



**ARIZONA
GAY
RODEO
ASSOCIATION**



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**June Edition
Newsletter Deadline: 25 June 09**

**Send submissions to:
LEVI HUNTING:
AGRA, P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ
85067-0465**

From the Desk of the President

WoW it's getting HOT!! Yes, the weather, as well as preparations for the our 25th Anniversary Rodeo. I must say your Rodeo Directors are hard at work roping down venues, securing sponsors, planning events and getting volunteers. With the 2010 Road Runner Regional Rodeo being eight months away there is so much positive energy and excitement already!!! It's great and so exciting to see so many different people and organizations just as excited as we are. This years Rodeo will definitely be one that is unforgettable.

This past weekend Charlie's held a fundraiser for Clinton Bartlett who was injured at Palm Springs Rodeo, I am very humbled and extremely THANKFUL for the out pouring of support for this event. It is incredible to see a community come together in a time of need to help one of our fellow brothers. Charlie's was gracious enough to sponsor the event by donating the space for the day show and the night show, car wash, cooking space, and dunk take. A huge thank you to Chuck Browning for donating his meat. Hands down, the best meat in town!! Thanks Chuck! Sherry Reedy-Mullen and Connie Mullen rounded up several auction items and ran a flawless evening show on the patio at Charlie's. Great Job Sherry and Connie!!! The Arizona Heat Wave, Men of Charlies, Phoenix Hellraisers tackled the car wash, dunk tank and Jell-O shots. Michael Butts, Iona Double-wide, and Daryl Dern, worked our Vodka Slush booth. YUMMY! Best slushies in town!! Charlie's staff donated all the food for the BBQ, Supplies for Car Wash and made Jell-O Shots. Way to go guys!! Rodeo Directors George and Dan donated T-shirts and a rodeo package for the 2010 Rodeo. To all of our entertainers from the day show Rochelle Obama, Sherry Reedy-Mullen, Bill Travis, Kyle Ross and Pussy Lehoot Thank You for a job well done. Entertainers from the night show Sherry Reedy-Mullen, Pussy LeHoot, Miss Ebony, Devina Ross, Rochelle Obama, Miss Gay Phoenix America 2009 Ebonae Shane, Chane Jordan, Ionna Doublewide, Bill Travis, PJ and The Imperial Court. WOW, there are several more I can't even remember them all. THANK YOU SO MUCH, your time and professionalism in a time like this is greatly appreciated. If I missed anyone please accept my apologies. At the close of the day we had raised an amazing \$2134.00. This still does not include items coming in from all over the IGRA circuit. It's so awesome to see so many different organizations come together to create such an amazing event. To Clinton my thoughts and prayers are with you as you hear towards a speedy recovery!! Until next time.

Respectfully Yours,

Michael Weidmann
AGRA President

From the Desk of the Vice President

Howdy All,

Hope you all had a safe Holiday.

Just a reminder to AGRA Members who are interested in being in the 2010 Royalty team, application for contestants will be accepted starting next month. Please feel free to see a board member or current and past royalty if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continuous support of AGRA,

Michael Butts
AGRA Vice President



From the desk of the Secretary

Members,

We are now a large family of 114 members strong. Wow we are really growing. Please wish the following members of our family a Happy Birthday and many more.



- 1-Jun Jeffrey Valenzuela
- 3-Jun Dave Brey
- 10-Jun Mitch Petersen
- 11-Jun Clinton Bartlett
- 11-Jun Charlie Thompson
- 16-Jun David Patterson
- 17-Jun Manuel Ayala
- 19-Jun Richard Heath
- 21-Jun Mike Wells
- 25-Jun John "Jay" Lovejoy
- 27-Jun Brent Hrometz
- 28-Jun Ryan McCarthy
- 28-Jun Ronnie Trusley
- 30-Jun Alfredo Guardiola



Personal wishes of GREAT JOY and LOTS of FUN and many more years.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Keith A. Carson
AGRA Secretary 2009
(602) 509-7017
kacarson@cox.net





From the Desk
of the
Trustee

I want to update everyone on actions taken in the IGRA Board Meeting and Trustees' Meeting on May 1 in Palm Springs. Actions include:

