

The Branding Iron



A Message from the President...

March Birthdays	
?? Paul Nicholson	03/01
?? Elizabeth Bradford	03/01
?? W. Glen May	03/02
?? Lacey Edwards	03/06
?? John A. King	03/06
?? Paul DuBray	03/09
?? John H. Williams	03/11
?? Patrick Lose	03/17
?? Johnathan Hayes	03/20
?? Peter Irons	03/25
?? Kelly Bascue	03/29

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Even though the rodeo is over there is so much going on. The Arizona Central Pride Parade and celebration is approaching quickly in April. We will be having a float in the parade again this year; I have appointed Jason Gardea to be in charge of the parade float committee and Pussy LeHoot is in charge of the AGRA booth at the pride festival. It should prove to be a great pride this year being at Steele Park off of Indian School Road. If you are interested in volunteering and building the float please e-mail me at president@agra-phx.com and I will make sure the information gets to the right person. We would like to have a better contingency than last year's pride.

At the last membership meeting I opened the floor for nominations for delegates and alternates for the IGRA Convention, which will be held here this year. This is an exciting convention for the members of AGRA. We have hosted many finals but never an IGRA convention. At the March meeting we will continue nominations for delegates and alternates and close the nominations at the end of that meeting. I have attended the past three IGRA conventions and it was a very worthwhile learning experience for me. It is a learning experience that I would like to see everyone attend. I would like to say it is a lot of fun but no matter how much fun you have please remember when accepting the nomination there is work to be done as well and take it serious. If you are voted to be a delegates or alternate by the membership you are required to be in session by 8:00 A.M. each day in many different committees such as rodeo rules, bylaws, royalty, and health and safety issues and many other committees. AGRA will pay for your registration if you are a chosen as a delegate or alternate and you are responsible for the rest. Please remember if you are voted to represent AGRA you are committing yourself to be in attendance all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The dates for the convention are August 1st – 3rd, 2003 at the Biltmore Hotel.

Please remember that after the March membership meeting ballots will go out to all members to vote for delegates / alternates for this years convention.

Thanks

Glen

President 2003

Letter from your Corresponding Secretary...

AGRA MEETINGS

MAR. 2003

FEB MEETINGS

Monday 02/03/03—6:00 p.m.

AGRA Board of Directors
Meeting

Sunshine Inn & Suites

3600N 2nd Ave, Phoenix

Phone: 602-248-0222

Sunday 02/09/03—7:00 pm

AGRA General Membership Mtg.
Charlie's

727 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix

Phone # 602-265-0224

All members are welcome to all
AGRA Board of Directors
meetings. We encourage
members who wish to attend to
do so. Thank you.

Thomas Ziegler

AGRA Secretary

To the AGRA Membership and AGRA Board of Directors and AGRA and IGRA Royalty:

I just wanted to take a moment and thank everyone that attended the February AGRA Membership meeting for being so nice. It was my first time speaking in front on any body for a long time. I personally did not know what to expect. However, all went well and I was not too nervous.

Moving on here is a small list of up coming Rodeo Events in the next two months.

- 1)Cowtown Rodeo Fort Worth Texas 03/28 thru 30th.... www.tgra.org
- 2)Bighorn Rodeo Las Vegas Nevada 04/05 thru 06th www.bighornrodeo.com

Also, Arizona Gay Pride is coming up soon on April 12/2003 if anyone is interested in volunteering to lend a hand contact me and I will forward the information to the correct people. Email cowboybeef@aol.com or (602)269-0618.

There are plenty of fundraisers coming up thru out the next several months to raise money for the AGRA Royalty...any one that wants to help is greatly appreciated.. We do appreciate all the members and other people who do come to the shows and participate.

Thank You
Thomas Ziegler
2003 AGRA Corresponding Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE CHANGES

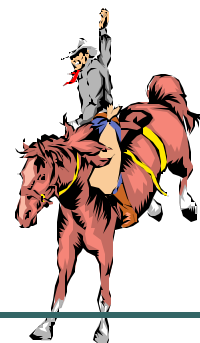
MOVING AGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING FROM 04/13/03 TO 04/20/03

MOVING AGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING FROM 07/13/03 TO 07/20/03

MEMBERSHIP WILL REVOTE FOR MOVING MEETING ON 08/10/03

AGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON 05/11/03

THANKS,
TOM ZIEGLER
2003 AGRA CORRESPONDING SECRETARY



MARCH
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
MONDAY MARCH 24, 2003

Send submissions to:

BrandingIron02@cox.net

or mail to:

P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ
85067-0465

Upcoming Rodeos & Events...



