

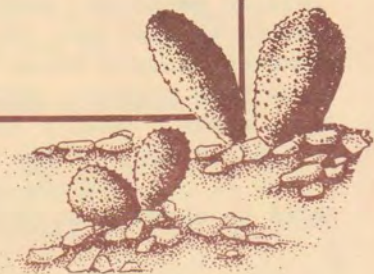
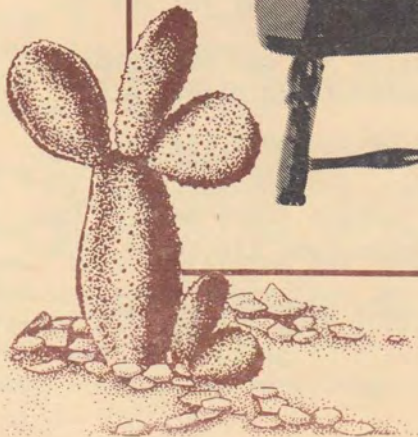
The

BRANDING IRON

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 16363, Phoenix, Arizona 85011

**JUNE: TAKE A BREAK MONTH
COME PARTY AT
GRAND OLE OPRY WEEKEND!**

**INSIDE:
NEW MEXICO RESULTS
OKLAHOMA RESULTS
IGRA CONVENTION**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June seems to be our "calm before the storm", "kick back and take a break" month. One of only two months this year that doesn't have a major Rodeo event taking place somewhere in the Country.

That makes it a perfect month to hold our upcoming Grand Ole Opry Fundraiser at "Charlie's", the weekend of June 14th and 15th. This will be an excellent opportunity, not only to raise funds for AGRA, but to meet other Members, as well as to get to know those semi-familiar faces you've seen around for a while. It'll be a perfect time to become more involved with us, I hope to see all of you there.

June is also a month to reflect on what we've accomplished so far this year.

Our January Rodeo was another record breaker, both in attendance, and monies raised. We distributed over \$12,000. to our Community charities. Our Contestants are doing a fantastic job this year, racking up those points towards a Final's Invitation. Most recently, Candy Bell, and Greg Olson deserve our congratulations. Candy won her first ever All-Around Cowgirl standing at Albuquerque's first Zia Regional Unit Rodeos. And Greg added another All-Around Cowboy buckle to his collection in Oklahoma City, at the 6th Annual Great Plains Regional Rodeo.

While I'm congratulating people, I'd like to welcome Michael Cooney to our Board as our new Vice President. Michael now completes (I hope!) our recent Board changes. You've elected a good mixture of people. Some "fresh blood" with good new ideas, as well as some of us "old-timers", with lots of prior experience. I see some real positive results coming from the Board this year.

I'd also like to thank Donna Bell. During her time as our interim V.P., she did an excellent job at putting together a possible package for our Unit Rodeo Winner's Belt Buckles. Thanks Donna!

One of the changes that I most enjoy seeing, is happening every month at our Membership meetings. It wasn't too long ago that we delayed meetings, waiting for a quorum of 25 people to show up. At our last few meetings, however, nearly twice that number of Members have been present, with attendance increasing each month. That's the kind of involvement I like to see. While all of us appreciate those of you Members who consistently support AGRA by sending in your yearly dues, I can't

help feeling that you're missing all the fun if you don't "come on down" and share the party with us!

So, "come on down" to "Charlie's" on June 14th, & 15th. Take that June break with us, partying at our Grand Ole Opry. Then let's stay together, and take on the rest of the year!

Dan Iversen

UPDATED BY-LAWS

If you didn't get a copy of AGRA's updated by-laws at our last meeting, you'll find them enclosed with this issue of the newsletter. They're being distributed to all Members to increase our understanding of how AGRA works. Glance through them, they're not THAT confusing. Actually, they're rather interesting. We're also hoping that greater understanding, will lead to greater involvement. If you have any questions, contact our resident expert on by-laws issues, Recording Secretary Ron Trusley at #279-4991.

- '91 RRRR- ANOTHER RECORD BREAKER!

Did you catch that recent front page, color photo, story in the Western Express? My, my, aren't we getting big?!

For the 6th year in a row we broke our own previous records by raising a net profit of \$12,805. during last January's Rodeo.