- ▶ The 2009 IGRA Finals Rodeo in Albuquerque will be changed from Tingley Coliseum to a smaller arena reducing the cost from \$5,500 to \$650 per day
- ▶ The host hotel for the 2009 Finals Rodeo will be the Sheraton Uptown with a room rate of \$85.00 per night
- ▶ Razor's Edge has been selected as the Stock Contractor
- ▶ Bud Light has committed to a sponsorship, but the amount has not yet been determined
- ▶ Two (2) bids were received to host the 2010 IGRA World Gay Rodeo Finals. The bids were from SSRA to host the rodeo in Tulsa, OK and from NGRA to host the rodeo in Laughlin, NV (Mohave Valley, AZ). The Executive Committee selected NGRA's bid. The host hotel will be the Avi Resort on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation in Laughlin – right across the Colorado River from Mohave Valley.
- ▶ A motion was passed to “explore and develop a 501c(3) foundation, lend money for start-up costs, and engage a professional consultant. The purpose will be to raise sponsorship money.
- ▶ John King was asked to chair the Gay Rodeo Legacy Project and to raise \$5,000 to move the IGRA archives to Autry National Center in Los Angeles, California.
- ▶ The IGRA Merchandise Committee selected Bad Burro Embroidery as the official IGRA vendor. A motion was also passed that this vendor make IGRA Certified Officials' shirts and IGRA Royalty sashes.
- ▶ Only one bid was received from NGRA to host the 2010 IGRA University, and university will be in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The IGRA Royalty Team selected St Jude's Children's Hospital HIV Unit as their 2009 charity partner. The team has raised over \$2,800 to date.

Linda Frazier, Health & Safety Committee Chairperson, has been notified of insurance company that can provide a travel select policy with an athlete rider. The cost is \$80 for primary medical benefits coverage include ambulance care up to \$50K for injuries sustained while out of town with payment made directly to the insured. The company is Travelex Insurance Services (www.travelex-insurance.com).

MGRA announced that their Show-Me-State Rodeo will be in an arena at the Lone Wolf Ranch in Cleveland, MO about 30-40 minutes south of Kansas City. The arena is open, but covered.

NGRA's 2009 rodeo will be a 1-day, nighttime Lucky 13 Rodeo. Slack will be run on Saturday from approximately 8:13 a.m. to 12:13 pm and performance from approximately 6:13 to 10:13 pm. Registration will be from 6-9 pm on Friday. On Sunday The Western Heritage Association will be hosting a 4d barrel race with \$2,000 added money.

CGRA has added a Friday night barrel race from 6-9 pm at the Rocky Mountain Rodeo limited to the first 150 entrants.

In the Trustees' Meeting, the Trustees certified Heather Murray as an Arena Director and Jim Gant as a Judge.

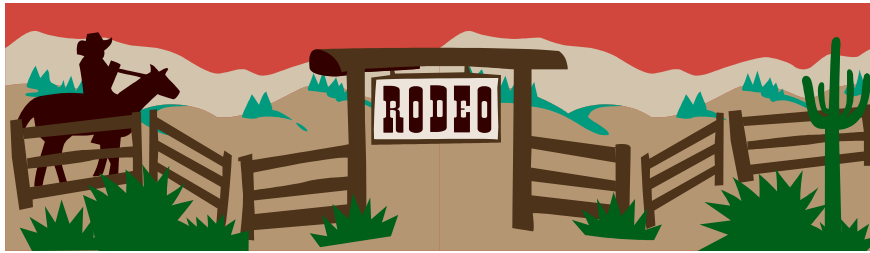
The next IGRA Board and Trustees' Meetings will be on Friday, July 31, in Philadelphia.

Nominations for 2009 Road Runner Regional Rodeo beneficiaries were received in the May membership meeting, and will received again in the June membership meeting. Nominations received in May include: TIHAN, Joshua Tree Feeding Program, Community Church of Hope, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer, and PFLAG.

In accordance with AGRA Bylaws, nominations for Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the 2009 IGRA Convention were received in the May membership meeting, and additional nominations will be received in the June membership meeting. Voting will take place in the July membership meeting. Per AGRA Bylaws, the Trustee and AGRA President are automatically Delegates. The four nominees receiving the highest number of votes will also be Delegates, and the five nominees receiving the next highest number of votes will be Alternate Delegates. All Delegates and Alternate Delegates will need to plan to arrive early enough to attend committee meetings on Friday and the convention business sessions on Saturday and Sunday. The IGRA Silver Anniversary Convention dates are November 12-15, 2009. The host hotel is the Bloor-Yorkville Marriott Hotel in Toronto, Ontario, Canada with a room rate of \$119 Canadian per night for single to quad occupancy. The phone number for reservations is 1-800-859-7180, and be sure to ask for the IGRA Gay Rodeo room block rate.

Ron Trusley, Trustee
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Hello Members,

We had a really good turn out in May for our annual Chile Verde Days. Our total for the evening was \$860.00. We had everything from homemade tamales and green chili to baked goods, tons of jello shots, auction items, and a lot of great entertainment.

