

JOEL CASTILLO , EDITOR



NGRA

MARCH, 2010

BIGHORN GAZETTE

In this issue... RRRR Recap, NGRA Board Elections, "NGRA Goes Green" & so much, much more!

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



FROM THE PRESIDENT



First of all, I would like to welcome Doug Graff to the Board of Directors, who was appointed Member at Large at the last Board meeting. While speaking of your Board of Directors, many members are nearing the final months of their current term, which means elections are coming up. David Hering has been appointed our Election Chair this year, and is taking nominations for the positions of Vice President, Secretary and Member at Large (4 seats).

It is hard to believe that we are already starting the 3rd month of the year and Rodeo Season is now officially underway. While NGRA has chosen to hold off on BigHorn Rodeo this year, we still have our work cut out for us, as we will be hosting Rodeo World Finals in October at the Avi Resort in Laughlin, NV. If you are interested in helping with the planning for NGRA's part of Finals, I invite you to attend the Finals Planning meetings that happen right after the General Membership Meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month.

While rodeo is NGRA's main focus, I want to remind everyone that PRIDE is coming up on May 1st and NGRA will be running the front gate again this year. More information will be forthcoming, but pencil this in on your calendar as it takes a number of volunteers to make this run very smoothly, while giving a big rodeo presence.

Just a reminder the Board of Directors Meeting is open to all members, which is held on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Center. I look forward to seeing you at one of our meeting or at one of fundraisers. In the meantime if you have any questions on upcoming meetings, fundraisers or suggestions, please feel free to contact myself, or anyone of your board members.

-David Blackwood

NGRA President



RRRR Asst Rodeo Director, Laura Scott (Left)



NGRA's Richard Armstrong competing in Barrles (Right)

NGRA's Red Ribbon Review at Badlands Saloon. (Left) Miss Las Vegas PRIDE 2009 Jewdi Vine & Miss NGRA 2010 Kimberli Foxx. (Right) Gorgeous & talented guest performers.



FROM THE EDITOR:

I wanted to take a moment to say thanks for supporting NGRA and also my endeavor as the new Editor! I hope to help elevate the NGRA BigHorn Gazette and take it to the next level. This is your newsletter, so please let me know what features you would like to see added to the newsletter. This month, we have included a Community page and another installment of "Straight from the Horse's..." featuring Mr. ILGRA 2010, Robert Bowden & Cheatin' Danger! I welcome all your input and suggestions. You can always email me at: BigHornEditor@ngra.com. Thank you!

-JOEL CASTILLO
BIGHORN GAZETTE EDITOR

Board of Directors Elections

The Nevada Gay Rodeo Association will hold elections for open Board of Directors seats. The following positions are open for election: Vice President, Secretary, & Member at Large (4 seats).

Information regarding the duties and expectations of each position can be found in the NGRA bylaws which are available on the NGRA website at www.ngra.com.

All active members who have been a member for 180 days or more are eligible to run for a Board of Directors Seat. Candidates for all BOD seats will be asked to provide a short written bio that will be included with the ballot.

If you are interested in running for an open seat, please contact our Election Chairperson, David Hering, via email at boardelections@ngra.com. The deadline to apply is March 21, 2009.



Fundraising Report



Fundraising is a group effort that takes a number of people to help organize, plan and pull off great events. We are always looking for new ideas, ways to improve some of our popular events and getting more people involved. Our fundraising meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30. This month the meeting will be taking place at Doug Graff's house. If you are interested in attending please feel free to notify for directions. Doug's information is on our website under Board of Directors.

NGRA currently holds fundraising events on the 2nd Saturday at Charlie's and on the 4th Saturday at Badlands. This month we have NGRA Goes Green on the 13th at Charlie's and then on the 27th we have the Board of Directors Show at Badlands. In the coming months we have a few of our big events with Cow Patty in April (more information on this can be found in the newsletter). Our Badlands event for April is part of the PRIDE events showing PRIDE. May has our annual Closet Ball contest at Charlie's.

Miss Cow Patty 2010

If any of you out there have ever dreamt of being a loving heifer, then this competition is for you! Miss Cow Patty is open to everyone in our community. It is a fun camp drag event where contestants dress up and perform to a fun, silly, or even a serious song. Judging will cover talent (performance) and your Cow Patty-ness! The winner is CROWNED as Miss Cow Patty and prize money is awarded.

