

THE BRANDING IRON

Grand Old Opry 2000

I want to thank those members who helped out in any capacity at the Grand Old Opry June 10. As the Grand Old Opry date was getting very close, it seemed like there may not be many entertainers and/or volunteers. But, once again, A.G.R.A. members proved we can accomplish goals that we set for ourselves. Performers provided us with a wonderful evening of entertainment and fun while helping raise money for A.G.R.A. A.G.R.A. members came forward and volunteered to help with cooking and serving food. I especially want to thank Woody Howard for ensuring that the stage and sound system were in place and that everything was ready to go on schedule in the entertainment area. Thanks to Thom Rowley for working as our d.j. for the entire evening. Thanks to Victoria London for entertaining us while serving as the major emcee for the festivities. And a special thanks to Walt Hutter and Neil Carpenter for ensuring that the food was ready and delivered to Charlie's so that all of the hungry folks could whet their appetites. Walt cooked much of the food before he and Neil brought it to Charlie's, and then they continued to cook those delicious burgers and polish sausages throughout the evening. (The Mexican rice was extremely good as was all of the other food.) Thanks to Will Lann who volunteered to "man" the A.G.R.A. booth while also giving some roping lessons. (By the way, Ric & Glen, are you now ready to enter "Calf Roping on Foot" at our next rodeo?) Thanks to these folks and to anyone else who volunteered in any capacity throughout the evening. Be sure to check information in this Branding Iron that was provided by the Treasurer, or check the June financial report at the next meeting, to see how much profit we made at Grand Old Opry.

Ron Trusley, Phoenix Chapter President

Questions and Answers

At the April membership meeting, the members present were asked to write one question or comment about what they would like to see changed in A.G.R.A. I promised you that the Phoenix Chapter Board would review the questions and provide responses to them. The board did review the questions and agreed upon responses to each question/comment. The questions/comments and board responses are listed below.

A.G.R.A. should make a point to send representatives to any community event - no matter how small. If any organization needs help with anything, it would be nice to have one or two people help out. Also, regular bar crawls may help attract attention to A.G.R.A. and what we do.

We would be happy to send representatives to other organization's meetings, but we would like other members (besides just board members) to volunteer to help us with this. We will encourage different board members to attend and initiate our presence at different functions and meetings. Current Royalty have been making a great effort to attend a variety of functions representing A.G.R.A. Help us by finding out and getting information on meetings and functions from other organizations that we can attend (times, dates, locations).

More local rodeo related activity.

Rodeo Events Director, Will Lann, and Fund Raising Director, Woody Howard, are working on different activity ideas. Will is planning a camp-out in the Show Low area. He is also working on setting up gymkhanas etc. Woody has said he will work on initiating other fund raising activities.

Why do we need both a "State" and a "Phx Chapter" with 2 separate boards. I think A.G.R.A. resources are stretched too thin for this to continue.

We are currently keeping the State and Phoenix Chapter Boards due to the potential for other additional chapters (other than Tucson) that may be interested in forming. This keeps the "system" in place to accommodate new chapters. Some interest in other areas has been previously expressed, and we want to follow up on this.

I would like to take a chute dogging workshop.

We will try to include chute dogging workshops/practice in some of the gymkhanas and other rodeo related activities that are being planned.

Maybe move the meeting in the bar and hope to increase the membership.

We can try and will consider having meetings in the bar occasionally - especially in the summer months. We can also have meetings on the patio. **SPECIAL NOTE: THE JULY AND AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS WILL BE INSIDE THE BAR**

I'd like to see membership grow, as everyone would. Would it be within bylaws/rules to perhaps advertise our organization in local publications,

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...and more

A SPECIAL NOTICE

At the June membership meeting, we failed to realize that our regularly scheduled July meeting is the same weekend as the Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo in Denver. Since many of the A.G.R.A. members usually attend the Denver rodeo, the July membership meeting has been changed to Saturday, July 15. The meeting will still begin at 5:00 p.m. The July board meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12.