Cowtown Rodeo
 Fort Worth, Texas
 March 28th, 29th, 30th
 214-346-2107
 www.tgra.org

Bighorn Rodeo
 Las Vegas, Nevada
 April 4th, 5th, 6th
 1-888-643-NGRA
 www.bighornrodeo.com



LA Rodeo
 Los Angeles, California
 April 11th, 12th, 13th
 562-498-1675
 www.larodeo.com

Rodeo In The Rock
 Little Rock, Arkansas
 April 25th, 26th, 27th
 501-562-4466
 www.dsra.org

Great Plains Rodeo
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 May 23rd, 24th, 25th
 405-607-0969
 www.okgayrodeo.com



March 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 <i>Cowtown Rodeo-Dallas, TX</i>						1
2	3 <i>AGRA Board Meeting Sunshine Inn 6:00 p.m.</i>	4	5	6	7	8
9 <i>AGRA membership meeting @ Charlie's—7:00 p.m AGRA Fund-Raiser</i>	10	11	12	13	14.	15
16	17	18	19 <i>Chili Cook Off 9:PM -JAMBOREE- 9:30PM—Charlie's</i>	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>Cowtown Rodeo-Dallas, TX</i>	29 <i>Cowtown Rodeo-Dallas, TX</i>

Trustee Report

AGRA Trustee report for the February 2003 Branding Iron

Dear AGRA members

I would like to congratulate Bob Pimentel and the RRRR committee on a great rodeo. I am confident that it will be a financial success also. Congratulations also go out to the royalty and AGRA Rodeo contestants for representing AGRA so well on the stage and in the arena. It is great to see two AGRA contestants in the All Around category with our own Chuck Browning coming in at the first runner up level, narrowly missing out on the All around Title...probable due to his partners apparent inability to rope anything that really moves. I am not sure that others realize how difficult it is to accumulate enough points to become one of the top 5 at a rodeo as large as RRRR. Also, I think AGRA can be proud of the fact that in addition to the tight All-around race, AGRA contestants Browning and Helander, (ok, me) brought home both the, first ever, Bacardi Silver All Around Camp Event Cowboy buckles! It may be camp events but the reality is that the competition in those events is deep and tough.

I heard lots of great feedback about our venue in addition to three things we may want to try to address next year...great facility, however several local attendees miss being "close to the action" and felt lost by the expansiveness of the venue. Many were concerned about the inability to "see" into the fading sunset in the late afternoon for the chute events and thirdly, not being able to "hear" the announcer in the stands was a disappointment to many. My concern is that these three issues add up to our paying customers not feeling connected to the event and could affect attendance and revenue in the future. I will keep these issues in mind as we work on RRRR 2004.

Please read this if you are planning to vote for convention delegates: We have had a lot of nominations and I encourage members to consider the "mix" of attendees at convention when casting your votes. The majority of the controversial work at convention has to do with things that happen in and around the arena. This year, horse related issues and contestant gender issues will continue to be a challenge to the association and we need delegates that understand these important issues. Secondly royalty/dance related issues may be discussed at length. Other issues such as voting on finals and convention locations are less likely to cause controversy and are handled quickly and easily. So...we need a balance between contestants that know the events and the rule book, royalty that understand the issues and problems and administrative personnel that understand the politics. Rodeo Rules committee is generally a 12-14 hour day and our contestant representative need to cover each other for breaks, so we need at least 2 contestant delegates and two contestant alternate to cover Rodeo rules and Animal Concerns. Bylaws committee can be another long day and we need at least two members who understand the IGRA bylaws to represent us at this committee. Also any proposed Rodeo, Royalty Rules or Bylaws rules for Convention needs to be to me by April 1, 2003. Please e-mail me or IGRA committee chair ASAP.

