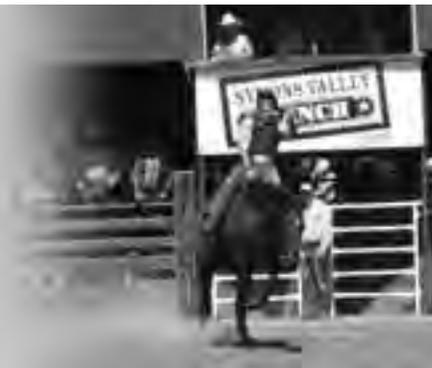


ARGRA *culture*

November 2006



2006-7 *Winter* *Dance Dates*

November 18
December 9
January 20, 2007

New Location for Dances

Hillhurst/Sunnyside Community Hall
1320 5th. Avenue N.W.

Please remember
Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Hall
is a Non-Smoking Facility

ARGRA Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in volunteering at the November 18th dance, please contact Darrel Reid our Fundraising Director at: fundraising@argra.org. There are always a few spots that Darrel needs to fill.



Trustee's Report

By Pierre Cadieux



Left to right: Randy W., Lorrie M., Alec M., Pierre C., Billy L., Heather M., Judy M.

Hello everyone... It's hard to believe the snow is here, curling has started, and the ARGRA executive board, and rodeo committee, are already hard at work planning the 2007 (CRIR) Canadian Rockies International Rodeo!

Just a couple of things to report from the International side... I and six other ARGRA members had the great pleasure of attending the 22nd annual IGRA convention in Nashville Tennessee this month... First let me start off by saying it was a wonderfully

planned event. The folks from the Smoky Mountain Rodeo Association (SMRA) did a super job. From the meetings that were scheduled during the day; to the fun and exciting parties that were held each night. I want you to know that ARGRA's delegation and I were proud to serve as ambassadors for ARGRA, Calgary, and our CRIR.

Just a couple of highlights: I'm proud to say we are no longer alone as the only Canadian Rodeo Association within IGRA... A new

Trustee's Report *(continued)*



Sponsor the 2007 Bud Light Canadian Rockies International Rodeo

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor to one of western Canada's largest GBLT events and promote your company to over 4000 rodeo weekend attendees, please contact the ARGRA Sponsorship Director, Greg Holsworth, via email at sponsorship@argra.org. Sponsorship packages start from as little as \$300.

Rodeo Committee Next Meeting

Tuesday November 23rd @ 7 pm
Old "Y" Boardroom
223 12th Avenue S.W.



rodeo association based out of Toronto was officially seated with IGRA. The Central Canada Gay Rodeo Association (CCGRA) has entered the IGRA family and we welcome them with open arms. (Brad, Peter, and Mark if you are reading this – Again Congratulations!) CCGRA is hoping to hold their first rodeo event in 2008. There are now 27 Associations and 19 Gay rodeos that will be held in 2007.

Another proud highlight for me was watching one of our very own members, Shane Anderson compete in the IGRA Dance Competition held in Nashville. Shane competed in the line dance event, and took home second place... Not bad at all considering he was asked to join the competition when we arrived in Nashville just two days earlier... Congratulations Shane!

The rest of the convention was filled with intense, interesting and often long meetings; consisting of by-law change requests and Rodeo Rule change discussions. Besides the Rodeo Rules and By-law Meetings ARGRA delegates also attended Community Outreach and Diversity, Growth and Planning, Fundraising, Animal Issues, Health and Safety, Judges, International Sponsors, Contestant Liason, and Membership. I don't want to bore all of you with Rule and By-law details, however, if you have any questions please feel free to get in touch with me. That's about it for now from IGRA. I'll be providing additional updates as we get closer to the CRIR this summer.

Till then Rodeo Safe!