All men & women interested in competing for the much-coveted title of Miss Cow Patty should reach Faye Deway (aka Bill Watkins) for registration information! All are encouraged to enter. You can reach Faye by phone at (702) 510-5051 or email at bo424@mindspring.com. See ya at the pasture!

The Royalty Roundup

Howdy and Happy March, bring on the Spring!

First off, we want to say a huge congrats and thank you, to our new Newsletter Editor Joel Castillo for taking on the task of the BigHorn Gazette and pulling thru with flying colors! Way to go, Joel!

For us, February was a fun-filled month that started our Royalty Year out with a bang.

In February, we were so proud to represent the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association at the 25th Annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo, presented by the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association, in Phoenix, Arizona. Special thanks to all of the competitors from NGRA, including Chris Due, Richard Armstrong, and, your Miss NGRA 2010, Kimberli Foxx; and all the members who came down to attend the rodeo, including: Miss NGRA 2008, Katrina (Timer); Guy Puglisi (Scorekeeper); our newsletter editor Joel Castillo; and several of the Men of Charlie's who are also NGRA members. A huge shout out to three NGRA members who were integral to the weekend running smoothly: the weekend's Rodeo Announcers Doug Graff and Adam Johnson, and a former NGRA royalty team member, as well as IGRA royalty team member, Laura Scott as Assistant Rodeo Director. We were especially pleased to meet our fellow rodeo royalty from around the country and feel the warmth of their friendship as we all embark on our year together.

By the time you read this article NGRA will have completed our fundraisers for February and we would like to say a huge thank you to all that supported us in raising much needed funds for the Sin City Sisters AIDS Drug Assistance Program, especially from our sister organization the Imperial Court. Now we're looking forward to our fundraisers in March – NGRA Goes Green (our St. Patrick's- and Earth Day-themed fundraiser) on March 13th at Charlie's Las Vegas and the NGRA Board of Directors Show on March 27th at Badlands Saloon. We're planning some exciting events for our second and third official NGRA fundraisers of 2010, including the usual shows, Jell-O shots, and raffles, along with other new and exciting ideas and fun.

Well that's about it, so until next month we want to say a huge thank you to everyone in the association for your support, and we look forward to seeing everyone in the month of March!

In Service and Rodeo Spirit,

Kimberli Foxx, Miss NGRA 2010 & *JD Jensen*, Mr. NGRA 2010

AGRA – Arizona Gay Rodeo Association's 25th Annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo marked the first rodeo of the 2010 IGRA Rodeo Calendar. Following each rodeo, we will try to provide you statistics on how our NGRA Cowboys & Cowgirls are doing as they compete throughout the circuit. Representing NGRA at RRRR, were Chris Due & Richard Armstrong in the Speed Events (Barrel Racing and Flag Racing). While neither cowboy placed in the Top 8 during Saturday's First Go-Round, Richard Armstrong did place 7th on Sunday's Second Go-Round (pictured below) in Men's Barrel Racing with a time of 17.787 seconds. Richard also placed on Sunday's Second Go-Round in Men's Flag Racing and placed 5th with a time of 9.36 seconds.

Miss NGRA 2010, Kimberli Foxx, also competed, but under North Star Gay Rodeo Association, in Goat Dressing and placed 6th on the Sunday's Second Go-Round with a time of 11.65 seconds.

The association with the highest number of Team Points was NMGRA (New Mexico Gay Rodeo Association) with an impressive 2,194 points! NGRA finished 13th out of 16, with Richard's 50 points earned.



HAPPENING IN OUR NGRA COMMUNITY

NGRA GOES GREEN

MARCH 13, 2010
9:00 P.M.

WIN BEST GREEN OUTFIT

RECYCLE \$ OF YOUR UNUSED DOLLARS FOR A BRAND NEW BEER!
RECYCLING CAN BE FUN!

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT NGRA AND THE 2010 NGRA ROYALTY TEAM FUNDRAISING TRUST
 Charlie's Las Vegas
 5012 Arville Road, Las Vegas, NV 89118 *Charlie's Las Vegas*

NGRA

HANG 'EM HIGH

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHOW

SATURDAY
MARCH 27, 2010
9:00 P.M.