If you are traveling to a Rodeo (or any other IGRA event), consider *American Airlines*. IGRA Discounts are available thru the 1-800-433-1790 number. IGRA master index number is **\$16294**. If you use the website, **AA.com**, for any travel use the Corporate ID number: **538389** and get a discount

I attended the IGRA Board meeting, IGRA Trustee meeting and IGRA University. Here are some important Highlights:

From The Board Meeting:

The **Bacardi Silver** Contract was approved and signed

The **Elbow Grease** Contract was approved and signed

The **Instinct Magazine** Contract was approved and signed

The **American Airlines** Contract was approved and signed

I am making a summery report of the contract requirements for RRRR 2004

From The Trustee Meeting:

GSGRA (San Diego) rodeo has been moved to September 27-28, 2003

TGRA (Austin) rodeo has been moved to September, 6-7 2003.

There was a clarification of the \$25.00 horse stall deposit issues: this deposit is \$25.00 per stall for each stall reserved. \$25.00 must be re-funded. Associations can charge up to \$25.00 per stall for any additional stalls.

From IGRA University:

I attended several seminars including "Conducting a good meeting" by Ben A., IGRA Bylaws Chairperson and "Working with your local AB Distributor", by James R. from Anheuser-Busch (AB). AB showed a national marketing campaign that illustrated that the corporation is very committed to IGRA, AGRA and other gay events, so next time you buy a beer, make it a "Bud Light".

That is about all for now, Brian Helander

Royalty News

Well , kids, here we are already in March with a big rodeo season and an even bigger year for AGRA in front of us. As an Association, we will face many decisions, challenges and opportunities; and like in years past, sometimes we will disagree. Hopefully, what we will have learned from our past is that debate can be healthy for a volunteer organization, but we always need to try and approach each other with respect. I'm no Dr. Phil (although there is a clear resemblance) but I'm certain about this one, kids.

Another thing I'm certain about is what a great opportunity we are faces with in the coming Convention right here in Arizona this August. With the eyes of the entire International Gay Rodeo upon us, we will have the chance to host the event that will shape all our rules and regulations for the coming year. Here is your chance to make a significant contribution. Get involved with this event. Go to a planning meeting, find out how to volunteer. Your voice can help to change the planning for Convention, but you have to speak up to be heard.

Fort Worth, Vegas, Los Angeles and our very own Arizona Central Pride Weekend will all be here before you know it. So decide where your headed and make your plans, all the time remembering your royalty team accepts airline tickets and hotel reservations all season long. If that last part struck you as funny, then of course it was a joke. If, however, you have extra airline tickets or hotel reservation money then it was stone cold serious.

I'd like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all of you who have taken the time to congratulate me and the rest of your Royalty Team. I'm so proud to be a part of this group of hard working, talented individuals.

Until next time kids, remember your born naked and after that it's all just Drag.

Big Wet Kisses

Suzanne Targe't

Miss AGRA 2003

AKA Woody Howard

A Letter From Miss IGRA 2003 1st Runner-Up...

Hello—I'm finally all re-cooperated after a hectic Rodeo Week—What Fun! All the IGRA Royalty visiting Phoenix had a great time and have all told me how well they were treated. We had a great time on Monday after the Rodeo. Most everyone stayed for the Brunch and my show. I was required to raise \$500.00 for IGRA as a first runner up and thanks to all my friends we raised \$556.00 on that Monday so technically I have met that part of my obligation. (Although I have other fundraisers planned.) Thanks to Patrick, Gaylia, Jada and Deana Dawn for helping as well as all of our new 2003 AGRA Royalty Team. Also, Melissa Lorence from NGRA, Rob Hart from CGRA and The King of Underwear Night, David Medzerian, made it all possible. Thanks Gang!

On March 29th, NGRA—(Don Phillips) is flying me and Miss Suzanne Targe't up to Las Vegas for a big fundraiser before their Rodeo. It sounds like most of the IGRA Royalty will be in Las Vegas for The Big Horn Rodeo. Hope to see you there.

Pussy LeHoot

Miss IGRA 2003 1st Runner Up

CHILI COOK-OFF

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19TH—9:00PM @ CHARLIE'S

Come on down and enter your favorite chili recipe in our first CookOff! - No Entrance Fee!