Helping us produce that Rodeo was New Mexico Gay Rodeo Association who recieved 20% of the profits, and Utah Gay Rodeo Association, who recieved 10%. Our 70% cut was distributed as follows... \$2,241. to the Lesbian and Gay Switchboard, and \$6,723. to Volunteers in Direct Aid (VIDA).

Special thanks goes to outgoing President Artie Michaelis, and Treasurer Tim Verluys, who helped current Board Members Dan Iversen, and Max Sutherland get those books all together.

Plans are already underway to again break our record in January of '92.

Come help us!



A ROSE IS A ROSE,

BUT A UNIT'S NOT A MAJOR



Ya know, some of us still don't feel like we have a firm grasp on... a tight hold on... the hard... facts of...

...Oh! Excuse us... lost in our own little fantasy world for a moment there... we're back now.

Some of us still don't feel like we have a firm grasp on... the differences between Unit Rodeos, and Major Rodeos. We're the ones at the Membership meetings, who turn to the bar and order another drink when these discussions come up, rather than face the rest of the Membership with blank stares on our faces.

Being confronted with having to list New Mexico's Unit Rodeo results, and realizing that those results didn't fit into the same format as the recently listed California Major Rodeo results, has forced us into getting a little education on the differences. We share it with you, mainly for the purpose of going through it one more time for our own benefit. Hope this works...

Our Major Rodeos have thirteen Events. Three of them are on Horsies (Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Etc...). Four of them are with Rough Stock (not Rough TRADE Dino Rosie, Rough STOCK, as in Bulls, and Steers, so calm yourself!). Three of them are Roping Events (Dino, we've warned you!), and the remaining three Events are Gay Rodeo's own "Camp Events", such as Goat Dressing, and the Wild Drag Race (show of hands here please... how many thought "Wild Drag" had something to do with former Miss IGRA Moosela?).

Anyway, at Major Rodeos, such as our own Roadrunner Regional in January, all thirteen events are held on each day.

Times for both days are totaled to determine not only the daily winners in each event, but also the overall winners for the weekend, who then receive the buckles for best Man and Woman in each Event.

Are we all together so far? Good, now let's throw in some confusion...

Unit Rodeos are designed to be smaller, and therefore easier, and less costly, to put on. IGRA instituted the concept of Unit Rodeo for several reasons, but two main ones. First, our smaller Associations can "get their feet wet" by putting on a one day Unit Rodeo, when a major, weekend long, Rodeo might be a

bit much to start with. And second, as IGRA expands across the Country, Contestants were finding it increasingly difficult to be able to attend all the Major Rodeos. Smaller, and closer to home Unit Rodeos, allow our Contestants to continue to earn points towards the Finals, while saving the time and expense of traveling greater distances.

In one-day Unit Rodeos, seven Events are run, one time each. The Association producing the Rodeo has their choice of any seven Events. To keep down costs, as well as to make things more convenient, Associations would naturally choose to group together "like" Events, such as doing all four of the Rough Stock Events, then add a few others, such as Camp Events, to make the mandatory seven Event total.

A unit Two Rodeo then, would include the remaining six Events, and one Camp Event, repeated from the first Unit, to make the seven Event total. Got it?

Using Zia's Regional Unit Rodeos as an example... They held two separate Unit Rodeos, one each on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday's included seven Events. Sunday's included the remaining six Events, and they repeated the Wild Drag Race from Saturday to get their total of seven Events for that day. The Wild Drag Race, by the way, seems a natural to be the repeated Camp Event on a regular basis. It's nearly impossible to keep some of these boys out of their dresses for even one day!

Becoming clearer? One more "for instance"...

Say sometime down the road Phoenix and Tucson decided to co-host a Unit Rodeo. Phoenix could do seven Events on Saturday for a Unit one Rodeo. Then we'd all caravan down to Tucson for Sunday and their Unit two Rodeo. Their Rodeo would consist of the remaining six Events not covered in Phoenix the day before, and a repeat of Saturday's Wild Drag Race, to allow Larry "Reba" Jones a chance to don his frock on both days.

There! Now isn't this all much more understandable?!

Just as I thought. Let us now turn and face the bar. First round's on you.

On to the Rodeo Results!

