



BIGHORN GAZETTE

March 2009

Eddy Krien, Editor

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February has been a busy and wonderful month for NGRA once again.

We welcome and congratulate our new 2009 Royalty Team!
Mr. NGRA 2009: Darren Wernette
Mr. NGRA 2009 1st Runner Up: Adam Johnson
Miss NGRA 2009: DeShannon (Mitch Gill)

The contestants started a long week on Saturday the 14th, with the Community Spirit and Personal Interview portions of the competition. On Thursday the 19th, we welcomed our out of town guests in a 'Back to School' event at Badlands where current Mr and Miss title holders from across the country put on a fabulous show. On Friday the 20th, we had a tremendous turnout at Charlie's for the final Western Wear, Public Presentation, and Entertainment portions. All three candidates stepped it up, and provided a very positive and spirited competition. We would like to particularly thank all the judges in the different segments, who were drawn from both visiting IGRA members, and local community leaders. Special thanks especially to IRSCDE Emperor and Empress XI Chris Reynolds and Ginger Grant, for their role on judging panels, and co-hosting the big Friday night

show. We also thank the ten year anniversary royalty members John VanderPloeg and Terri Feldman for their 'working the crowd' for donations to get the new Royalty Team year off to a good start. Thank you to the 'Command Performances' from Bootsy Carmichael, Faye DeWay, Tom Sheridan, and Nikita LaFemme. As for the current royalty team, Darren, Adam, and DeShannon each made us proud, and we look forward to a great coming year with them heading up our fundraising and public presence.

Thank you once again, to last year's Royalty Team, Katrina, Michael Judkins, Kandice Kane, and Darren, for the tremendous work they did, money raised, and furthering NGRA connections with our wider community.

The same weekend as the Royalty Competition saw our annual IGRA University, and Dance Competition. Details are found in Brian Roger's Trustee Article, but we want to thank all those who came into town to the Tuscany, to make these events another record year.

By now most of you should have received your ballots for Member of the Year. Please return them as soon as possible, and we will then be able to proudly announce the NGRA

2009 Member of the Year. We also highly encourage you all to consider running for a position on the Board of Directors. Elections will be made next month, with the new board starting on May 1st. The positions of President, Treasurer, Secretary, and four Member at Large positions will be elected.

It's been a great Royalty Year, with NGRA having a far more significant impact on the IGRA circuit than it has had in years. With your help, participation in events, and volunteering, we hope for even greater things in 2009!

Contestant Results

The first rodeo of the year was held in Phoenix and of course, NGRA was well represented by contestants, volunteers, entertainers, and spectators. One of our best horsemen, Richard Armstrong, competed in all three speed events. He captured 5th place on Saturday and 6th on Sunday in Barrels, 8th and 6th in Poles, and 3rd place on Saturday in Flags. His points gave NGRA 9th place in the team standings, out of 13 Associations. As the rodeo year unfolds, we wish Richard and our other contestants the best of luck and continued success.

Royalty Report

First, let us say THANK YOU to all those of you that attended the NGRA Royalty Competition. As your new royalty team, we are very much aware that we have some big footsteps to follow. Last year's team did an amazing job, and we will do our best to continue the greatness.

February was a very busy month for all of us! We broke our hearts and then mended them at the Love & Scorn event at Charlie's, quickly followed by some studying for the "Back to School" event at Badlands. Friday the 20th, was competition night and after many costume changes, deep breaths and outstanding performances the results were in. Your new Miss NGRA is DeShannon, Mr. NGRA Darren Wernette, Mr. NGRA 1st Runner-Up Adam Johnson. The rest of the weekend was busy with classes during IGRA University and evenings of Dance Competition. After all the running and sweating we were ready for the Best Butt in Jeans contest at Badlands to cap off an amazing month.

Looking ahead it's a prosperous and fun filled year. Each one of us looks forward to representing the members of this great organization, not only around Las Vegas but across the United States. We will be attending multiple rodeos and other functions throughout the year. Fundraising is always a top priority for your Royalty Team and we hope to bring some new and exciting things!

A couple quick reminders that April brings the ever fun, Miss Cowpatty Competition, and May will be Miss Closet Ball.

Hope to see you all at Charlie's March 14th for our next fundraiser.

Lastly we want to thank last year's Royalty Team for doing such an outstanding job. You are part of the reason that this is such an amazing organization. We look forward to working with you in 2009.

Respectfully,
Your Royalty Team

BOARD ELECTIONS

We've just finished IGRA University, the Dance Competition, and our Royalty Competition, and now it's time for NGRA Elections! The ballots will be going out on 3/17, so start thinking about your candidacy. All positions except Trustee are open -- President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Members at Large positions. Please let our Election Coordinator, Lorry King (llwking@aol.com), know if you are interested in running. She will ask you for a short written bio that will be included with the ballot. Feel free to contact any current Board member for an idea of the duties and consult your NGRA Bylaws as well.

For those who have email, we will be voting online. Lorry will mail out a ballot to those who don't.



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

Love & Scorn Fundraiser



NGRA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



The Spotlight Article takes a different direction this month, and for a very special reason.

This month, the Spotlight is on the newest, and certainly the youngest member of NGRA whose name is Flo.

Flo was born on February 27, 2009. She is out of Richard Armstrong's pole bending mare, Cassidy (AQHA - Proudest Surprise) and by a stallion named First Down Leaving. She was 37 inches tall at birth and will be burning up the rodeo arena in just a few years.

