

JOEL CASTILLO , EDITOR



FEBRUARY, 2010

BIGHORN GAZETTE

In this issue... Member of the Year Ballots, Board Elections, "Rodeo Runs Red" & so much more!

Email any submissions, photos, etc to: BigHornEditor@ngra.com



FROM THE PRESIDENT



- February 12-14 AGRA Road Runner Regional Rodeo Phoenix, AZ
- February 13 "Lonely Hearts" Show at Charlie's
- February 27 "Rodeo Runs Red" Show at Badlands
- February 28 Deadline for mailing in Member of the Year Ballots

As you have probably noticed, BigHorn Gazette has taken on a new look and feel as we move into 2010, with that being said, I would like to welcome Joel Castillo our new editor. I look forward to working with Joel as he works on developing new ideas to keep us all informed. I personally would like to thank David Hering for his work as editor and juggling the gazette into schedule while maintaining NGRA's finances. David is not going anywhere, as he will still serve as NGRA's Treasurer until the end of April, 2011.

Congratulations to JD Jensen and Kimberli Foxx aka Ric Franklin on becoming Mr. and Miss NGRA 2010. This year will be an adventure that you will not forget, and we all look forward to your stories. While NGRA now has crowned the new royalty team, I can't forget those that made us proud last year. Darren Wernette, Mr. NGRA 2009, thank you for making sure that NGRA was represented at rodeos, and spreading that infectious smile of yours around. DeShannon aka Mitch Gill, where does one begin, for someone that knows how to make the rounds, all I can say is, you most definitely know how to work the crowd. While your time as Miss NGRA 2009 you did us all proud by bringing home the title of Miss IGRA 1st Runner-Up. I thank you for your year as our Miss and wish you the best of luck as you continue to make sure NGRA is recognized.

2010 Royalty Pageant

(Left) David Hering, Colin Moulton & Katrina (Miss NGRA 2008)
 (Right) DeShannon (Miss IGRA 1st Runner-Up 2010)





[PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED]

IGRA University was a lot of fun this year for me, as it showed me how passionate people are about rodeo and their organizations. I was able to rekindle with old friends, while making new ones along the way. While it does sadden me that NGRA will not be hosting University next year, I am very happy for St. Louis, Missouri to carry on the IGRA University tradition.

During the month of January, I was asked to help out with the QVegas – Sin Sity Sisters Red Dress event photo shoot for the February 2010 edition. This was a lot of fun and when asked there was no way I could turn them down, as the Sisters have always supported NGRA. This was my way of returning the favor. I can't wait to see how the photos turned out. I also want to let everyone know that the Board of Directors approved to donate a portion of the proceeds from our February fundraisers at Charlie's and Badlands to the Sin Sity Sisters in what we like to call Rodeo Runs Red.

As always I look forward to seeing everyone out and about.

-David P. Blackwood
NGRA President

WANTED

NGRA is looking for Cowboys & Cowgirls interested in being part of the 2010 NGRA Board of Directors! Open seats include:

- Vice-President
- Secretary
- 4-Members At Large

*Please refer to the NGRA Bylaws at www.ngra.com for further information on duties & responsibilities.

Fundraising Report



Thank you to everyone that came out during the month of January to support us at our fundraising events that we had. As we move into February we have a number of exciting events coming up. We kick off the month with our First Friday of the month Beer Bust at Fun Hog Ranch with proceeds going to NGRA and IGRA World Finals.

Rodeo Runs Red, as approved by the Board a portion of the proceeds from the following events will go to benefit the Sin Sity Sisters. Saturday, February 13th we are having "Lonely Hearts" at Charlie's at 9 p.m. and on Saturday, February 27th the "Red Ribbon Review" at Badlands at 9 p.m.

April 10th is NGRA's Annual Miss Cow Patty Pageant. All **BRAVE** Men & Women interested should contact Faye Deway aka Bill Watkins for more information at b0424@mindspring.com or 702.510.5051



Wow! More than 3 years of wearing a sash for NGRA has come to an end. It's hard to come up with an appropriate way to thank everyone for all of the support that has been given me.

With that in mind...THANK YOU! It has been my pleasure and honor to represent NGRA here in Las Vegas and across the country at IGRA rodeos. I have made so many great friends and have seen first-hand the caliber of people who are involved with this and other organizations nationwide. I'm going nowhere and will continue to be involved with NGRA to the extent that I am able. I'll just be walking a bit straighter without that pin-heavy sash!