**In response to suggestions received from our members, the July and August membership meetings will be held in Charlie's rather than in the A.G.R.A. meeting room. The music will be stopped during the membership meeting. Mark your calendars now; attend the July meeting be an active member; and let your opinions be known. A.G.R.A. IS YOUR ORGANIZATION!!!!
RON TRUSLEY**

A WORD FROM THE CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT

The main issue for I.G.R.A. right now is the upcoming I.G.R.A. International Convention and Dance Competition. I hope all the Delegates and Alternates have returned their registration forms to me by now !! NEED THEM NOW!!!

The convention should be relatively smooth this year. Seems we have reached a close "comfort" zone in many of the rules and by-laws. Woo - Hoo! I need all Alternates and Delegates to attend a meeting on Wednesday July 5th, 2000 at Charlie's in the meeting room to get our

committee assignments for Convention. This meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 pm.

On a lesser note, but very important: Mr. (Miss IGRA 2000)) Mitch Gill, has been in the hospital over the last week. Seems he has suffered a "minor" heart attack. He is doing well, and cards were sent around at the San Jose Rodeo for his "get well". Someone told me those tight wigs, headdresses, and pumps can cause restricted circulation. Will he now have to run for Mr. I.G.R.A.? We love ya Mitch - just get yourself better and back into the "sling" of things!

I apologize for not being in attendance for the June membership meeting. I was in Cincinnati for the celebration of my OLDER brother's 40th birthday party! Talk about HUMIDITY!

Brian Helander and I will be again working on the design of the rodeo buckles. Like always they will be "hot" and coveted by all contestants! Other than that, let's start getting the word out for RRRR 2001.

Chuck Browning, Phoenix Chapter Vice President & State Trustee

RODEO BITS AND PIECES

It seems we now have three of our contestants on the injured list: Claire Miller broke her arm in Oklahoma City, has had surgery, and is bionic now—like Chuck. They both have titanium plates in their arms! Look out!

Anna Shannon broke her collar bone, also in Oklahoma City, but has still been attending the rodeos. It is healing nicely, but she will be out of competition for another two months. Claire and Chuck are



trying to explain the benefits of titanium to Anna! And then - Chuck, fractured his right arm in Salt Lake City when his bronc flipped over backwards on him (he has the same effect on his boyfriends). Even so, he got up and took his re-ride to place first!

SALT LAKE CITY RESULTS:

A.G.R.A. did well in Salt Lake City with Brian Helander securing the 1st runner up to All- Around Cowboy,

and Chuck Browning taking 2nd runner up! Brian Helander took 7th & 8th in Barrels, 2nd in Breakaway, 3rd & 2nd in Calf Roping, 2nd & 4th in Flag Race, 2nd in Steer Deco, 5th and 4th in Wild

Drag, 1st in Goat Dressing. Tommy Read took 5th in Bronc Riding. Chuck Browning placed 1st in Broncs, 2nd in Chute Dogging, 5th in Barrels, 7th in Pole

Bending, 4th & 3rd in Flag Race, 2nd in Steer Deco, 5th & 4th in Wild Drag, and 1st in Goat dressing.

San Jose 2000 results will be announced next month!

Chuck Browning

Questions and Answers, continued from page 1

wel coming members to join a worthwhile community and state organization?

We agree. Advertisements and articles about A.G.R.A. were recently placed in The Heatstroke, The Echo, and The Observer.

I would like to see all of A.G.R.A. members show up for something besides rodeo and the banquet. I have been involved with rodeo for almost 9 years and I'm still surprised to see faces that have been involved for some time that I've never met.

The Board agrees with this also. We need ideas and any help we can get from the membership. Let us know of anything new or creative that you think of.

Put on a gymkhana for new and old members.

See response to question two.

Would like to see a questionnaire for members to rate organization annually.

This is more of a state function, but the request has been passed on to the State Board for their follow through. Questionnaires were provided to all members in the past, but there was very little response. It may be worth trying again.

Keep things the way they are.

No comment.

Have non-smoking meetings.

This may be tough if we hold meetings in the bar, but some of the things we have done to improve the situation are shorter meetings and efforts to have adequate ventilation. Idea: Ask members not to smoke during the meeting and have "smoke breaks" where the meeting is temporarily suspended and those who choose to can step outside to smoke.