ZIA RODEO RESULTS

CANDY BELL TAKES ALL-AROUND!



AGRA Member Candy Bell took her first All-Around Cowgirl honors at New Mexico's first Zia Regional Rodeo the end of April.

She also brought back the winning buckles for Calf Roping on Foot, and Steer Riding. Congratulations Candy!

Congrats also go to our Greg Olson, who brought home the buckle for Pole Bending, and was first runner-up for All-Around Cowboy.

Angie Darnell also deserves our congrats for her placement as 4th runner-up for All-Around Cowgirl.

Other AGRAers placing at New Mexico's first Unit Rodeos (which we're sure will be a full fledged Major Rodeo next year, or at least should be, as successful as this one seemed to be!) are...

Barrel Racing - Saturday -

Greg Olson - 2nd
Angie Darnell - 3rd
Larry Jones - 4th

Break-Away Roping - Sunday -

Greg Olson - 6th

Calf Roping on Foot - Saturday -

Candy Bell - 1st

Goat Dressing - Sunday -

Larry Jones - 6th
Rob Sherr - 6th
Tana Copeland - 14th
Angie Darnell - 14th
Dan Iversen - 22nd
Greg Olson - 22nd
Pat Elson - 23rd
Ron Trusley - 23rd
Glenda Chamberlain - 25th
Jamie Saragosa - 25th

Pole Bending - Sunday -

Greg Olson - 1st
Larry Jones - 2nd

Steer Decorating - Saturday -

Dan Iversen - 3rd
Greg Olson - 3rd
Glenda Chamberlain - 11th
Carol Shearer - 11th
Jeffrey Schroeder - 14th
Tommy Read - 25th
Ron Trusley - 25th

Steer Riding - Sunday -

Candy Bell - 1st
Jeffrey Schroeder - 10th
Greg Olson - 12th

Team Roping - Saturday -

Larry Jones - 4th
Greg Olson - 4th

Wild Drag Race - Saturday -

Candy Bell - 1st
Angie Darnell - 3rd
Larry Jones - 3rd
Tommy Read - 5th
Carol Schearer - 5th

Wild Drag Race - Sunday -

Glenda Chamberlain - 1st
Dan Iversen - 1st
Greg Olson - 1st
Candy Bell - 8th

Overall Weekend Wild Drag Race Standings

Candy Bell - 3rd
Glenda Chamberlain - 6th
Dan Iversen - 6th
Greg Olson - 6th
Angie Darnell - 7th
Larry Jones - 7th
Tommy Read - 8th
Carol Schearer - 8th

GREAT PLAINS RODEO RESULTS

GREG OLSON TAKES ALL-AROUND!

Don't ya just love seeing those "Takes All-Around" headlines? Don't take them for granted. They're the results of the ever increasing skills of our Members.

Six of our AGRAers traveled to Oklahoma City to compete two weeks ago. Well Actually five of us, plus Greg Olson's horse, J.J. Poor J.J. didn't get a thing, except a mention in this article, and that's mainly an attempt to suck-up to him, so he doesn't bite us at next January's Grand Entry. Life's not fair is it?

Our Contestants included Ron Trusley, dancing with the Sunburst Squares three nights running, and competing at the Rodeo on Saturday.

Michael Cooney, helping out new Member, Eric Smith, who's awfully glad FAX machines were invented so that he could become a brand new Member.

And rounding out the five were two of our best, Larry Jones, and Greg Olson. Greg earned his All-Around Buckle with the following standings...

Saturday - 1st Place - Calf Roping on Foot
 1st Place - Break-Away Roping
 1st Place - Flag Race
 1st Place - Chute Dogging
 1st Place - Barrel Racing
 4th Place - Bull Riding
 8th Place - Wild Drag Race

Sunday - 1st Place - Flag Race
 2nd Place - Team Roping
 2nd Place - Wild Drag Race
 2nd Place - Barrel Racing
 2nd Place - Steer Riding
 3rd Place - Bull Riding
 5th Place - Team Roping

Larry ended up as the 2nd Runner-Up for the All-Around Title with these standings...