I have every confidence in our newest royalty team and trust that we will all give them the encouragement and help that was offered me. Kimberli and JD, please enjoy every minute that this opportunity awards you. Have a great time and continue to make NGRA proud.

Yours,
Darren Wernette
Mr. NGRA 2009

The Royalty Roundup

"Howdy, Everyone!" from your newly crowned Miss Nevada Gay Rodeo Association 2010.

First, I want to thank everyone who came out during IGRA University and helped the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association host everyone from other associations around the country and everyone who came out and supported NGRA during the competition for Mr. and Miss NGRA 2010. I really appreciated all of the love and warmth I felt during the competition and after – when J.D. and I were sashed, crowned, and pinned.

Second, I really look forward to representing NGRA to the best of my ability throughout 2010, both here in Southern Nevada and around the country as I travel to various rodeos on the IGRA circuit.

I invite all of the membership to come out and support NGRA each month at Fun Hog Ranch on the first Friday of each month, at Charlie's on the second Saturday of each month, and at Badlands on the fourth Saturday of each month. J.D. and I are representatives of the membership, but we really need everyone's help to successfully raise money for our local charities, for our participation in World Gay Rodeo Finals 2010, and for NGRA's next rodeo in May of 2011.

I would be remiss if I didn't also thank our sister fundraising organizations and all their members – the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, the Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and The League of Gentlemen – for all of the support they've given NGRA and myself in the past and the support they will give in the future. We're all working together to raise money this year, and I hope to see members of NGRA out at other organizations' fundraisers to support them as well.

I also want to take this time to invite all of the former Mr., Miss, and Ms. NGRA titleholders to come out and get re-energized with NGRA. I am proud of NGRA's history and carry that forward with me through the present. Former titleholders are always welcome to perform at NGRA events, and I welcome your participation in any other way, as well!

If I can do anything for anyone, please don't hesitate to let me know! E-mail me at MissNGRA2010@ngra.com.

Love,
Kimberli Foxx - Miss NGRA 2010



Coming Events...

NGRA PRESENTS

THE SINGLE HEARTS CLUB

BEING SINGLE CAN BE FUN!
JOIN US FOR BEER BUST
AND ENTERTAINMENT

February 13, 2010 9:00 p.m.

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT NGRA AND THE SIN SITY SISTERS

Charlies Las Vegas
5012 Arville Road, Las Vegas, NV 89118

NGRA Presents the Red Ribbon Wrap-Up Party!

Red Ribbon Country Review

February 27, 2010
9:00 p.m.

Proceeds will benefit NGRA and the Sin Sity Sisters

BADLANDS SALOON
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Badlands Saloon * Commercial Center
953 E Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104



NGRA



*And the Nominees
Are...*



Pack up your gear..
The rodeo is
almost here!



Arizona Gay Rodeo
Association invites you
to its 25th year of rodeo
with the Road Runner
Regional Rodeo:
Presidents' Day
Weekend, February
12-14, 2010.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12:
WESTERN COOKOUT,
COUNTRY IDOL &
CONTESTANT
REGISTRATION...
all at RAWHIDE

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WEB LINKS AT
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According to the NGRA bylaws, we are to open up nominations for those members who you may feel qualify to be honored with the title of “Member of the Year”. All those members who have been award the title of “Member of the Month” in 2009 qualify automatically. Those persons are: **Chris Reynolds, Kirk Kanie, JD Jensen, Jeff Manning, “Pup” Ric Franklin, Michael Judkins, Bill Trunzo, Doug Graff, Jay Little, and Bill Watkins.** The ballots will be out by February 15th with a return of February 28, 2009. The announcement of the “Member of the Year” will be announced at NGRA’s March General Membership Meeting.

And the nominees are:

Chris Reynolds. New member, (and coincidentally, the current IRSCDE Emperor XI) is new to NGRA, but has been a long standing contributor to NGRA and other Las Vegas organizations for many years. During our January Badlands fundraiser, on a night he could have just chilled out over drinks, he jumped in and served as DJ, as well as has been performing for us on a regular basis.

