Member of the Month for May. His indomitable energy and drive is unforgettable. He has been a welcome and refreshing voice among our membership for a little over a year now. In May, Adam was a significant presence at our Pride Booth, and organized other volunteers to help out as well. He joined us at an early Sunday 7:30 am call at the AIDS walk, as well as for the PRIDE parade. He continues to be an uplifting force in NGRA, working for building NGRA up, and improving things through commitment and positive energy.

The Men of Charlie's. Member of the Month for June, went to a group, rather than an individual. On Sunday, June 29th, at Michael and Katrina's 'Brunch on the Range'... Several of the Men of Charlie's came together and acted as table servers for the brunch. They were friendly, good-natured, smooth, attentive, and made everyone of the many guests feel welcome and taken care of. At July's Night of Wishes, the Men of Charlie's sold Jell-O Shots and donated the proceeds back to NGRA.

**NGRA
WELCOMES OUR
NEWEST MEMBERS**



**Ryan Gagen
Andrew Goodman
Kirk Kanie**

Colin Moulton is our July Member of the Month. Colin is a friendly and regular face with NGRA for quite awhile now. He has unwavering support of the organization, its goals, ideals, and of rodeo in general. He served on the Board of Directors last year as a Member at Large, and has always been generous in sharing his time, knowledge and skills with NGRA. This past rodeo season, Colin has been one of the most consistent and highly visible NGRA members, attending several rodeo's, serving in many ways, and representing us and promoting BigHorn Rodeo in an honorable, positive, selfless way.

Richard Levine, our Member of the Month for August. Most of our members know Richard as our "Hot Dog" guy. Richard has been tirelessly running the hot dog stand on Sunday evenings outside of Charlie's, with the proceeds going to NGRA. This venue brings in much appreciated regular funds to NGRA each month, and Richard's efforts are tremendous. NGRA gave one of its few honorary yearly memberships to Richard in January of 08.

Tony Clark, our Member of the Month for September. Tony Clark. Tony took on the huge task of Beverage Coordinator for BigHorn Rodeo, but his efforts did not end there. He jumped into the position and went full force at it, with connection, long hours, and supplying volunteers. Our rodeo owes Tony a great deal, and he is one of the most positive, uplifting, hard working and dedicated members we have.

Barry Cluff, Member of the Month October. Barry supported us by marching with NGRA in the PRIDE parade, and since then, has been working at many events, helping them to be successful. Barry's participation was especially evident during BigHorn Rodeo 2008, where he worked long days in the office with Rodeo Treasurer Bill Trunzo, and with Vice-President Bill Watkins, on the down and dirty, accounting end of rodeo.

Larry Grigsby was our Member of the Month for November. Larry is familiar to most who have attended NGRA events and fundraisers. He has been consistently willing to contribute in any way he can, from selling raffle tickets, to hot dog sales to performing. The success of November's events were largely due to Larry's efforts.

Be on the lookout for your email ballot. Should you prefer to vote via paper ballot, please contact our Vice President, Bill Watkins at b0424@mindspring.com.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Would you like to be a part of shaping the future of NGRA? Our Board elections are quickly approaching, and we encourage all active members to consider running for a board position. The positions we will be voting for are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and all four Member-at-Large seats. Please refer to the By-Laws posted on the website for the duties and responsibilities for each of these. NGRA has a long tradition of putting on a great rodeo, and contributing much to the wider community, both monetarily and in community presence. If you are at all inclined to serve on 'the next level', and have been an member in good standing, and actively involved, we'd love to see you as a candidate.



WE WANT YOU!

