



June 2009

David Hering, Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello fellow NGRA Members:

For the first time, I write to you as the President of NGRA. I can first say that this has been a busy month for all of us on the Board of Directors. At the start of May we had Las Vegas PRIDE as well as Palm Springs Rodeo, and we made sure to represent at both events. For those of us that were in town, many marched in Friday's PRIDE Parade. On Saturday NGRA made our presence known by running the front gate, I am very proud of all that volunteered and helped to get NGRA's name out. For those that were in Palm Springs, as much as we would have liked to have had you with us, I thank you for making sure that NGRA was represented.

The second week in May NGRA had its annual Closet Ball Contest. Thanks to the great work of Miss Closet Ball, we were able to raise over \$900. Thank you to all that attended and Sable Desire for putting on a great fundraiser.

I have to personally thank all that attended the New Board of Directors first meeting, and being patient as we went almost 3 hours. I must say that

I had not planned on that long of a meeting, but it turned out to be a very productive meeting with lots getting accomplished.

May 22nd brought in yet another fundraiser bring in over \$500 at Badland's for our Memorial Day Weekend Kick-off. Thank you to DeShannon and Katrina for hosting a fun event as well as those on the fundraising committee for all of your hard work.

I personally appreciate all NGRA members that have shown the true meaning of supporting each other, by participated in other association events, as well as those from other associations that have come out to support us.

June has a number of events planned with the 2nd Annual Pumps and Pearls Event on June 13th at Charlie's, our Laughlin Bus Trip on June 20th, and Let Us Light Your Firecracker on June 27th at Badlands.

This year should be a great year for NGRA. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we hope to see everyone out supporting the great organization that we are.

2009 NGRA Convention

Now that our 2009-10 Board of Directors is in place and are starting to get their feet wet -- it is time for the NGRA Convention. It will be held Sunday, June 28 at 11:00 AM at the Gay and Lesbian Center and all members are encouraged to attend. This is the only time of the year when the Bylaws can be changed and is one of the opportunities to change Standing Rules as well. So if there is a rule that you think should be deleted or tweaked, or if you feel we need some new guidance in a particular area, come and voice your opinion. The Convention Chair is Lorry King and she can be reached at llwking@aol.com. Please send her your ideas for change. If possible, tell her what section of the Bylaws and she will put it in the proper format for presentation and voting. She will send out a cover letter and all proposals received to date by email on approximately June 14 so you'll have time to study and discuss them. But if you think of something after that date, email her with your idea and it will be presented. In addition, proposals can be presented from the floor. The Bylaws can be found at ngra.com > Member Info > NGRA Bylaws. Please bring a copy to the meeting. Lunch will be served at Convention, so there's no excuse not to attend!



Laughlin Getaway June 20, 2009

\$25
per person

Raffles/Prizes

BUD LIGHT



EDGEWATER HOTEL • CASINO • LAUGHLIN

Lariat Saloon

Take a day to enjoy Sunny Laughlin Nevada with all your NGRA buds! Starting at 10:13am, be whisked away to the Edgewater Hotel Casino in Laughlin, NV. While on the bus, enjoy Fun, Games, Raffles, Prizes, and SHOTS!!!! Indulge in a delicious Buffet at the Edgewater Casino, then relax and take in Laughlin Nevada! Finish the night with drink specials at Lariat's Saloon then back home to where we started. It's a day to relax, play, and most important, sit back and let us do the driving!

Tickets may be purchased at www.NGRA.com
and at Charlies Las Vegas

Charlies
Las Vegas

BigHorn Rodeo Update

Howdy, Y'all, and thanks for all your support so far this year as we raise funds to support LUCKY 13 – BigHorn Rodeo 2009.

The Rodeo Planning Committee has been very active since I was appointed as Rodeo Director in December. My thanks to all of them!

For this month's update, here's a list of all the things we've done:

1. Selected rodeo beneficiary – This year, the rodeo beneficiary will be FOCUS. FOCUS – Finding Our Clients Useful Solutions – is a program of the Winged Dragon Society. They are providing services to people with HIV and AIDS in our community.
2. Selected host hotel – Our host hotel this year is the Eastside Cannery. We encourage all of you to make it a "staycation" and come on down to the Cannery for rodeo weekend. The rates of \$29.95 per night (Sunday-Thursday) and \$69.96 per night (Friday-Saturday) can't be beat!
3. Decided to have a night rodeo – For the first time in NGRA history, our rodeo will be a 1-go, night rodeo. For all the details about how this will work, visit the website at www.bighornrodeo.com. Contestant registration and meet-and-greet will be Friday night, starting at 6:13 p.m. Saturday, the morning performances will start at 8:13 a.m. The opening ceremonies for the evening show will start at 5:13 p.m. Several events will be split between the two sets of performances; our most popular events will all be held at night. We hope the community will come out and support this first-ever effort!
4. All of our committee chairs have been working hard. Grand Entry promises to be very exciting; our party coordinator is planning parties on Friday afternoon and on Sunday afternoon (Sunday's party will be hosted by The Blue Moon); our entertainment coordinator is working to create an exciting weekend; our vendor coordinator is already lining up lots of exciting vendors; and, our volunteer coordinator is soon to have volunteer needs for the event!

We encourage everyone to come out and support BigHorn Rodeo 2009. We have fundraisers for the rodeo every 2nd Saturday at Charlie's and every 4th Saturday at Badlands. We also sell hot dogs at Charlie's every Sunday. The bus trip coming up on June 20 is always a big revenue generator for us.

We also encourage folks to come and join in the planning for the rodeo! The rodeo planning committee will meet on the third Monday in June – June 15.