Kirk Kanie, (more commonly known to the community as Empress XI, Ginger Grant), has been instrumental in building communications between NGRA and The Court, and improving relations within the community. In February, she was a sparkling and generous presence, serving as co-host with Miss Katrina at the 2009 Royalty Competition. Our out of town IGRA guests were given a classy and fabulous taste of our organizations working so well together, and we set a proud example for everyone.

JD Jensen 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!



BALLOTS DUE FEB. 28TH!



“Pup” Ric Franklin has been a regular face at NGRA fundraisers where he performs as Kimberli Foxx. He has been active with the Rodeo Planning Committee where he is our Hotel and Party Coordinator for BigHorn Rodeo 13. Ric is being recognized for all his fundraising work in May at both the Charlie’s and Badlands events. We are all looking forward to working with Ric in his new hometown and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all that he has done for the organization. Great job Ric, and welcome to Las Vegas – it’s not called "Sin City" for nothing.

Michael Judkins was selected for his Dirty and Desperate fundraiser at Charlie’s on June 19th where we raised \$1,143. As Mr. NGRA for 2008 and manager at Charlie’s, he is a familiar, and pretty, face to the organization. He represented us well on the royalty team last year and his continuing fundraising efforts demonstrate his commitment to our organization. Congratulations Michael, this may not come with a sash, but it’s a well-deserved honor.

Bill Trunzo was awarded the title for his tireless fundraising efforts not only for the month of July but for the entire year. For those who attended Katrina’s South of the Border Brunch, you know the efforts for which he is being honored. Bill (Katrina) raised more than \$800 in just a few hours. In addition to the money raised, a good time was had by all who attended. We look forward to several more successful events with Bill now at the helm of the Fundraising Committee. Congratulation Bill – And thank you for everything you do!

Doug Graff, a.k.a. Winnie Baygo is being recognized for all his help with the Save the Whales show produced by Katrina and Mandy, which was a very big success. Winnie and Doug have both performed at several NGRA fundraisers in the past and he was our announcer at this past BigHorn rodeo. Great job Doug, we’re glad you are a member of NGRA and welcome once again to Las Vegas (also known as the IGRA retirement community – see Mandy for your canasta seating chart). Doug is a two-time member of the month as he was also November’s Member of the Month for his help with the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell show held at Charlie’s.

Jay Little is a newer member of the organization and really showed his support during the BigHorn Rodeo and many of the WHEI events. He was everywhere at horseman’s park doing anything that needed to be done. He spent most of the week at the rodeo grounds supporting logistics. He really went the extra mile and truly deserves our thanks and recognition. Great job Jay, and feel and free to take next year off.

Bill Watkins is being recognized for his work at the Octoberfest fundraiser on October 24th at Badlands. Bill has been a member since 2001 and is a very important part of our NGRA family. From rodeo posters, advertising, and fundraising, Bill is always there to help. We really can’t thank him enough for all he does for us. The next time you see Bill (or his alter ego Fay Dewey) say hello and congratulate him.



TRUSTEE'S CORNER

by Brian Rogers

The 2010 IGRA year is off to a great start with the successful completion of IGRA University here in Las Vegas. That Friday was a very long day for your Trustee representing NGRA. My day started with the IGRA Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 am. Then at 10:00 am I chaired the World Gay Rodeo Finals meeting until noon. At 12:30 pm the IGRA Board of Directors meeting started and we had a working sandwich lunch (thanks Jeffrey). That meeting was followed by the Trustees meeting for two hours and then by an Ethical Practices Review Board (EPRB). We finally wrapped up all our meetings around 6:30 pm – just in time to get dressed up to head over to the Royalty Competition.

I'm sure you'll read all about University and the Royalty Competition elsewhere in this newsletter. Please allow me to offer my congratulations to Jeffrey Neal and his university team and to our new Royalty, Kimberli and JD!

Most of the IGRA meetings were taken up with the routine business of the organization. One important item was the approval of our new insurance policy, which will provide increased coverage at a lower rate for our associations and our rodeos.

In response to several questions over rodeo rules changes made at last year's convention, the Trustees debated and issued interpretations of several rules regarding contestant fees and event rules. The new rodeo checklist was also reviewed and approved.

Las Vegas is sending University on the road in 2011. St. Louis won the bid to host the event next year, so plan to bundle up and visit our friends to the north next January.

The World Gay Rodeo Finals meeting was very productive. We approved the stock contract, the rodeo program contract, the rodeo officials and the marketing plan. We reviewed the budget and the schedule of events and discussed entertainment options. The event is shaping up very nicely and I'm excited to be able to participate as Rodeo Director.