Move the meetings into the bar.

Addressed in question five.

Ron Trusley, Secretary

TID ITS ROM THE STATE

Welcome Members

Since the last issue of the Branding Iron, we have received eleven (11) new members into A.G.R.A. The new members are:

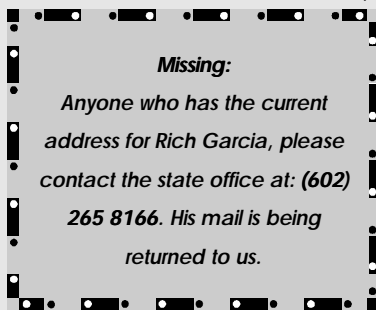
- Chris Andela
- Paul Caudell
- Charles Caudill (aka Matrix or Chipper)
- Robb Fletcher
- Aron Grebner
- Walt Hutter
- Jack Murray
- John Pelc (aka Grumpy)
- Tommy Pina (aka Noel Christine)
- Danyel Ridge
- John Usher

We welcome each of you as members of A.G.R.A. and hope you will be very active and involved .

This brings the total membership to 131.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEDULE

At the June membership meeting, members voted to give \$20,000 to charities. In keeping with the schedule for making the donations, nominations will be accepted



at the July membership meeting for organizations to receive a portion of the donations. Any status is received along with a

member may make a nomination, but remember: if you nominate an organization, you are responsible for ensuring that verification of the organization's 501c(3) status is received along with last year's financial report!

A LATE THANK YOU

It has been brought to my attention that Lee Boynton was an A.G.R.A. volunteer at Pride 2000, but his name was not provided and previously listed as a volunteer. My apologies to you, Lee, and thank you so very much for volunteering. We do appreciate it. I want to also thank any other volunteers whose names may have been omitted from the previous list of volunteers. Volunteers certainly help A.G.R.A. remain in a very stable condition.

Ron Trusley, Secretary

THE B C STOPS HERE

Greetings one and all, and deep-felt thanks to the entertainers, volunteers and General Membership that made this year's Grand Old Opry the success it was. Thanks to all of you, we raised \$718.75, which included \$219.75 in food sales (less \$112.22 in food cost), \$40 contributed by the Men of Charlie's from their cute but kinky jail and \$459 in show tips, thanks in large part to Victoria and Suzanne's testicular fortitude for drinking those shots! Sound system expenses were \$170.99. This generates a profit for the event of \$435.54. Great job, everyone!

If you missed the gen. membership

meeting on June 10, you will find interest in knowing that we closed the RRRR 2000 books with a net profit of \$16,529.82. As we presently have in excess of \$22,000 in our operating account, the majority of the membership present has spoken and we will be distributing \$20,000 to charities this year.

PLEASE REMEMBER: if you have a charity you would like recognized with a portion of these funds, it is IMPERATIVE that you attend our July membership meeting on the 8th and have the appropriate documentation of your charity's 501C status, along with their current budget (if available) and last year's balance sheet and

financial statement.

Our State treasury is quite solvent at this time, thanks to our recent membership drive which netted over \$300 in new memberships, plus the earmarking of 10% of the RRRR 2000 profits. Most of our large expenses for the year, such as convention registration, I.G.R.A. dues, etc., have been paid, and we anticipate very few expenses other than our ordinary office budget for the remainder of the membership year.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our July meeting.

Ed Powers, Treasurer

OVER THE FENCE

As we flew into Salt Lake City and the approach got a little bumpy I was thinking "that's what you get for going to Utah, Mormon air..." However, the rest of the weekend turned out a lot less bumpy—except for Chuck's bronc.

The drive to the hotel, a fancy Hilton nonetheless, took only about five minutes and, as we found out the following day, the drive to the rodeo grounds would only be another 15 minutes once we had figured out the detours. It seems that most rodeo associations check with their local DOT to make sure there is a major road closing around the rodeo weekend.