Saturday - 4th Place - Flag Race
 8th Place - Wild Drag Race

Sunday - 2nd Place - Team Roping
 2nd Place - Break-Away Roping
 2nd Place - Wild Drag Race
 3rd Place - Flag Race
 5th Place - Team Roping

Our thanks to all who got out there and competed, and congratulations to Greg and Larry, as they continue their march towards the Finals!



HUSTLING AT THE HABANA

A visit to Oklahoma City is simply not complete without a stop by the Habana Inn's Gay Motel/Bar Complex for a cruisey walk around the pools. We have pages of information on the "goings-on" there. Unfortunately, one AGRA couple (who prefers to remain nameless, but are also a Sunburst Squares couple so you figure it out) set up camp directly across the pool from this writer's room... video camera in hand. Fears of our own "church-going behavior" being exposed for all to see on "Charlie's" video screens, prevents us from revealing all. Here's a hint of what was going on...

New V.P. renewing acquaintances with former IGRA Royalty. Is that why Lyle Hedges couldn't get into his room Sat. night... Michael?

Mobility and Logistics had three people lined up outside his room that same night. Scheduling appointments... Jeff?

David Anaya's Hollie Woods, doing big business at Saturday night's Show. Believe it was a fundraiser for her car repairs.

Joseph Rubio's Consuela Rodriguez, mistaken for new Miss Universe, Lupita Jones, at Sunday's Award Ceremonies. See how nice we can be with the threat of videos hanging over our head? Consuela also charmed the Rodeo crowds Sunday afternoon, despite the fact that she was walking around with a feather duster all day.

Ron Erickson and entourage, shooting "home movies" one early morning (read 4:00AM) Didn't particularly care for the scene shot in Room #241. Downstairs at #141 was a definite possibility though. Possibility became a reality the following early morning in #139, thanks to Missouri.

On the larger front...

IGRA's V.P., Doug Wagner, doing several costume changes per day all weekend. How far behind can a run at a "Miss" Title be?

Overall weekend tip for your retirement fund planning...

Buy stock in Jim Beam!



We're looking for a few stout-hearted men and women to run as delegates to IGRA's Annual Convention. This year's Convention will be held on August 1st thru 4th in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"Stout-hearted" is a requirement to live through two solid days of Convention meetings, meetings, and more meetings. In addition, you may be asked to represent AGRA at additional meetings on Friday, and/or attend Seminars on your own on Thursday. The Seminars are about such things as Chute Dogging, for those people who want to become certified to work in those areas. The extra days of meetings occur before the Convention actually starts on Saturday.

Once you've committed yourself to going, and are elected by our Membership, you must attend ALL of it! Your empty seat at the proceedings (due to terminal hangover, or extending that "trick" for a couple more hours) means one less vote for us, and is therefore strictly forbidden, and punishable by death!

Now, haven't we made Convention sound attractive?!

There are actually upsides to this yearly weekend, that always turns out to be a lot of fun.

While you're responsible for getting there, and your own room and board once there, AGRA will reimburse you for your registration fees once you've arrived.

Meetings will be held here in Phoenix before Convention to update you on the whole process, and brief you on what topics are already scheduled for the agenda.

Albuquerque has hosted these Conventions before. They've got it down to a fine art, and do a wonderful job at making sure everybody has a good time, in spite of all those meetings. They'll probably be throwing in a lunch there somewhere on the agenda, and of course one night will be the Dance Contest that you learned all about in your last issue.

And don't lose sight of the fact that you'll be surrounded by a couple hundred other Gay and Lesbian people, from all over the Country, all gathered together to meet each other, and further the goals of Gay Rodeo.

With that built-in common interest of Rodeo, you'll also be able to drop that stupid "what's your sign" pick-up line!

If you're real lucky, the Hotel will schedule a fire alarm to evacuate the building at 4:00 AM one night, like they did two years ago! Lots of Cowboys running up and down the halls, wearing nothing but boots, hats, and underwear... Made our weekend!

Best of all? Not only do you become more involved with, and knowledgeable of, AGRA and IGRA, you'll have a direct voice and vote, in determining IGRA's future!

So, clear your calendars, and plan on running in the delegates election. Nominations will be taken, and the election held, at the June meeting.

We're looking for five delegates, and up to four alternate delegates (those who take over when delegates are shot for missing a meeting) so there's plenty of room for YOU!

