

# WRITE IN THE SADDLE



## DINE OUT FOR LIFE APRIL 24

The Aliveness Project (one of our traditional charities) is in need of hungry folk for their “Dine-Out For Life” on Thursday, April 24th.

NSGRA members are invited to the Finnish Bistro in the beautiful Saint Anthony Park neighborhood in Saint Paul. (2264 Como Ave Saint Paul, MN 55108) 50% of what you spend goes right to charity! We are going to gather there at 7:00pm. It would be helpful to have an approximate number so please RSVP via [info@nsgra.org](mailto:info@nsgra.org) if you would like to attend. To learn more about this restaurant, please visit <http://finnishbistro.com/food/>.

You can also help make this event successful just by eating out at other area restaurants! This year 180+ restaurants in the Twin Cities, Alexandria, Duluth, Lanesboro, Mankato and St. Cloud are participating so whether you live near or far, there should be a restaurant near you.

Visit the website <http://www.diningoutforlife.com/minneapolis> to see the list of participating restaurants. Just eat out and a portion of your spending goes right to the Aliveness Project providing essential services to people living with HIV/AIDS. This event is the biggest fundraiser for the Aliveness Project and there are participating restaurants for breakfast, lunch and dinner! Your contributions also benefit greater Minnesota through the Rural Action Network. If you have additional questions, please call the Aliveness Project at (612) 822-7946 or the Dine Out For Life hotline at (612) 824-LIFE (5433)

## NSGRA DANCE MEETING APRIL 19

Come before our next Beer Bust/Dance on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 to give your input on our monthly dances at the Saloon. There have been suggestions about adding dance lessons and we would like to gauge what the interest is in that and what type of lessons. Other topics might be who should DJ, the quality of music selection, and what folk want most. Everyone’s opinion is valued so please attend and help us produce better dances.

**Board of Directors**

**Dan V W .....President**

**Mark L.....Vice President**

**Troy L.....Secretary**

**Colin S.....Treasurer**

**Colin S.....Contestants**

**Colin S.....Membership**

**Carl S.....Trustee**

**David M.....Public Relations**

**John B.....Fundraising**

**Newsletter Team**

**Colin S .....Editor**

**Open.....Assistant Editor**

*Please Help Us By*

Sending Your Updated  
Address Info &

Email Address To:

[membership@nsgra.org](mailto:membership@nsgra.org)

Or mail our PO Box



**APRIL  
2014**

**2014 RODEOS**

April 4  
Rodeo school  
April 4-6  
Sunshine Stamped  
Davie, FL

May 2-4  
Hot Rodeo 2014  
Palm Springs, CA

May 9-10  
Bighorn Rodeo  
Las Vegas, NV

May 23-26  
Great Plains Rodeo  
OKC, OK

June 13-15  
ILGRA Rodeo School  
Chicago, IL

June 27  
Rodeo School  
June 27-29  
Canadian Rockies Int'l Rodeo  
Calgary, Alberta

See [www.igra.com](http://www.igra.com) for more  
information

**SUNDAY DANCES  
AT LEE'S**

[www.2stepmsp.org](http://www.2stepmsp.org)

**OTHER DANCE  
OPPORTUNITIES**

Saloon – 3rd **SATURDAY**  
**THIS MONTH 7-10PM**

April 19th

**WRITE IN THE  
SADDLE**

NSGRA is a proud  
member of



We thank our IGRA  
Sponsors:



We thank our 2014 local  
Sponsors:



**Twin Cities Pride**

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**AND ALL OUR LOCAL  
NSGRA PARTNERS!**  
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[WWW.IGRATRAVEL.COM](http://WWW.IGRATRAVEL.COM)

IGRA shares in the normal  
commission rate instead of sites  
like Travelocity and the funds  
are used to support IGRA  
Finals. It costs you nothing  
extra to use it, too!

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## **FUNDRAISING REPORT**

Hey Gang!

I want to thank everyone who came out for the NSGRA Fundraiser for Jeremy! We made over \$900.00 for his uninsured medical and dental needs. A big round of applause to all who donated baskets for raffle...Twin Cities Leather and Latte, The Saloon, Midwest Makeup, Twin Cities Pride and other Personal donations from Anonymous contributors!

Please remember our Country Dance/Beer/Soda Bust at The Saloon March 19th from 7-10pm in the Dance Bar. A \$5.00 Cover charge at the door and add another \$5.00 for the beer/soda bust! All NSGRA Members will get in free but have to pay for the Beer/Soda Bust.