99 contestants, lots of Royalty and a few volunteers showed up in anticipation to celebrate the first annual U.G.R.A. rodeo. The weather reached record high temperatures, almost too high, making me wonder about Jehovah again. The rodeo was held at the fairgrounds with a large arena and beautiful stands. Multiple vendors were spread out in the hallways which provided cover from the blazing sun, thus giving people even more of an incentive to shop.

The organization was rather good, professional manner and the rodeo lots of time to enjoy the evening accordingly welfare or cleanliness.

Saturday night we were surprised who were a huge hit, even though a major uprising among the drag soon solved when the drag show

On Sunday morning we were met in Salt Lake City's daily newspaper that day, which was—to all our surprise—written in a very professional and favorable manner. And as for a small crowd of protesters outside the front gate: we never saw or heard from them!

A couple of more surprises were in stock for us on Sunday night at the award ceremony: The hotel had a wonderful desert buffet set up for us and all the buckle winners got additional prizes, most of them saddle blankets. U.G.R.A. had put lots of time and effort into organizing their first rodeo. Everyone will certainly be back next year!

Our Arizona group made up for their rather small number by being visible in a number of capacities: Brian Helander's horse, Bullet, had the honor of being used in the Riderless Horse Ceremony, Chuck Browning certainly left an impression when his bronc rolled over on him, not preventing him from winning the event anyway. Miss Victoria London did a fabulous job representing A.G.R.A. and supporting our main sponsor, Bud Light, all weekend long (how do you keep this belly in check?). She even lend out one of her wigs to an aspiring performer on Saturday night! Myself, I had no choice but to offer my services as a timer, which was the only option with a freshly broken clavicle! However, next year I will be back and hopefully get my own share of ribbons—the prettiest ones I have seen lately around the circuit. My thank you goes out to all the guys in Utah who worked so hard on making this rodeo a memorable experience and helping to clear up another prejudice. Mormon country is not all that bad after all!

Anna Shannon

**First Annual
U.G.R.A. Rodeo
a Success!**

minor flaws were covered up in a promoted on quickly, giving participants activities without having to sacrifice their

by a performance of the *Saliva Sisters*, change in scheduling almost caused a queens. However, the problems were was moved to accommodate everyone.

by a two page article that had appeared in our newspaper, which was—to all our surprise—written in a very professional and favorable manner. And as for a small crowd of protesters outside the front gate: we never saw or heard from them!

The New Poster is Here

A wonderful poster was selected for RRRR 2001 at the June 10, 2000 meeting based on a vote of members present. There were nine entries which we believe was a record for posters submitted. A.G.R.A. would like to thank all the contestants for their creative work and congratulate the winner, Aron Grebner. Members will soon see the winning entry turned into flyers, posters and programs to be used in advertising for RRRR 2001.

This is the third year in a row that Aron won the A.G.R.A. poster contest. Congratulations and thank you to the participants. A.G.R.A. would like to thank Heat Stroke for all the support in getting the poster contest details out to the community.

Brian Helander, Public Relations Director

**SCHEDULE
OF
EVENTS**

U

- **7/1 & 7/2/2000:**
Calgary Rodeo
- **7/7/2000:**
Contestants have to have their registration forms for Atlanta in the mail today!
- **7/7/2000 through 7/9/2000:**
Denver Rodeo—your chance to check out the other Charlie's!
- **7/15/2000:**
A.G.R.A. Membership Meeting at Charlie's at 5:00 pm
- **7/21 through 7/23/2000**
Atlanta Rodeo for the first time in July! No pocket warmers will be necessary!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Calgary Rodeo
2 Calgary Rodeo	3	4	5	6	7 Denver Rodeo Registration Deadline Atlanta	8 Denver Rodeo
9 Denver Rodeo	10	11	12	13	14	15 A.G.R.A. Membership Meeting at Charlie's
16	17	18	19	20	21 Atlanta Rodeo -NEW DATE-	22 Atlanta Rodeo
23 Atlanta Rodeo	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

A.G.R.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>State Board</u>	<u>Phoenix Chapter Board</u>
Bob Pimentel , President	Ron Trusley, President
Diann Kimmel , Vice President	Chuck Browning, Vice President
Ron Trusley, Secretary	Claire Miller, Secretary
Ed Powers, Treasurer	Ed Powers, Treasurer
Lacey Edwards, Chapter Rep.	Brain Helander , P.R. Director
Chuck Browning, Trustee	Thom Rowley, Dance/Entertainment
	Woody Howard, Fund Raising Director
	Will Lann, Rodeo Events Director
	Lacey Edwards, Chapter Rep.