PIKE'S PEAK UNIT SET

The Circuit continues to grow, with CGRA's recent announcement of another Unit Rodeo. To be called the Pike's Peak Unit Rodeo, this two day affair will take place in Colorado Springs, over the weekend of Sept. 21st & 22nd.

More details will be passed along as we get them.



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MEMBERSHIP

Seven more people joined us in April and May.

Jack Coonrod - From Kansas. See ya at the Finals Jack!

Ken Fisher - Welcome another Doctor to AGRA.
Don Harding &

Chuck Nolan - Previous Members, and our favorite T-Shirt Booth guys from our January Rodeos.

Eric Smith - Another new Contestant Member.

Del Wilson - Another previous Member returns. See ya working Security in January Del?

Tom Woodcock - ...Naw... Splinter comments are too easy!

Hope to see you all at the meetings guys!

WOODY NEEDS HELP!

Well yes, he does, but we're specifically talking about help with Fundraising duties.

First is this Sunday night, right after the General Membership meeting, when we'll have an AGRA Turnabout and Casino night. The last one was a hoot, so stick around after the meeting, and volunteer to help out.

Next up is our Grand Ole Opry weekend. Lots of help needed there, doing a little bit of everything, so plan on "working" during part of the party (it's a great way to meet other Members!).

Upcoming is another Brunch, a "You Be Ugly" Drag Contest, and a show at "Wink's". Please forward your offers of assistance, and ideas on how to expand fundraising and Gay Rodeo to Woody at #973-5833.

AGRA Royalty are part of the Fundraising Committee as well, so corner Jay Anderson, Pat Elson, and/or Joseph Rubio (Consuela) next time you see them, and bend their ears with ideas too.

THE GENERAL STORE

Ongoing goodies for sale at our "General Store". To stick our logo on your very own body, contact Fundraising Director, Woody, or any member of our Royalty, Jay Anderson, Pat Elson, or Joseph Rubio. Also, shop your way through the AGRA booth at this month's Grand Ole Opry.

Hat Pins - Small - in color	\$ 3.00
Hat Pins - Large - Black and Silver	\$ 7.00
T-Shirts - Discontinued - in Blue or Almond	\$ 5.00
T-Shirts - New - in White	\$10.00
Tank-Tops - New - in White Men's and Women's Sizes	\$ 9.00
Small Patches -	\$ 3.00
Large Patches -	\$ 6.00
Baseball Caps - In Red or Blue	\$ 5.00

They're also taking orders for the next batch of our Copper Colored Satin Jackets. These jackets have a full color logo on the back, and your name on the front. They'll cost approximately \$45.- \$50. each.

A couple money saving tips for ya...

All new members receive a color hat pin FREE. If you haven't yet received yours, see the Membership table at our next meeting.

Anyone volunteering their time at any of our Fundraising events, receives a FREE baseball cap. Contact Woody for details.

POSTER CONTEST REMINDER

Just a reminder kids... AGRA will be awarding \$100.00 to the winner of our upcoming 1992 RRRR Poster Contest. That's enough for a new hat.

Publicity Director, Crawford Taylor has all the details at #274-5855.

All entries must be received by 4:00PM on June 9th, at "Charlie's". The judging will be that same day, at the General Membership meeting, beginning at 5:00PM.

Get busy now, and put those fingerpainting skills to a legitimate purpose for once!

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- June 9th - Sunday - Board Meeting
3:00 PM - "Charlie's"
- June 9th - Sunday - General Membership Meeting
5:00 PM - "Charlie's"
- June 9th - Sunday - AGRA Turnabout and Casino Night
Fundraiser
6:00 PM - "Charlie's"
- June 14th & 15th - Friday and Saturday Nights
- Grand Ole Opry Weekend
AGRA Fundraiser - "Charlie's"
- June 23rd - Sunday - L.A. Gay Pride March & Festival
"Charlie's Country Cloggers", &
"Sunburst Squares" will be marching
and performing. Contact either group
for Tag-a-long/Groupie status.
- June 30th - Sunday - Board Meeting
3:00 PM - "Charlie's"

Remember: Please bring a non-perishable food item
to the General Membership meeting on the
9th for our Valley PLWA's.