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT NGRA AND THE 2010 NGRA ROYALTY TEAM FUNDRAISING TRUST

BADLANDS SALOON
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

BADLANDS SALOON | COMMERCIAL CENTER
5012 ARVILLE ROAD | LAS VEGAS | NV 89118

HOLY COW!

IT'S NGRA'S ANNUAL COW PATTY CONTEST

Hi Folks! I'm Elmer, a strong, handsome Bull.
But, there are times when I feel like performing as a Heifer.

Get ready for some fun and a lot of laughs

UDDERLY DELICIOUS
1.00 JELL-O SHOTS

BULLISH RAFFLE PRIZES

APRIL 10TH
Charlie's
Las Vegas

EVENT START AT 10.00 PM
5.00 BUD LIGHT BEER BUST STARTS AT 9:00PM

This competition is open to everyone in our community.
It is a fun camp drag event where persons dress up and perform to a fun, silly, or even serious songs.
Judging will cover talent (performance) and Cow Patty-ness!
The winner is CROWNED as Miss Cow Patty and prize money is awarded.

If any of you out there dream of being a loving heifer
CONTACT BILL WATKINS AT 510.5051 OR AT b0424@mindspring.com

NGRA presents

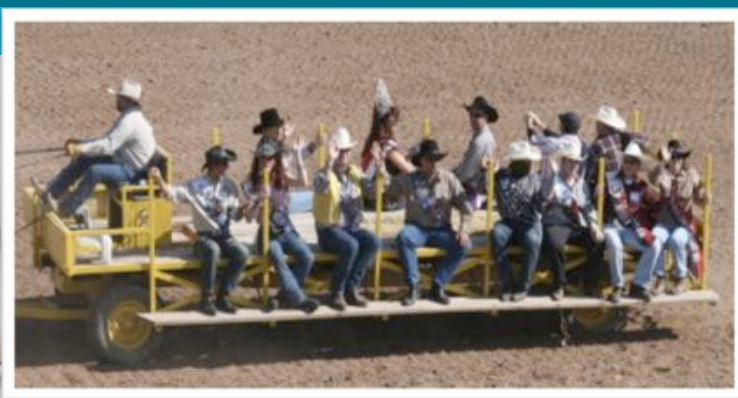
Miss Closet Ball 2010

Who will be next?

Boan Jordan & John King

NGRA Royalty Team w/ other visiting Royalty

Jay Little & Bill Trunzo



Arizona Gay Rodeo Association

Road Runner Regional Rodeo 25th Anniversary

I want to say a big thank you to all that showed up for the Road Runner Regional Rodeo. I was asked a little over two months ago to be their Assistant Rodeo Director and was honored to be a part of an awesome weekend. It was great to get my feet wet again as I had been away for a little time, but just like riding a bike, it all came back quickly. I was in charge of the rodeo arena and was fortunate enough to work with some great officials. I don't know if anybody realizes just how hard those folks work. They don't really get time for a break so I tip my Stetson to them. That weekend was also bitter sweet in some ways. As we were raising money to help out one IGRA friend, Rodeo Rules Co-Chair Ty Teigen, another great friend of NGRA, passed away. Erin Eaton was Big Horn Rodeo's Arena Director for many years and lost her battle with Cancer on February 14th. Those of us who were fortunate to have worked with her all those years will surely miss her unwavering dedication to the amazing sport of rodeo. All in all, RRRR was a great success and I thank all of you for being a part of it. NGRA had great representation in many different areas, from officiating, volunteering, announcing and entertaining, our presence was felt and that is always a good feeling. Mark your calendars now for the Sunshine Stampede in Florida, April 16th - 18th.