A.G.R.A. Royal ty
Steve Mack, Mr. A.G.R.A.
Scott Tickler, a.k.a. Victoria London, Miss A.G.R.A.

A.G.R.A. State Board Meetings
State Board meetings will be held immediately following the Phoenix Chapter membership meetings in August, November & February. All meetings will be in the A.G.R.A. meeting room at Charlie's.

SAN JOSE RODEO 2000 OR THE HOT T

Well kids another rodeo has come and gone, and while I didn't personally attend this years San Jose rodeo, I sent my brother Woody so that he could bring me back all the dirt, I mean information about our rodeo sisters out west.

I have it on good authority that the competition level was well above the average, and that includes what went on in the arena. Apparently not all the bull riding was confined to Saturday and Sunday afternoon (wink wink).

In all seriousness though, A.G.R.A. was well represented in the actual competition with buckles going to Brian He-lander for Goat Dressing and Michael Montoya for Bull Riding just to name a few. I would have a more complete list of our associations competitors if Woody didn't drink so much. But then, who am I to cast stones about that particular vice.

The pool parties on both Friday and Saturday were, from all reports, overwhelmingly successful. The host hotel may have not expected 120 sissies to take complete control of their "family" operation but they took it in great stride. Now one and not talk about the pool parties this year without mentioning

the hot tub parties. It all started out very innocently with just a few friends; ok and a dozen or so strangers, just relaxing after a hard day of flirting, drinking, gossiping, oh and competing. One thing led to another and before you know it, no one was how shall we say, "RELAXED."

A little Poem:

The rooms were small.
The prices were high.
The liquor store, thank God, was near by.

The weather was grand.
The boys were, too.
Another great rodeo where were you?

I hope to be informative about as many rodeos as I can get to this year, but nothing beats attending one yourself. Cancel your plans to see Rock City and make some reservations for a Rodeo. Until next time kids remember, you're born naked after that it's all just DRAG.

Kisses,
Suzanne Targe't



GRAND O D OPR 2000

An example of what you missed if you weren't there

Lacey, Suzanne, and Victoria showing us their stuff—and the money



Miss and Mr. A.G.R.A. 2001 candidates with Mr. A.G.R.A. 2000, Steve Mack and Miss A.G.R.A. 1999 Erika Alexander (incognito)

IGRA EMER ASSOCIATIONS AND RODEOS 2000A.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 40465
Phoenix AZ 85067-0465
(602) 265 8166

Phoenix Chapter
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix AZ 85011-6363
(602) 265 0618
Rodeo date: 1/14-1/16/2000

A.R.G.R.A.

#208 223-12 Ave. SW
Calgary AB T2R 0G9
Canada
(403) 541 8140
Rodeo date: 6/30-7/2/2000

A.S.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 14308
Washington D.C. 20044-4308
(202) 547 9590
Rodeo date: 9/8-9/10/2000

C.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 18878
Denver CO 80218-0878
(303) 839 8810
Rodeo date: 7/7-7/9/2000

Colorado Springs Chapter
P.O. Box 15504
Colorado Springs CO 80935-5504
(719) 576 2472

Mile High Chapter
P.O. Box 18728
Denver CO 80218-0728
(303) 839 8810

Northern Colorado Chapter
15293 Higgins Ave.
Ft. Lupton CO 80621
(303) 857 6005

D.S.R.A.

P.O. Box 56503
Little Rock AR 72215
(501) 562 4466

G.S.G.R.A.

4226 E 15th Street
Long Beach CA 90804
(916) 978 4040

Bay Area Chapter
2953 Aetna Way
San José CA 95121
(415) 561 9228

Rodeo date: 6/16-6/18/2000
Capitol Crossroads Chapter
P.O. Box 189305690.