?? Can't Cook ??

Then be one of our judges and help pick the winner. Then stick around and eat up the evidence during our

9:30PM

"JAMBOREE"

9:30PM

Our monthly Wednesday Night Fundraising Show—Starring AGRA & IGRA Royalty

Call Pussy @ Charlie's 602-265-0224 for Chili Cook-Off Info.

News from the Rodeo Events Director

Just wanted to thank everyone for the great job with our Rodeo. We had another great year and a very successful rodeo. Without all of your help we could not have done so well.

I am planning several events this year and hope that all of you can make all or at least some of them. The first event I am planning will be a trail ride followed by a training day as well as a Barbeque. This will happen on Saturday the 15th of March. It will take place at Scott Darnell's home in Rainbow Valley. It will start with a trail ride at 10:00am. Everyone that has a horse and wants to do this will need to show up between 9:00am and 9:30am. The trail ride will last approximately 2 hours. After the trail ride you will be able to work your horse for the speed events. There will be others as well as myself there to help you if needed. We will end with a small competition in Flags, Barrels, and Poles. There will be some prizes for these events.

Those of you that don't have a horse can show up for some roping lessons. This will start around 12:00 noon and will continue after lunch. I will be giving lessons for anyone that wants to work on their roping techniques. If you don't have a rope, then let me know. There will be some available there but if you are interested in buying your own and do not know what you need then call me and I will meet you and we can shop.

There will be a Barbeque starting at 1:00 pm. This will be a pot luck, so please RSVP and let me know what you would like to bring. There will be Pucker and hopefully some Bud Light. You can bring non-members, but there will be a nominal fee for the day.

After lunch, we will take a break and then we will have some other types of competition such as Goat Dressing, ribbon tying, etc. We will be working on as many of the rodeo events that we can do.

Please come and join us for a great time.

Directions to Scott Darnell's Home in Rainbow Valley are as follows:

Take I-10 to Jackrabbit Rd, go south through 2 stop signs and a stop light. Continue south until you get to Naramore Rd. Turn left at Naramore. Go 2 blocks to Teepee Rd and turn right. The Address is 19915 W. Teepee RD.

Please RSVP to Will at (623) 203-8765 or Scott at (623) 386-7867.

Some of the other events that I am working on is a ruff stock practice for those of you that want to learn or work on these events. Bull riding, steer riding, chute dogging, etc.

I am trying to plan an event every other month. So plan on doing some rodeo stuff this year.

News from the Fundraising Director

Hello Everyone—I'm glad to report since the Rodeo we have had 2 fundraising events that all were great fun and brought in some money. First of all, our "After The Meeting Show" on Feb. 9th, raised \$252.00 and on our "AGRA Jamboree" Night on Feb. 19th, we had a small but fun crowd and raised \$125.00. Thanks to all who helped me out. We have a lot of things planned for the upcoming months so I'm looking forward to a very good year.

I need Volunteers to help with the AGRA Booth coming up at our Pride Festival on April 12th. So please let me know if you are willing to work for an hour or two.