There are so many people who made the event possible, I'm sure I will forget someone. Thanks to the staff of Charlie's for letting us have it on the patio. They also set up the patio and stage on Friday after afterhours (4am) and take it down after we use it on Saturday. Thanks Guys!!! Tam Keltner volunteered to make our posters and Jell shots, when he realized how he talked Michael from the softball team to donate 300 of theirs. He also got people to sell them with him including Mr. LSGRA; Denny, who was visiting here from New Orleans. Barbra Seville came and helped me on Saturday afternoon to help me make the auction baskets. Iona Doublewide and husband came down Saturday afternoon and decorated the stage in a festive "Fiesta" mode. When 9:30 rolled around there was no shortage of entertainers. Thanks to all of you who helped out. If I forgot anyone, here's a big double Thank-You from me. You are truly appreciated.

Now on to new business, June 14th will see our longest running annual event. I don't know how long its been around but I started attending it in 1994! So once again I'm asking for any help I can get. The homemade food and baked goods seem to do well at the auction. Our theme is very "Country Fair" with lots of red, white and blue. If anyone has any ideas or would like to get help please contact me my info's in this issue. Stay cool, and keep those dollars coming in.

Kevin McSweeny/ PussyLeHoot
2008 Fundraising Director

From the Desk of the Public Relations Director

Greetings A.G.R.A. Members -

As the weather heats up, so does the I.G.R.A. season. And while we all expect to enjoy ourselves at rodeo, accidents can still happen.

Early in May, our fellow A.G.R.A. member Clinton Bartlett suffered serious, multiple injuries while competing at the Hot Rodeo in Palm Springs.

A traditional way rodeo associations show their support for injured colleagues is through raising funds. The A.G.R.A. royalty and Charlie's hosted a fundraiser for Clinton on Saturday, May 30. I hope you were able to be there. As he continues to heal, please keep Clinton and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Looking ahead to June, the Grand Ol' Opry will be returning to Charlie's for another show! This Arizona Gay Rodeo Association & RoadRunner Regional Rodeo fundraiser takes place Saturday, June 13. Be sure to check with Pussy LeHoot and Charlie's for more details.

Speaking of the RRRR, George and Jeremy have partnered with the Door bar to host our big Announcement/Kick-off Party. This takes place Friday, June 26 from 7p-11p at the Door, 1126 N Scottsdale Rd, in Tempe. That night, the rodeo directors will be announcing where our 25th Anniversary RoadRunner Regional Rodeo will be taking place next February! The guys tell me drinks will be 3 for 1 --- which makes it even easier to decide where to go on Friday night! Please contact George, Jeremy, or Greg if you can help us out at the event. Thanks!

Thank you for all the support -

Greg Gillum
Public Relations - A.G.R.A. & RRRR

**From the Desk of the
Rodeo Events Contestant Liaison Committee
Branding Iron Report for JUNE 2009 Issue**

From our Bylaws: The objective of AGRA shall be to elevate the image of women and men in the sports field of rodeo.

First and foremost, we have been directing all of our energy to Clinton in getting healed up from his unfortunate accident in Palm Springs. Please look for some information on Fundraisers to help off-set some of his medical expenses.

Also, condolences go out to Brian Helander, who had to put his old Palomino Roping Horse "Bullet" down a few weeks ago. Bullet was near or beyond 40 years old, had a great life, and was unable to support his needs. It was as simple as wearing down his molars to where he could not grind his food adequately enough to absorb enough nutrients. We are sorry Brian for your loss.

Pride ~ Pride ~ Pride ~ Pride ~ Pride ~ Pride ~ Pride ~ Pride ~ Pride ~

A very big thank you goes out to the many individuals who helped us with the Pride Parade Float / Vendor Booth and the contestants that rode their Horses in the Parade:

"Thank You!" to the 8 Members/Contestants who rode their horses in the Parade: Mitch P, Brian H, Keenan A, Bob B, Rick M, Popper D, Ed M, and Chuck B.

"Thank you" to AGRA Founding member John King who was our designated clean up man for the horses. He put up with a lot of "crap" and kept a great attitude.

"Thank you!" to those Members who assisted with the Pride Parade Float: Mitch P for getting the Trailer donated, and Brian H for letting us use his truck to pull the float. Also, Travis J for organizing the Float, and the many that helped decorate the Float: Mitch P, Popper D, Iona D (Kyle Ross) and Darell D, Harry H, & Ron D. I apologize if I have inadvertently missed anyone...

"Thank You!" To: Keith C and Bob S for wearing their Bright Blue AGRA shirts and riding on the Float, and for the AGRA line Dancers (Heat Wave!) for riding on the Float. So good to see some young blood flowing in AGRA! We also appreciated the Dancers for helping at the Booth, and helping to raise money for the 2010 Rodeo!