Pride is coming fast and we will be hosting the Dance Tent again and will be featuring The Saddle Sores for your pleasure! We do not know what day they will be performing yet but will keep you in the loop on what day and time. Just want to keep all members informed on what will be going on.

NSGRA has submitted to participate in the Pride Parade and will be waiting on an answer once the Jury is back on who is allowed to participate this year. Pride has to go to a jury format due to the overwhelming response to people wanting to march or be part of the parade. With that said if anyone is able to get us horses for the parade we would greatly appreciate the courtesy of letting the members marching...ride on one of your horses...Miss NSGRA Billie LaTease Austin will be with the group in the parade and hopefully on horseback!

Thanks again everyone for all that you do for making our events successful!

**John Bigger Events/Fundraising Chair**

## **BEER BUST/DANCE**

### **Spring Rope & Ride 'EM' Beer Bust/Dance**

**7-10PM SATURDAY**

**April 19th , 2014**

**The SALOON**

**9<sup>th</sup> and Hennepin**

**Downtown Minneapolis**

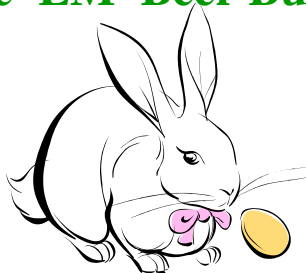
**FREE admission for NSGRA members!**

**\$5 Beer or soda**

**Treats and an Easter Egg door prize!**

**(NSGRA Dance Meeting precedes beer bust at 6:30)**

**(Membership meeting precedes beer bust at 6:00)**



## **MEMBERSHIP**

Howdy, all!

I was very impressed by the community support shown at our fundraiser at last month's beer bust/dance! Thank you to all who helped set it up and attended.. Thank you to Jim K for renewing at the fundraiser, too! Your support is appreciated.

Will spring ever get here? If you can hang on to the 19<sup>th</sup>, I think with the Easter/Spring theme, free treats and a fun door prize, our beer bust/dance should be awesome!. It is a great bargain for NSGRA members with no cover charge and the beer/soda bust is a good deal at \$5 for NSGRA members. Since you are coming for the beer bust, why not grab a bite to eat at the Saloon and join us for the membership meeting at 6:00 (**note time change**) and stay for the dance meeting at 6:30?

We are gearing up for Pride. Please let us know if you are interested in being in the Pride parade on horseback and we will need volunteers. Don't make me beg!

As always, PLEASE let us know if your mailing address or e-mail address has changed. We don't want to lose touch when you change addresses (either kind). Sending newsletters in electronic formats is faster than a printed version and saves postage and trees. Nevertheless, we will send a printed version to any member who requests it. If you are a current NSGRA member and have not been receiving the email versions of the monthly newsletter, please check your Spam guard. The emails are sent blind carbon copied to respect our members' privacy, and they will come from [blackbart@blackbart.net](mailto:blackbart@blackbart.net).

NSGRA encourages all members to contribute articles for Write in the Saddle. Ideas for articles and other submissions are always welcome! It is our connection with each other. Let us hear from you! Oh, and please invite your friends to join NSGRA and help us grow.

Let's Rodeo!

"Black Bart"

2014 Membership chair

## **CONTESTANTS**

We have three—count them—three IGRA sanctioned rodeos in May! I am limited with space to go into many specifics, but Palm Springs, Las Vegas and OKC all sound like fun to me. Please visit [www.fgra.org](http://www.fgra.org) for all the details. AJ has some additional IGRA news that may interest you so be sure to read his article on page 5.

Let's Rodeo!

"Black Bart"

2014 Contestant chair

## **TRUSTEE**

Howdy all!

Are you all thinking like I am that spring is not going to make it this year? I have a solution for that. The Sunshine Stampede Rodeo is [April 4-6](#) at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in Davie, FL details are on the IGRA web page. Should be plenty of Sunshine with lots of hot CowBoys and CowGirls. Always a good time. Then Palm Springs "Hot" Rodeo is [May 2-4](#) at AC Dysart Equestrian Park in Banning, CA details for that and all the IGRA sanctioned Rodeos is at [IGRA.com](#).

For those of you with internet access have you had a chance to see the movie trailer for "Queens and Cowboys" on youtube? If not take a minute and watch it. I know you will be impressed with it!