Sacramento CA 95818-9305

Rodeo date: 8/18-8/20/2000

Greater L.A. Chapter
15633 Horace Street
Granada Hills CA 91344-5431
(562) 498 1675
Rodeo date: 4/14-14/16/2000

Greater Palm Springs Chapter
4741 E Palm Canyon Dr., PMB C125
Palm Springs CA 92264

Greater San Diego Chapter
3768 30th Street
San Diego CA 92104
(619) 298 4709
Rodeo date: 9/22-9/24/2000

H.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 3354
Omaha NE 68103-3354
(800) 561 6918
Rodeo date: 6/22-6/25/2000

ID.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 6115
Boise ID 83708
(208) 467 2033

IL.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 14878
Chicago IL 60614-4878
(773) 529 4962
Rodeo date: 8/25-8/27/2000

K.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 16793
Wichita KS 67216-0703
(316) 687 6004

M.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 1965
Springfield MO 65801-1965
for rodeo information, please contact:
Mrs. Bobbie St.Jeor
428 NW 1771 Road
Kingsville MO 64061
(816) 697 3269
Rodeo date: 9/1-9/3/2000

Joplin Chapter
P.O. Box 3234
Joplin MO 64803-3234

Kansas City Chapter
P.O. Box 45073
Kansas City MO 6411-5073
(816) 697 3269

Springfield Chapter
P.O. Box 9432
Springfield MO 65801-9432

MI.G.R.A.

3319 Greenfield Rd. # 264
Dearborn MI 48120
(313) 438 1305 Ext. 2

N.G.R.A.

1982 N Rainbow Blvd., PMB 198
Las Vegas NV 89108
(888) 643 NGRA
Rodeo date: 3/3-3/5/2000

N.M.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 35381
Albuquerque NM 87176-5381
(550) 255 5045
Rodeo date: 10/19-10/22/2000 (Finals)

N.S.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 11199
St. Paul MN 55111-0199
(612) 641 0069

P.O.N.Y.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 99321
Pittsburgh PA 15233-9321
(412) 370 1548

S.E.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 7881
Atlanta GA 30357-0881
(770) 662 9510
Rodeo date: 7/21-7/23/2000

T.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 460875
San Antonio TX 78246-0875
(210) 946 7787

Austin Chapter
P.O. Box 1511
Austin TX 78767-1511
(512) 933 0315

Dallas Chapter
P.O. Box 191168
Dallas TX 75219-8168
(214) 526 1115

Ft. Worth Chapter
P.O. Box 786
Ft. Worth TX 76101-0786
(817) 645 0579
Rodeo date: 11/10-11/12/2000

U.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 511255
Salt Lake City UT 84151-1255
(801) 468 6283
Rodeo date: 6/2-6/4/2000

A.G.R.A.
P.O. Box 40465
Phoenix AZ 85067-0465
Ph.: (602) 265 8166

The Branding Iron is a publication of A.G.R.A. Please send press releases and article submissions directly to:

The Branding Iron
515 E Carefree Hwy., PMB 465
Phoenix AZ 85085

Or e-mail to:
burp@idt.net

The deadline for the August issue is July 24th

Will our contestants find any more bones to break?

How many buckles will Brian and Chuck bring home in July?

Are we going come up with new and exciting fund-raising ideas for this fall?

Find out the answers to all these questions and more in the August issue of THE BRANDING IRON!



Upcoming I.G.R.A. Seminars

Should anybody be interested in learning more about any of the official I.G.R.A. positions, a good way to start would be to take part in a seminar. Here are some upcoming seminars that are held by I.G.R.A. officials:

- Arena Directors: August 3 & September 8
- Auditors/Secretary & Scorekeepers: August 3 & September 8
- Chute Coordinators: August 3, & August 26
- Judges: June 30, August 3, & September 8
- PR/Marketing: August 3.

For more information, please contact Patrick Terry at (303) 832 IGRA or e-mail him at patrick.terry@igra.com

Quote of the Month:

"There he is, and he's wearing a t-shirt!"

Doug Graff, emcee at the awards ceremony in San Jose after announcing that Brian Helander had won the "Best Dressed Cowboy" award.

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