The Rodeo Planning Committee is looking for members to help plan and produce BigHorn Rodeo 2009. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact this year's Rodeo Director, Shaun Sewell at shaunsewell@gmail.com or plan to attend the next RPC Meeting on February 9, 2009



LOVE AND SCORN



JOIN



**For a night of fun
as we listen to the beat
of our hearts during the
good and the bad of falling in love.**

Charlie's
Las Vegas

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 14TH
VALENTINES DAY**

**5.00 BEER BUST STARTS AT 9 PM
ENTERTAINMENT STARTS AT 10:00**

Benefiting BigHorn Rodeo 2009



Presented by the



International Gay Rodeo Association

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Tuscany Hotel Ballroom 8:00 pm - Midnight

Admission Free - Cash Bar

IGRA's best Individual dancers, couples and dance teams from across the US and Canada compete in Waltz, Two-Step, Free Style and Line Dance.

Are You a Dancer? Do You Want to Be?

Country Western Dance Lessons at the IGRA Dance Institute are open to the public for \$5 per class.

- Fri, Feb. 20: 4:30pm - 6:30 pm: Line Dancing for Competition for experienced dancers
- Sat, Feb. 21: 10:30am - 12:30 pm: Two-Step and Waltz for Competition for experienced dancers
- Sat, Feb. 21: 2:00pm - 4:00 pm: Musicality and Beginners - Beginning Waltz and Two-Step
- Sun, Feb. 22: 10:00am - 12:00 pm: Musicality and Beginners - Beginning Line Dancing



For more information email the IGRA Dance Committee Chair at twostep.cub@verizon.net



2009 IGRA Rodeo / Event Schedule

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
January 16-18, 2009	Road Runner Regional Rodeo	Phoenix, Arizona
February 20-22, 2009	IGRA University	Las Vegas, Nevada
February 27-March 1, 2009	Cowtown Rodeo	Ft. Worth, Texas
April 3-5, 2009	Sunshine Stampede	Fort Lauderdale, Florida
April 17-19, 2009	Rodeo in the Rock	Little Rock, Arkansas
May 1-3, 2009	Hot Rodeo	Palm Springs, California
May 22-24, 2009	Great Plains Rodeo	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
June 5-7, 2009	Sierra Stampede	Sacramento, California
June 25-28, 2009	Canadian Rockies International Rodeo	Calgary, Alberta Canada
June 26-28, 2009	Heartland Regional Rodeo	Omaha, Nebraska
July 10-12, 2009	Rockey Mountain Regional Rodeo	Denver, Colorado
July 31-August 2, 2009	Liberty Stampede Rodeo	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
August 21-23, 2009	Windy City Rodeo	Chicago, Illinois
August 28-30, 2009	TGRA Rodeo	Sequin, Texas (San Antonio)
September 4-6, 2009	MGRA Show Me State Rodeo	Kansas City, Missouri
September 11-13, 2009	Greater San Diego Rodeo	San Diego, California
September 18-20, 2009	BigHorn Rodeo	Las Vegas, Nevada
October 23-25, 2009	23rd Annual Finals Rodeo	Albuquerque, New Mexico
November 12-15, 2009	25th Annual IGRA Convention	Toronto, Ontario Canada

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3	4	5	6 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	7
8	9 Board of Directors Meeting RPC Meeting	10	11	12	13 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	14  Love & Scorn Show @ Charlie's
15	16 General Membership Meeting	17	18	19 Back to School Homecoming @ Badlands	20 NGRA 2009 Royalty Competition @ Charlie's	21 IGRA University @ Tuscany Suites & Casino
22 IGRA University @ Tuscany Suites & Casino	23	24	25	26	27 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	28 Best Butt Contest @ Badlands

For times, locations and additional details, please visit the NGRA calendar on the web at www.ngra.com

NGRA Members Celebrating Birthdays in February:

Daniel Roybal
James Hunter
Dale Loftin
Rolando Rodriguez
Bruce Parrott
George Vierra
Kirk Kanie
Gary Rushton
Jim St. Marie
Steve Minyard
Gerry Gomez
Robert Salcedo
Cory Trujillo

February 8
February 9
February 9
February 9
February 12
February 12
February 13
February 15
February 17
February 19
February 20
February 20
February 28