NGRA has also formed the NGRA Finals Planning Committee that will meet immediately following our membership meeting each month. Please come get involved and help NGRA host the best Finals ever.

The first rodeo of the year, Road Runner Regional Rodeo on Phoenix is in a couple of weeks. Rumor has it that Kathy Griffin will be there filming for her show, *My Life on the D List* on Bravo. Sounds like a fun way to start the rodeo season!

Save a Horse...

Your Trustee



NGRA presents: IGRA University's Back to School Event at Badlands Saloon



Thank You From IGRA University

98 Students and 23 additional Teachers and Staff spent the weekend at the Tuscany for IGRA University 2010. 21 of the Member Associations were represented and almost 50% of the students were first-timers.

There were great financial sponsors who deserve our gratitude for their constant support: CowboyFrank.Net, SMRA, and NGRA. Also a huge Thanks to Badlands as host location for the Back To School Bash on Thursday; Charlie's as host location to the NGRA Royalty Competition on Friday; and to all NGRA for participating all weekend and helping to make the Dance Competition and IGRA University a Success.

NGRA had six members attend classes this year but many more were supportive in pulling off the event.

2011 University will be taken on the Road and is to be held in St. Louis, MO, and hosted by GWGRA. I hope to see you all there.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Neal

Chancellor

IGRA University

Shhh!!! Rumor in the stables says that several of our NGRA Members are featured in the February 2010 issue of QVegas and are the proud recipients of QVegas Magazine's – 2010 Q Sexiest of Gay Las Vegas Awards! Be sure to pick up your very own copy, and if you ask nicely, I am sure some of them will even autograph a copy for you!



Welcome readers! This is a new, and will be an ongoing, column for the NGRA BigHorn Gazette called, "Straight from the Horse's..." (mouth). This will be an interview with Cowboys & Cowgirls from across the IGRA Competitive Circuit. We will highlight certain events in rodeo monthly and talk to the riders and their animal counterparts for an in-depth exposé into the world of competing in an IGRA Sanctioned Rodeo. For the launch issue, we will interview NGRA's very own Chris Due and his trusted Equine Partner, Nickel.

Joel: Hello Mr. Due. Thank you for taking time out of your day to meet with our readers, and being our first featured Cowboy! How long have you been involved in NGRA/IGRA?

Chris: I competed in my first IGRA rodeo in 2004 in LA on a horse named Rocky that would soon become my first rodeo horse. I still love that little horse and he's still competing on the IGRA circuit with Diane Fleming.

Nickel: You still love Rocky? Is there something I should know, Chris?

J: Alrighty then. Umm... Moving on. What is your horse's name and tell us about him?

C: I have three that I use for rodeo. Nickel Dream (Nic) 13 years old, 17 hands, appendix quarter horse; Diamond On Command (Big D) 13 years old, 15.2 hands, solid color paint; and old reliable Deb's Little Rocket (Rocky) 17 years old, 15 hands, quarter horse.

N: As you can see, I am the Big Boy in that bunch. Take that, Rocky!



J: (Laughs) How long have you been together?

C: Nic is my main mount and I've been competing with him since 2007.

N: Time sure flies when you're having fun! And in speed events, it flies even faster.

J: What events do you compete in, Chris?

C: Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Flag Race, Calf Roping on Foot, Breakaway Roping and Steer Deco.

J: What are your current rankings?

C: Currently I am not ranked. The first Rodeo of the season is in

Phoenix next month.

N: I hope he is aware that it is taking place over Valentine's Day. (Hint, Hint)

J: Have you ever buckled in any of these?

C: Yes, Steer Deco a couple of times.

N: I didn't get any shiny buckle, but my our Union has begun working on this for me. I like to get blinged out too., Chris. Like only the gays know how to do right!

J: Wow, Nic has quite the sense of humor. What's his temperament really like when he's not in the spotlight?

C: He's a true gentle giant. He's very laid back and easy going. He's eager to please and loves his job. He can sometimes get a little hot, but that's very rare for him.

N: Chris likes to believe he's the reason I get all hot. Sometimes I do it to give him a cheap thrill and it gets me my favorite horse cookies.

J: Let's focus on Barrel Racing for the remainder of the interview... What is your best time together?