Congratulations to NGRA members Chris Due and Richard Armstrong on the newest addition to their family.



Reminders:

1. The deadline to renew your NGRA membership was February 28, 2009. If you did not renew your membership you will need to rejoin as a new member.

2. The Member of the Year ballots have been cast and are being tallied. Don't miss the March General Membership Meeting where the winner will be announced

TRUSTEE REPORT

Brian Rogers

IGRA University was a huge success. NGRA pulled out all the stops and by all reports hosted the most successful University weekend ever. Some statistics and results:

- We had 120 paying IGRA-U students
- 21 IGRA Associations were represented - including 11 students from NGRA
- It took 28 IGRA-U staff to run the event
- We ran 35 separate classes over three days
- We awarded 36 Certificates of Achievement, 68 Associate Degrees (which take 2 years to earn), 4 Bachelor's Degrees (3 years) and 1 Master's Degree (5 years).
- NGRA hosted the first International Country/Western Dance Competition held at University on Saturday night. The results are listed below:

DANCE COUPLES

Division IV - First Time

- 1st place - Rick Robertson & Jeff Haller - LSGRA
- 2nd place - Ken Wong & Darren Wernette - NGRA

Division II - Intermediate

- 1st place - Leigh Broschat & Pam Simmons - LSGRA
- 2nd place - Alfredo Quezada & Ramon Soto - AGRA

Division I - Advanced

- 1st place - Jeff McGurn & Paul Casey - GSGRA

LINE DANCE SINGLES

Beginners

- 1st place - Lonni LaBel - ASGRA
- 2nd place - Just John - GSGRA
- 3rd place - Kimberley Kay - CGRA

Advanced

- 1st Place - Hagan Ko - PNWGRA

TEAM DANCE

- 1st place - Arizone Heat Wave - AGRA
- 2nd place - Louisiana Hot Sauce - LSGRA

Of course we also held a Fundraising event at Badlands on Thursday night and our Royalty Competition at Charlie's on Friday night. Congratulations to our new Royalty Team, DeShannon, Darren and Adam. Read more about these events in this newsletter.

NGRA's Finals Bid for 2010 and offer to host University were both well received by the IGRA Board of Directors. A final vote will take place around April 1.

I'd like to offer special thanks to Jeffrey Neal who served as my Vice-Chancellor and did an awesome job. Jeffrey will be Chancellor for IGRA-U 2010. Also special thanks to Adam Johnson for all the copying he did for the event and Bill Watkins for schlepping all our stuff from storage and back.

I'd also like to congratulate the following NGRA students on their IGRA-U achievements:

Colin Moulton - Bachelor's Degree in Rodeo Arts
Shaun Sewell - Bachelor's Degree in Rodeo Arts
David Blackwood - Associate Degree in Rodeo Arts
Mitch Gill - Associate Degree in Rodeo Arts
David Hering - Associate Degree in Rodeo Arts
Adam Johnson - Associate Degree in Rodeo Arts
Rob Pierce - Associate Degree in Rodeo Arts
Hank Williams - Associate Degree in Rodeo Arts
JD Jensen - Certificate of Achievement
Ken Wong - Certificate of Achievement

Moving on, I am putting out a call for volunteers for the following upcoming events:

Barrel Race: Saturday, March 7 at the Sunrise Arena: NGRA will be assisting the Western Heritage & Education Association in running this event. We need to be there from noon to about 2 pm and will be setting barrels, operating the gate for the contestants and just generally helping out and mingling with our fellow rodeo folks. It's a nice day out at a wonderful arena - come join the fun! If interested, please call or contact me through the NGRA website.

Beauty and the Beast (Barrels & Bulls), Friday, April 4 7pm - 10pm at Horseman's Park: NGRA will be assisting the Western Heritage & Education Association in running this event. We will be providing security and selling our signature hot dogs and NGRA keeps all proceeds. Please contact me if interested in participating in this night rodeo event.

Other Upcoming Events:

- May 1: Pride Parade (NGRA participation pending)
- May 2: Pride Festival - 10 (NGRA volunteers needed)
- May 14: Helldorado Rodeo Locals Night - Downtown rodeo arena (NGRA volunteers needed)
- May 15-17: Helldorado PRCA Rodeo - Downtown Arena
- May 16: Helldorado Night Parade (NGRA participation pending)

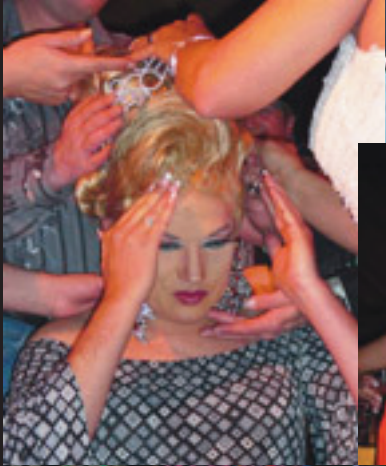
Save a Horse...





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

2009 Royalty Competition



March 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	10	11	12	13 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	14 NGRA Show & Fundraiser @ Charlie's
15	16 General Membership Meeting RPC Meeting	17 	18	19	20 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	28 NGRA Show & Fundraiser @ Badlands
29	30	31				

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

NGRA Members Celebrating Birthdays in March:

Tom Coleman
Colin Moulton
John King
Laurie Banks
Darren Wernette

March 1
March 4
March 6
March 13
March 28