Laura Scott
RRRR Assistant Rodeo Director, 2010



Rodeo Announcers Adam Johnson & Doug Graff

Victoria London, Miss IGRA 2001 & Lize MacDonald, Ms. IGRA 2002, Ms. NGRA 2001

Rodeo Secretary & NGRA member, Guy "Porkchop" Puglisi

Mr. NGRA 2005, Chris Due & Nickel competing in Barrel Racing



AGRA

Road Runner Regional Rodeo Photos



Saddle Up...
...FOR THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FGRA'S
SUNSHINE STAMPEDE RODEO
PRESENTED BY
BUD LIGHT
APRIL 16-18, 2010
BERGEREON RODEO GROUNDS
DAVIE, FLORIDA
Tickets, Room Night Packages and Sponsor Information available NOW at www.FGRA.org.

Editor's note: Please note that GSGRA's Palm Springs "Hot Rodeo" [April 30-May 2, 2010] has been cancelled.

WORLD GAY RODEO FINALS
IGRA
2010
LAUGHLIN NEVADA
OCTOBER 22-24
RODEO • BEACH PARTY • CONCERT
Your Ultimate Rodeo Vacation!
Presented by The International Gay Rodeo Association
For more information and to purchase tickets online visit IGRA.com

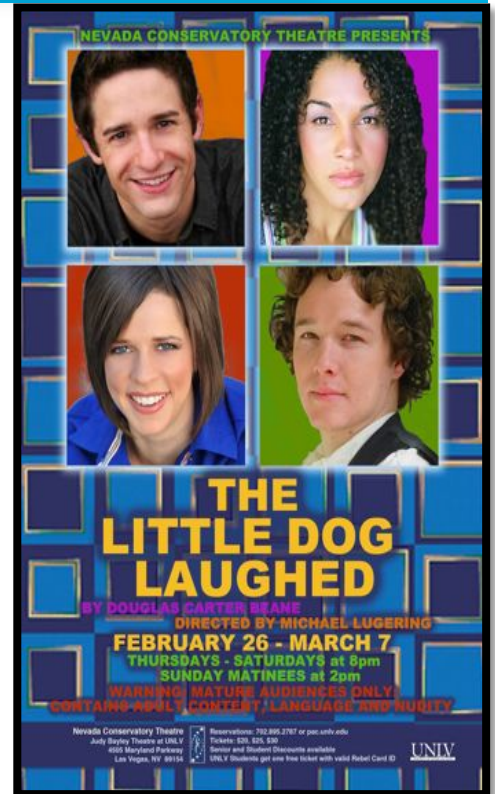
HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY CCC



NGRA is looking to create a team of NGRA members who are interested in creating an AIDS Walk Team. Anyone interested should email the Editor at BigHornEditor@ngra.com and if you are interested in being the Team Leader, let us know too!!



The Sin City Sisters cordially invite all NGRA members to their monthly Oink Night at the Fun Hog Ranch!



The Little Dog Laughed (Feb 26-Mar 7, 2010) by Douglas Carter Beane. "Yes, we love the cinema for its great auteurs, its glorious faces and its daring images. But in this tabloid age where big stars go on Oprah and jump around like heartsick schoolboys, what we really love is all that dish! Mitchell Green could hit big if his agent, Diane, can keep him in the closet. Trying to help him navigate Hollywood's choppy waters, she does all she can to keep Mitchell away from the cute boy who's caught his eye and the boy's girlfriend (wait, the cute boy has a girlfriend?). Will there be a happy ending as the final credits roll?" (Adult content & Nudity)

Price: Sec. A: \$30; Sec. B: \$25; Sec. C: \$20
Event Time: 8:00 pm
Doors Open: 7:00 pm at the Judy Bayley Theatre @ UNLV

***NGRA's Chris Treviño is the show's Lighting Designer!!**



NGRA would like to congratulate Mr. Andy Dubois and Miss Diva Delafuente (aka Brandon Johnson)! Both were recently named Mr. & Miss Las Vegas PRIDE 2010, respectively, by the Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc. (SNAPI).

The title, which is earned, not competed for in a pageant, represents countless hours of volunteer work, dedication, and hard work.

Applicants interested in holding the titles of Mr. or Miss Las Vegas PRIDE must demonstrate their dedication to the organization before being considered a qualified candidate. Andy & Diva (aka Brandon) met and exceeded those qualifications.

The event takes place at Charlie's on Friday, March 5, 2010 at 9:00 P.M.

