



BIGHORN GAZETTE

May 2009

Eddy Krien, Editor

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hello, Goodbye

Dear NGRA Members:

For the last time, I have the chance to write an article as President for the BigHorn Gazette. So, I'm saying "Goodbye."

I am so proud of what NGRA has been able to accomplish since I became a member in 2004.

- We are one of the most financially sound associations in the entire circuit.
- We have had two very successful rodeos in a row, donating over \$20,000 to local charities over the last two rodeo years (2007 and 2008).
- A member of our royalty team, Katrina, went to New Orleans and competed for the IGRA royalty team. She did us proud.
- We've solidified our relationships with other fundraising organizations in the community.

And with all this hard work we've done, we've built relationships with our NGRA colleagues that will last a lifetime.

I was terribly saddened to hear today of the passing of Gary Mendyka, who has continually been a member of NGRA since its founding and could often be seen at NGRA events and rodeos. Gary always had a kind word for everyone and will be sorely missed.

To every member of NGRA, you have made my term as president very successful. The Board of Directors can only do the work that it does with the help of all those members who come out and help us raise money, work the rodeo, or just show up and support us.

I wish to thank every board member who has served with me – in no particular order: Gerry Gomez, Laurie Banks, Rob Saunders, Brian Maley, Lorry King, Brian Rogers, Frank Gardner, Colin Moulton, Eddy Krien, David Blackwood, Darren Wernette, Bill Watkins, Bill Trunzo, David Hering, and Boan Jordan.

I'm also saying "Hello!" I look forward to serving NGRA as BigHorn Rodeo Director for our LUCKY 13 Rodeo in September, and I'll have more news for you on that front in upcoming issues.

To the incoming Board of Directors, I wish you all the best. The service we give to the community is beneficial and rewarding – both to those we give to and to ourselves. Remember that above all else, and you'll lead with panache! I look forward to working with each and every one of you next year and in the years beyond.

All my best and all my love,
Shaun Sewell
NGRA President, 2007-2009

Election Results

The results are in and NGRA has a new Board of Directors for 2009-2010. Our new officers, who will take office on May 1, are:

President:
David Blackwood

Vice President:
Colin Moulton

Secretary:
Jeffrey Neal

Treasurer:
David Hering

Members At Large:
Richard Armstrong
Jimmy Gattis
JD Jensen
Ken Wong

Of course, Brian Rogers will continue as Trustee for another year, and Shaun Sewell, as immediate past President, will remain on the Board, with a vote, for one more year.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to vote and thanks to all who volunteered to serve and ran for office. Meet the new Board at their first meeting on May 11 at 6:30 at the Center.

Closet Ball 2009

What's in your closet?



Picking an outfit out can be a drag!
Join us Saturday, May 9, 2009 @ 9:30pm

Charlie's
Las Vegas

Royalty Report

Spring is here, cowboys and cowgirls are gearing up for a summer full of rodeos and great fundraisers. Looking back, April was a very busy month for your royalty team. DeShannon went to Florida and represented us in sunny Fort Lauderdale. Darren Wernette took a little of NGRA pride to Arkansas and spread the word about Lucky 13 (the theme to Bighorn Rodeo). Adam Johnson stayed here in Las Vegas and went to several Court and Sister Functions, to help support our local community.

We had two big, fun, and successful fundraisers. The first of which was at Charlie's, where we held our annual Miss Cow Patty contest. There were 3 entertaining contestants and by night's end we had our newest winner; Miss Barlyndo. The royalty team welcomes our newest "sister" (she may have been adopted). We look forward to a great year with her. The second fundraiser was the official PRIDE party, which was held at Badlands. "Grand Ole Opry Night" was filled with entertainment, stories, and amazing performances by artist that had graced the stages of the Nashville landmark. Even though we may have gone late into the night, a good deal of money was raised.