NGRA Member of the Month April 2009

Congratulations to Jeff Manning as our Member of the Month for April! Jeff is being recognized for all his efforts in making our April fundraiser at Badlands – An Evening at the Grand Ole Opry – not only a great time, but a stunning visual experience as well. For those who didn't know, he was responsible for the brilliant backdrop which transformed the Badlands stage into the Grand Old Opry. Jeff has been a member of the NGRA since July of 2004 and is a regular attendee at membership meetings. Jeff's quiet and unassuming nature hides an amazing talent that we as an organization are fortunate to have in a member. It is members like Jeff that offer their time and skills to our cause that make NGRA successful. Thank you Jeff, and we look forward to seeing the Grand Ole Opry on an annual basis.

NGRA WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



**Erin Leavey
Gene Person
Doug Gordon**



Presents

PUMPS & PEARLS

A Special Event

Hosted by Kandace Kayne

Saturday, June 13, 2009

Pearls may be purchased from
Kandace at any NGRA Event for \$2



Raffles
& Prizes

If our goal of \$1,500 is met,
SNAPI Board member
Tony Clark has agreed to
dress in drag! Don't miss it!!!!

All Events, Contests, & Raffles begin at 9:13pm

All proceeds go to BigHorn Rodeo: A benefit for FOCUS Las Vegas

www.NGRA.com

www.BigHornRodeo.com

Charlie's
Las Vegas

NGRA's Pumps & Pearls * Charlies Las Vegas * 5012 South Arville Sta #4, Las Vegas, NV 89118



Did You Know?

NGRA General Membership Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. The meetings take place at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center at 6:30PM. Please join us at the next meeting on June 15, 2009



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 March 16, 2009

TRUSTEE REPORT

Brian Rogers

The Las Vegas PRIDE parade and festival were huge successes again this year and I'd like to thank all of the parade participants and the NGRA volunteers who did such a great job running the gate. JD Jensen did a great job coordinating our team of 24 individuals who put in 144.5 volunteer hours for NGRA and raising over \$1,400 for BigHorn Rodeo. Just over 10,000 people attended the festival this year and a good time was had by all.

Lorry King attended the IGRA Board meetings as my alternate and there were several important developments of interest to NGRA:

- 2010 IGRA University was approved for Las Vegas
- The 2010 World Gay Rodeo Finals were approved for Laughlin, hosted by NGRA. The AVI Resort and Casino will be the host hotel and the Mojave Crossing Events Center will host the rodeo.
- NGRA received a variance approved for BigHorn Rodeo 2009 allowing us to modify the random draw process due to our split event format for 2009.
- IGRA Convention Update: Toronto Nov. 12-15, 2009: Costs will be converted from Canadian - Delegate costs is \$80 will be \$64 US with conversion; Hotel will be \$115 or \$95 US. Please notify a board member if you are interested in representing NGRA at the IGRA Convention in Toronto.
- World Gay Rodeo Finals ticketing and marketing was assigned to NGRA. Hotel rooms in Albuquerque will be \$85; Finals entertainment to include the Dolly Parton look alike & Demented Divas
- IGRA Royalty has raised \$2,800 and have covered all rodeo's so far and would appreciate having help with accommodations when they travel and would also like to have a goal provided in advance for any groups wanting fundraising assistance from the IGRA Royalty Team.
- The IGRA archives have been donated to the Gene Autry museum in LA who will curate the archive for exhibition, scholarship and possible fundraising opportunities. Founding IGRA member and owner of Charlie's, John King has been appointed to Chair the Gay Rodeo Legacy Project and will work in tandem with the archives.

Now that Memorial Day has come and gone, it's time to really start focusing on our Lucky 13 BigHorn Rodeo. Your Rodeo Planning Committee is doing a great job planning our first night rodeo. If you haven't already, come get involved and help make a difference. Check the NGRA calendar at www.NGRA.com for the dates and times of the meetings.



USO Tribute



June 27, 2009

Events beginning at 9:13pm

*NGRA's USO/Firecracker Spectacular * Badlands Saloon
Commercial Center * Las Vegas, NV*

*All proceeds go towards BigHorn Rodeo 13
A benefit for FOCUS Las Vegas*

www.NGRA.com www.BigHornRodeo.com



SALOON
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



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	Rocky 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



NGRA & Jimmy Gattis invite you
to celebrate our Nation's Birthday

4th of July
Pool Party
July 4, 09
2pm-?

Swim, Drink, and watch the fireworks!
Jimmy Gattis has agreed to host this event
at his home in Sunrise Mountain.



RSVP to Jimmy @
jimmy.gattis@gmail.com

\$10 suggested donation

to benefit BigHorn Rodeo 13:A benefit for FOCUS Las Vegas



June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	6
7	8 Board of Directors Meeting	9	10	11	12 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	13 Pumps & Pearls Event @ Charlie's
14	15 Membership Meeting RPC Meeting	16	17	18	19 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	20 NGRA Laughlin Bus Trip
21	22	23	24	25	26 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	27 U.S.O. Tribute Show @ Badlands
28 NGRA State Convention	29	30				

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

NGRA Members Celebrating Birthdays in June:

Tony Clark
Kip Kipilla
Randy Meadows
Ric Franklin
Ron Cox
Ken Wong
Topher Trevino
David Hering

June 2
June 3
June 4
June 12
June 13
June 14
June 16
June 17

Jason Dyer
Blaine Woodie
Richard Armstrong
Johnny Bob Dalton
Chris Due
Darwin Trotter
James Rizzo

June 17
June 22
June 22
June 24
June 27
June 28
June 29