Also "Thank You!" to those that came out and helped at the Pride Vendor Booth – George I. and Dan I. for taking that under their wing. There was a lot of support – including Sheri R, Connie M, Bob S, Iona Doublewide (Kyle R), Darell D, Jay L, Cary, Mitch P., Travis J., and the many others I have inadvertently forgotten to name.

**Rodeo Results on the IGRA Circuit!
Palm Springs – HOT! Rodeo 2009**

AGRA had an incredibly strong showing of Contestants in Palm Springs for the HOT! Rodeo 2009 All in all, TEAM AGRA brought home 10 Buckles including the All-Around Cowboy Title!

- **Women's Breakaway Roping:**
Shelda W – 1st Place Saturday - BUCKLE WINNER!
- **Men's Chute Dogging:**
Brian Helander took 1st on Sunday **Travis James** took 4th Place on Saturday
- **Men's Calf Roping on Foot:**

- **Men's Breakaway Roping:**

Brian Helander took 1st place on Sunday with a 6.44

- **Men's Barrel Racing:**

Rick M – 1st on Saturday & 3rd Sunday – **BUCKLE WINNER!**

Bob B – 3rd on Saturday & 2nd Sunday – 3rd for the weekend Kennan A – 6th Saturday

Jeff S – 6th Sunday Mitch P – 7th Sunday Popper D – 8th Sunday

- **Men's Pole Bending:**

Rick M – 1st Saturday Bob B – 4th Saturday Popper D – 2nd Sunday

- **Men's Flag Race:**

Chuck B – 8th Saturday & 4th Sunday – **BUCKLE WINNER!**

Mitch P – 5th on Sunday – and 4th place for the weekend.

Popper D – 1st Saturday Brian H – 2nd on Sunday

- **Team Roping:**

Shelda W & Pepe – 1st on Saturday Chuck B & Brian H – 2nd Place Sunday

- **Steer Decorating:**

Chuck B & Brian H – 2nd Sat & 2nd Sunday – **2 BUCKLE WINNERS!**

Mitch P & Craze – 1st Saturday & 7th (tie) Sunday – 2nd for the weekend

Travis J & Chris Y – 4th Saturday & 4th Sunday – 5th for the weekend

Popper D & Ed M – 7th Saturday & 7th (tie) Sunday – 7th for the weekend

- **Wild Drag Race:**

Chuck B & Team – 3rd Saturday & 1st Sunday – **BUCKLE WINNER!**

Brian H, Keenen A and Team – 1st Saturday & 2nd Sunday - 2nd for the weekend

Mitch P & Team – 3rd on Sunday – 4th for the weekend

- **Goat Dressing:**

Brian H & Chuck B – 6th on Saturday & 1st on Sunday – **2 BUCKLE WINNERS!**

Mitch P & Will L – 7th Saturday

- **All-Around Cowboy / Cowgirl:**

Brian Helander wins his second All-Around Cowboy Title for the 2009 rodeo year with 480 points – **BUCKLE WINNER!**

Chuck B was 1st Runner up with 410 points

Way to go AGRA for taking 2nd place in the team standings!

CONGRATULATIONS Cowboys & Cowgirls!
Cowboy and Cowgirl up!

Respectfully submitted by Chuck Browning –
AGRA Contestant Liaison
agracwbv@aol.com 602-402-1836 (cell)





From the Publisher:

Hello Members,

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself as your New Branding Iron Publisher. I'm Levi Hunting from Idaho. Horses and everything involved, was apart of a good portion of my childhood and its fun to be involved in this again.

I want to first off thank the AGRA Board Members for making me their pick for the BI Publisher. I hope to bring a strong creative look to the BI for the months to come.

I first moved to Phoenix about 5 years ago and I've slowly been finding ways to be more involved with the Phoenix gay community and I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity.

I've been apart of a couple of the AGRA and RRRR events and its very refreshing to me to see people come together for a good cause and a good ol' time.

Constructive comments and thoughts are always welcome.

Thank you,
Levi Hunting - BI Publisher

AGRA MEMBERSHIP & BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

June Board Meeting 10th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road
June Membership Meeting 14th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

July Board Meeting 15th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road
July Membership Meeting 19th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

August Board Meeting 5th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road
August Membership Meeting 9th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

September Board Meeting 23rd @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road
September Membership Meeting 27th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

October Board Meeting 7th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road
October Membership Meeting 11th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

November Board Meeting 4th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road
November Membership Meeting 8th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

December Board Meeting 9th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road
December Membership Meeting 13th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

January Board Meeting 6th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road
January Membership Meeting 10th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

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