We hear that Miss NGRA 2010, Kimberli Foxx will be performing that evening, as will Miss Vegas Pride 1993 (Sabel D'Zyre aka Miss Closet Ball 2008). Both were requested as Special Command Performances. Come out "In Pride" for a fun time!





Straight From Horse's ...

By Joel Castillo



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. Please join me in welcoming Mr. ILGRA 2010, Robert Bowden.

Joel: Hello! Thank you for taking time out for our readers! How long have you been involved in ILGRA/IGRA?

Robert: I have been active in ILGRA a little over a year after relocating to Chicago, IL from Nashville, TN.

J: What is your horse's name and tell us about him/her? (name, age, height, breeding, etc.)

R: Cheatin' Danger. He is an 11 year old, 15.3 hands high, Tennessee Walking Horse.

Cheatin' Danger: I ain't cheatin' nothing. Danger is my middle name! I eat geldings for breakfast. Grr, grr, meow, meow.

J: How long have you been together?

R: 7 years.

C: And no 7-year itch. I make Robert use his Vagisil. No one wants saddle itch. Ever!

J: As I understand it, you plan on competing on the circuit in the very near future. What events do you hope to compete in?

R: I hope to compete in speed events and a few camp events. Specifically Pole Bending, Flag Race and Steer Decorating.

C: I just want to compete in anything that makes me look pretty, shows my good side, and makes me look pretty some more. (Cheatin' Danger whinnies something that sounds like Little Richard's infamous "Woooo!")

J: And when do you want to begin competing in IGRA Rodeos?

R: I hope to debut at the Windy City Rodeo this summer in Chicago, IL.

C: Yeah, the wind really puts the giddy up in my tail!

J: Do you have any previous competition background?

R: I think most of my background has been centered around competition. I am a competitive horse trainer by profession. I have been training Tennessee Walking Horses and Spotted Saddle Horses for over 12 years.

C: When you look like me, every day is a Beauty Contest. Being pretty is not as easy as it looks, but I do what I can.

J: Tell us about your Equestrian Training and teaching you do.

R: I train both horses and riders for events around the country. My specialty has been teaching youth and amateur riders in various disciplines from Saddleseat to Western, Versatility and Driving events. Prior to my move to Chicago, I trained out of Franklin, TN full time. Now I travel to where my clients are.

J: Have you ever buckled, or whatever is comparable, in any of these?

R: Yes, I have. I would say that the most comparable to buckling in an event within my industry would be divisional championships and floral horseshoes. And I have brought home many "sets of roses" through out each year.

C: Floral horseshoes are my Christian Louboutin slingbacks!

J: What's his temperament like?

R: He's a HAM! Loves attention and loves to perform.

C: Like mother, like son. Wooooo! Shut up. Robert is unusually laid back for someone so particular about details.

J: Let's focus on Pole Bending for the remainder of the interview... What is your goal together?

R: My goal is to successfully teach him a new skill and become a strong contender in this new arena. (He's used to being a pretty boy so learning to weave poles will be easy, convincing him to run in red dirt and other turf not so much)

C: Used to being? Used to being! Excuse me but Lam a pretty boy! I'll teach you a skill.

J: And what is your goal for the 2010 Rodeo Season?

R: Well since IGRA doesn't give out Roses... WE WANT BUCKLES!! SHINEY PRETTY BUCKLES!!**C:** As long as it does not clash with my prettiness, I will wear it proudly! Woooo!

J: What got you interested in Poles? What is the most difficult element? Is it the speed, the turns, the stopping?

R: The stopping. I work constantly to finish a run still in the saddle without running over people, horses, or the fence.

C: And I don't want to ruin my pedicure. That can be challenging on dirt though.

J: Have you ever hit the Pole?

C: Of Course, either you knock them over at home or you knock them over in ring... I prefer fixing all that at home.

C: Excuse me? You hit the pole? I didn't see you getting bandaged up. But McSteamy the Vet was hot, so it was not all that bad!

J: Any remaining battle wounds, or are they all psychological?

R: I think 90% of mine are psychological with plenty of "IF I ONLY HAD..."

C: I guess that leaves me 10% in battle wounds. To quote my favorite pop chanteuse, Britney Spears, "Oops! I did it again."

J: Ever get fined for a fallen pole, a dropped F-Bomb, lost hat?