C: Nic has run some pretty good times in IGRA rodeos. I think the fastest time we've run together on a small course was a 15 second pattern and on a large course, well, he's clocked a few 17 second times.

N: I do what I can to make him look good and I love the cheers and applause from the spectators.

J: What got you interested in Barrels?

C: I spent a couple of years in the horse show world and still enjoy it, but barrels is fast and exciting! It's just you and the clock... no judge telling you it didn't look good. It doesn't have to be pretty, just fast.

N: Oh no he didn't! Did he just say I don't have to be pretty, just fat? What? Oh, just fast. Well, I am still pretty.

J: What is the most difficult element? Is it the speed, the turns, stopping?

C: I think the most difficult element is the timing. You have to ask for certain queues and just the right time. I love the speed and for a bighorse like Nic, he can turn like a little horse. Stopping isn't a problem... I sometimes think that's his favorite speed! (All laugh)



NGRA Members Celebrating Birthdays in February:



Daniel Roybal	February 8
Dale Loftin	February 9
Rolando Rodriguez	February 9
David Cash	February 10
George Vierra	February 12
Kirk Michael Kanie	February 13
Jim St. Marie	February 17
Cory Trujillo	February 28



Please Welcome NGRA'S Newest Members:

- John Grubbs
- Caidyn Edlund



["From the Horse's..." continued]

J: Have you ever hit the barrel? Any remaining battle wounds or are they all psychological?

C: I've hit many barrels. When Nic and I first started out, I didn't trust he would turn with speed, so I would slow him down way too soon. That is something we are still working on our timing. We are getting better. I have many, many, many scars on my legs from those 55-gallon drums hitting my shins at 30 mph!

N: I am scar free. I don't want to dent my figure with those things. They hurt.

J: Have you ever been fined for a fallen barrel, a dropped F-Bomb, lost hat?

C: I've gotten 5 second penalties for a knocked over barrel. I try not to drop too many f-bombs... it's usually rider error, not the horse. I do wear a stampee string on my hat so that I don't lose it, but I might have once or twice.

N: I couldn't agree more... it's rider error.

J: Why barrels? What's the draw?

C: The speed and adrenaline rush! Going as fast as you can, and your 1200lb horse turning and going the other direction. It's a total adrenaline rush. There has to be a real connection between rider and horse.

N: We don't get a vote. I would rather enter the Apple Bobbing Event myself.

J: Who is your favorite rider?

C: Charmayne James is my favorite professional barrel racer. In the IGRA world, I would have to say, Richard Armstrong, Rick Manucy and Deb Freeman. They all have an amazing sense of how well a horse is working underneath them. They are always helpful with my runs and helping me become a better barrel racer!

N: To quote my favorite TV Show Glee, "It pains me to say this. And it does..." (whinnies) my favorite rider is far and away Chris. He treats me with such respect, love, and admiration.

J: Any last parting words of wisdom for our readers, Chris?

C: Speed events in rodeo, when done properly, make the event look effortless. It takes a lot of skill and a true connection and trust between horse and rider to make it a good run. The rider has to trust the horse will perform and the horse has to trust that the rider will always take care of them in and outside of the rodeo arena.

J: Nickel, do you have any last words about Chris to share with our readers?

N: He would like me to say that he treats me amazing and does all that he can to make sure I'm running in rodeos and barrel races for many years to come. From the chiropractic visits to the best shoes from the farrier (they don't make Jimmy Choo's in my size yet), as well as the best food and supplements for me to perform at my best. Chris does make time for me to just be a horse and not always working, like long rides in the desert to just clear both of our minds and enjoy being together. Besides... he does have the horse cookies!

C: (Laughs) He truly is an amazing horse with a huge heart!

February, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 *Fundraising Meeting @ Badlands 6:30PM	4	5 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's *First Friday @ Fun Hog	6
7	8 *NGRA Board of Director's @ The Center	9	10	11	12 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's *Road Runner Regional Rodeo Phoenix, AZ	13 *NGRA Lonely Hearts Show @ Charlie's 9:30 PM
14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15 *NGRA General Membership Meeting *NGRA Finals Planning Committee Meeting	16	17	18	19 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	20
21	22	23 *All March Newsletter submissions due today !	24	25	26 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	27 *NGRA Red Ribbon Show @ Badlands 9:30 PM
28 *Deadline to mail out Member of the Year Ballots!!!!						