We have some great fundraisers just around the corner. May 9th we have the ever-so-much fun Miss Closet Ball, at Charlie's. May 23rd is a Memorial Day themed shindig at Badlands. We hope to see you all there to help continue to raise money for our amazing rodeo!

Lastly, we have some sad news to report. Our Mr. NGRA 1st Runner Up, Adam Johnson, was transferred to Phoenix for work. He did not make the decision lightly and wanted the entire organization to know that they will forever hold a very special place in his heart. He appreciates all the support they have given in his time here. He promises to be back as often as possible, and wouldn't miss our rodeo for anything. He will be at Miss Closet Ball for his last "official" fundraiser before he heads out. We wish him all the best of luck in his new endeavors.

Have a great month, and best wishes.

NGRA Member of the Month March 2009



Congratulations JD Jensen! JD has been an active member of NGRA for a year now, and has been a regular at our events, and contributing his time and talents. He is currently acting as Volunteer Coordinator for both BigHorn Rodeo 09, as well as for NGRA participation in this year's PRIDE festival. For several months

JD has been the creative force behind all of our event posters as well. Thank you JD!

**NGRA
WELCOMES OUR
NEWEST MEMBERS**



**Randy Dallas Grant
Charles Chou**

Miss Cow Patty

Greetings from Miss Closet Ball

Greetings and salutations from Miss Closet Ball 2008, Sabel D'Zyre. It has been a great privilege to be NGRA's Closet Queen this past year. Thus, I wanted to take a moment to reach out the membership of NGRA. Please see the attached proclamation:

Hear ye! Hear ye! Her Royal Highness, Sabel D'Zyre, Miss Closet Ball 2008 is formally requesting the honor of your presence at the 2009 Miss & MsTer Closet Ball competition at Charlie's Las Vegas, on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 9:30 PM. It would be my distinct privilege to see everyone there and even find a few more contestants for the event! Also, it is with humble heart that I also ask all former Miss Closet Balls to be in attendance that evening.

In addition, I would like to ask the membership to help me and NGRA raise money this evening. Any contributions you can make to the cause is greatly appreciated. Think gift baskets for raffle prizes, big items for auction, or good old cash to suport the NGRA. All your generosity is appreciated!

With that, I look forward to seeing you all there. Should you need to reach me, please reach me via email at: JoelCastilloEnt@aol.com

Humbly,

Sabel D'Zyre
Miss Closet Ball 2008
(AKA Joel Castillo)

Happy Trails



NGRA mourns the loss of Gary Mendyka. Gary was a member of NGRA for over 15 years, and continued to be an influence on current members with his kindness, sensitivity, and wonderful sense of humor. Dear Gary, we all will miss you so much, and we have been so gifted to have known you. You will live on in all of our memories and hearts.





Memorial Day

Weekend Kick-Off Party



**\$1.00
Watermelon
Shots**



**Games,
Raffles,
Prizes**



Do the Watermelon Crawl

Friday, May 22, 2009

9:13 p.m.



**NGRA'S MEMORIAL DAY KICK-OFF PARTY AT BADLAND'S SALOON
COMMERCIAL CENTER * LAS VEGAS**



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 |

May 2009

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---------|-----------|----------|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's | 2 Las Vegas Gay Pride Festival 2009 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's | 9 NGRA Miss Closet Ball Contest @ Charlie's |
| 10  | 11 Board of Directors Meeting | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's | 16 |
| 17 | 18 General Membership Meeting RPC Meeting | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 NGRA Memorial Day Show & Fundraiser @ Badlands | 23 |
| 24/31 | 25  Memorial Day | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's | 30 |

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

NGRA Members Celebrating Birthdays in May:

Johann Kristinsson
David Blackwood
Randy Parker
Michael Hayward
Peter Dube
Randy Grant
Brian Wilson
Carlos Garcia
Pat Hicks
Joshua Hicks

May 1
May 1
May 2
May 4
May 4
May 5
May 15
May 16
May 23
May 28