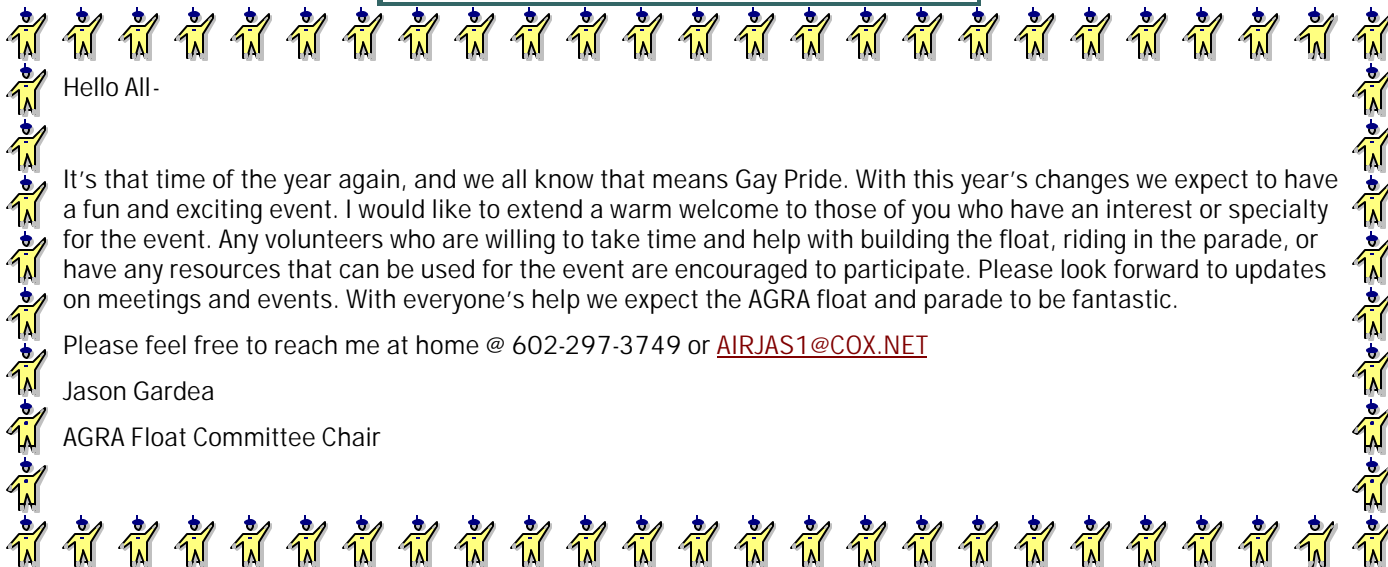
Don't forget to check the Calendar in this issue for upcoming events.

See you at the meeting!

Pussy LeHoot

2003 Fundraising Director

Pride Festival AGRA Float



Hello All -

It's that time of the year again, and we all know that means Gay Pride. With this year's changes we expect to have a fun and exciting event. I would like to extend a warm welcome to those of you who have an interest or specialty for the event. Any volunteers who are willing to take time and help with building the float, riding in the parade, or have any resources that can be used for the event are encouraged to participate. Please look forward to updates on meetings and events. With everyone's help we expect the AGRA float and parade to be fantastic.

Please feel free to reach me at home @ 602-297-3749 or AIRJAS1@COX.NET

Jason Gardea

AGRA Float Committee Chair

ADVERTISING SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Hey everyone in cowboy land. I just wanted to drop you a line and remind y'all there is still space for your business card size advertisement in the "Branding Iron".

A single month is just \$10.00 but if you advance purchase a six month ad it's 10% off but wait there is more if you purchase a whole year in advance it's 25% off making your advertising as low as \$90.00 for the entire year. THAT'S INCREDIBLE!!



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MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
MONDAY MARCH 24, 2003

Send submissions to:
BrandingIron02@cox.net

or mail to:
P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ · 85067-0465

Miss AGRA 2003
Miss Suzanne Targ'et
(a.k.a. Steven "Woody" Howard)
Email: missagra@agra-phx.com

Miss AGRA 2003 1st Runner-up
Lady Cassandra
(a.k.a. Daniel Dold)
Phone: (602) 242-0841
dannyboyinphx@hotmail.com

Mr. AGRA 2003
Kelly Bascue
Phone: (480) 970-3298
Email: mragra@agra-phx.com

Mr. AGRA 2003 1st Runner-up
Michael Butts
Phone: (602) 685-1746
Email: bouncetigger@aol.com

Ms. AGRA 2003
Marty Wolfe
Phone: (623) 980-0070
Email: msagra@agra-phx.com

Miss IGRA 1st Runner-up 2003
Pussy LeHoot

Mr. IGRA 1st Runner-up 2003
Patrick Lose

Ms. IGRA 2nd Runner-up 2003
Gaylia Young

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Email: president@agra-phx.com

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Vice President
Phone: (602) 482-6466
Email: vp@agra-phx.com

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Email: fr@agra-phx.com

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Email: eventsdir@agra-phx.com

Brian Helander
Trustee
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Email: trustee@agra-phx



IGRA & Bud Light Sanctioned Rodeos



AGRA

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85067-0465

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www.agra-phx.com