I also wanted to share the following article with you that appeared in the March 25, 2014 issue of the The Peninsula Press, a multimedia news site powered by Stanford University's Graduate Program in Journalism. Student journalists cover local news in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Redwood City, Mountain View, Sunnyvale and other cities in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties: <http://peninsulapress.com/2014/03/25/gay-competitorsrodeo/>.

One more very exciting bit of news. The gay games in Ohio this year will not only have Rodeo events but a Dancing and Country Western Entertainment! Please read all about it at <http://gaygamesrodeo.org/entertainment.htm>

I know that is a lot of info! However The Rodeo season is just getting started. So I will have LOTS more information coming in next few months.

All the best  
Ride 'Um  
Aj Vawter

**Gay Games August 9-16 in Cleveland/Akron  
IGRA Rodeo at the Gay Games August 10-11**

<http://gaygamesrodeo.org/index.htm>

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Howdy Folks!

First things first, we are calling for all interested parties to attend a special meeting at 6:30 before the monthly beer bust and dance. There has been interest from several parties for lessons. Before we proceed we need to get a real feel for what people would like. Please come and provide your input regarding learning to dance, line dance, or both, and any other ideas you have regarding how we can serve the dance community. *Since many prospective attendees are not NSGRA members, please pass this information on to anyone you know who dances!*

Next, I would like to thank all the great people who came out to the St Patrick's dance to help raise money for Jeremy. We raised nearly \$900 to help him out! It's great the we can come together as a community to help each other. It's a tragedy that we still have to fear these things but I hope in the not too distant future this kind of act will be a thing that people can't imagine any more.

We are also currently running a fund raiser on ONE TODAY, a mobile app that lets you donate \$1 per day to causes that make a difference. We are having a trial run through April 30 for our main charity for 2014, Avenues for Youth, serving homeless youth and young adults in MN, with a special house just for GLBTQ youth included. Please take a minute and download the app and give what you can! Please copy and paste <https://onetoday.google.com/projectPreview?project=ag9zfm9uZXRvZGF5LXByb2RyFAAsSB1Byb2plY3QYgICAuqrTqgoM> to see it!

Have you noticed some changes this year? NSGRA is actively and aggressively continuing our mission to be present on the web and use the tools that weren't available even a few years ago. You can always check out [nsgra.org](http://nsgra.org), and we've been developing a facebook following for over a year. We are now a google recognized 501c3 which is opening up even more exciting ways to fulfill our mission. The One Today project is the first of what we hope will be many. We are also eligible for a google ad grant to help reach people who still don't even know about NSGRA or gay rodeo. We now have our google calendar published on NSGRA.org so you can see upcoming events for NSGRA/IGRA, and other items you may be interested in such as the state rodeo finals, other rodeo events, and dance events. If you know of something to include on the calendar, please submit it to [info@nsgra.org](mailto:info@nsgra.org).

As you can see, a lot has happened in the last month, and I expect it to be this way for the next several months. The most important thing you can do is remind people you know who are not members to check out page or follow us on facebook as we will have a lot going on this summer, If people think there's not anything to do, they just haven't looked!

See you on the dance floor! Dan

**North  
Star  
Gay  
Rodeo  
Association**



PO Box 11199  
St. Paul, MN  
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[HTTP://WWW.NSGRA.ORG](http://www.nsgra.org)

## **NSGRA BEER BUST/**

## **COUNTRY DANCE**

**APRIL 19TH**

### **2014 SHERIFFS AND MARSHALL SHERIFFS (INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS)**

Mark L	Linda R	Zane R
Jack R	Black Bart	Mark D
Todd P	Gary S	Del G

### **MARSHALS (BUSINESS SPONSORS)**

Dance Hall Creek Farm      Parey Farms

Want to be listed above? Being an NSGRA Sheriff (Individual) or Marshal (business) is a type of membership where the amount over your normal membership dues is tax deductible. Your contribution helps us meet our goals "assisting our local community and charities through support, education, and fundraisers while providing a friendly environment for all persons to participate in and learn about the western lifestyle and skills." For those interested, you can upgrade your regular membership to either Sheriff or Marshal with an additional contribution of \$75.00 or more. Lest anyone wonder, your contribution of time is also greatly valued by NSGRA. No matter your financial resources, everyone's participation is needed and appreciated! We also thank those who have donated time and financial support in other ways!

# NSGRA CALENDAR

April 2014						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Membership meeting Dance meeting Beer Bust/Dance	20 Easter
21	22	23	24 Dine Out For Life	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**CHECK OUT NSGRA ON FACEBOOK!**