R: KNOCK ON WOOD...No, I haven't. I'm a detail-oriented person so lost hats are a no-no. I've been competing in equestrian events since I was 9 and the first thing my dad taught me was sportsmanship. You win some, you lose some, but we get out there every week for the love of the sport. After any event he reminded me, "If you don't want it quoted in the news, then don't say it."

C: Why do you think I am always telling you, "Shut up"?

J: Why poles? What's the draw?

C: The DETAILS. It's more than just speed. It requires knowledge of the horse you are on and how they run. Finesse to traverse the poles and leave them all standing.

C: As long as it does not make my butt look big, it's all good.

J: Who is your favorite rider? (IGRA)

R: Christy Cotton

C: I am a fan of Clinton Anderson. Who wouldn't want to be between those Aussie legs!! Wooooooo! Shut up.

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

R: We may not always win, but we get out there every week for the love of the sport, the charities we help, and the friends we've made. If you always remember that, you will never have a bad rodeo.

J: And what can our readers learn straight from the horse's mouth?

C: Pretty might not equate fast, but it sure looks GOOD in the winner's circle!

J: Thank you both for your time. And best of luck at Windy City Rodeo!!

NGRA Members Celebrating Birthdays in February:



Tom Coleman	March 1
Colin Moulton	March 4
John King	March 6
Laurie Banks	March 13
Steven Bennett	March 23
Michael Greene	March 26
Martin Jeff Manning	March 26
Darren Wernette	March 26



Please Welcome NGRA'S Newest Members:

- Rockne Taylor
- James Morgan



IN MEMORIUM...

ERIN EATON "Our beloved Erin has completed her journey here and has gone from this world. We love her, we miss her, and we know she will always ride with us..." Erin was a staple in IGRA and passed away on February 14, 2010 after a long battle with cancer. She leaves behind her spouse Tracy and a loving family, as well as her IGRA family. Many people have been asking about the memorial service for Erin. We're planning the memorial for March 20th here in Los Angeles. In order to make the plans, it would be helpful to know who is planning to attend. If you are planning to attend, please let Thom Brennan (TBnGrendel@aol.com) or Lewis Sanders (VoiceRodeo@gmail.com) know.

WILL MCELWANEY (AKA SADIE VAN PATTEN LITTER) Will/Sadie who was Miss NGRA 2005 2nd Runner-Up, passed away Monday, February 15, 2010. "You will be missed. NGRA asks that you send your thoughts and prayers to his family and friends during this very trying time." [Editor's note: At press time, we had not received a photo of Miss Sadie, but Kitty Litter was hosting a fundraiser at Snick's on Feb. 27 to raise much needed money to help get Will cremated. We hope this goal was reached and exceeded!]

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS...

BARRY K. CLUFF Healing thoughts go out to Miss Cow Patty 2009, Barry K. Cluff. Barry tells us, via Facebook, "My Cancer is back, the doctor said I will bounce back from the surgery. I will undergo a 12-hour surgery, 2 to 3 days ICU and one total week in the Hospital. I am scared, but I fought it once and will do it again." NGRA is sending you tons of healing energy your way!

NGRA's Member of the Month

Congratulations to the January 2010 Member of the Month, John Grubbs! He is a new member to NGRA. John was selected for the time he volunteered during on behalf of NGRA during IGRA University. He spent countless hours on the bus to get to the Tuscany. He has since attended every NGRA event. Congratulations and welcome to NGRA, John!



March, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 *Fundraising Meeting @ Doug Graff's 917 WoodBridge Dr. @ 6:30PM	4	5 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's *Pride Coronation @ Charlie's	6 *Men of Charlie's Monthly Contest, 9:30 PM
7	8 *NGRA Board of Director's @ The Center 6:30 PM	9	10	11	12 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	13 *NGRA Goes Green Show @ Charlie's 9:30 PM
14	15 *NGRA General Membership Meeting 6:30 PM *NGRA Finals Planning Committee Meeting	16	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	20 *Sister's Oink Night @ Fun Hog Ranch
21	22	23 *All April Newsletter submissions due today!	24	25	26 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	27 *NGRA Board of Directors' Show @ Badlands 9:30 PM
28	29	30	31			