Pierre Cadieux

ARGRA Trustee 06-08



Membership Director

by Jason Baker

Membership Director... a new position on the Executive Board but what does this mean for you, the actual members of ARGRA? My name is Jason Baker and I am fortunate enough to be the first Membership Director for ARGRA. This position is going to mean a lot of different things to a lot of different people and I am excited about exploring every avenue that this will take. I have been a member of ARGRA for a few years now, first starting out as a guy coming to the dances and enjoying a great time with a lot of great people. Then, as I learned more about ARGRA I wanted to become a more active person in the organization. I started out being the Hotline Coordinator, then assisted with Public Relations, then assisted with Sponsorship and last year as being the Entertainment Coordinator. I saw ARGRA as an organization that accepted everyone that happened to fall under that big rainbow flag we fly and am proud to say I wasn't wrong. Through ARGRA I have met so many people of every scene that when I saw this position in the ARGRAculture newsletter I felt I had to run for it. Now as your Membership Director I am responsible and proud to represent you. I am your voice to the rest of the Executive, good or bad, your thoughts, opinions, and concerns all matter to us.

One of the exciting aspects of my role is education, and of the entire Executive I personally think I am going to have some of the most fun starting with our new "Dear Jason" column. Yes that is right...Dear Jason, who wouldn't want a column like that? I want you to write me with any question about ARGRA or IGRA that you can think of. I want you to realize your thoughts and ideas are important to us on the Board and by having this column we can all find out together the thoughts that are out there! I want to help dispel any myths or rumours about ARGRA and I want to blow wide open the flood gates of ideas that you as members may have. Did you know that there are almost 300 members of ARGRA? There are very few organizations in this city that are as lucky as ARGRA to have such a strong and diverse base.

Being the Membership Director also means I want you to know that membership with ARGRA does have its advantages. Did you know that you receive 10% off at Priape when you show your ARGRA membership card? Did you know that you receive 10% off on Sundays and Thursdays at MoneyPennies? Did you know that you save \$4 every time you come to one of our dances by being a member? That means your membership pays for itself in ONLY 5 dances and we have 10 dances every year!

ARGRA is you... now we want to hear what you have to say! Send your emails to membership@argra.org and let me know what you are thinking! See you at the next dance November 18th!

Jason Baker

ARGRA Membership Director 2006-2007

Advertise with ARGRA

If you are interested in taking out a business card ad with ARGRAculture, please contact the Communications Director at communications@argra.org. The cost is \$20 per newsletter issue for a business card ad.



Presidents Report

by Heather Murray

In the traditional voice of Mini Pearl... *Howdy!*

Like the song says... "Its the dust and the mud, its the bulls and the blood, its the roar of a Sunday crowd..." Well, there's nothing like rodeo, there is nothing like the Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association. Welcome back for another year of fun, activities and rodeo. We have tightened our thinking caps , sharpened our pencils and added more substance to your ARGRA organization.

August was to be our month of sun tanning, horse back riding and drinking a cold cocktail, yet we found ourselves sitting in a conference room brainstorming on how we could make ARGRA better. We accomplished just that; you now have a Membership Coordinator with your needs in mind, and is the direct voice for you the membership. We want to hear all your good and bad thoughts alike. Jason Baker is your man! I know Mr. Baker will communicate

all concerns that you may have, and good feed back alike. And we will do our best to effectively meet the ideas of the membership.

An ARGRA 101 was developed by Greg H. to maintain effective roles in our association, it outlines position objectives, goals and values. Proactively fostering this document will help future executive, committee members and you the membership keep ARGRA alive and kicking. Not to say what was written won't change, it is to create a frame work of professionalism, country & western culture and family. It also lends to quality of an organization not quantity and the almighty pink dollar alone. So with all that being said, lets get together, play together and hang on for an exciting fresh new year.

Giddy Up!

Heather Murray

ARGRA President 2006-07

ARGRA **Needs You!**

Hey! Are you computer literate?

Love to write? Like to research?

**Interested in helping put
together a monthly newsletter?**

**If ANY of the above describe
you... ARGRA is looking for
you! Contact Judy regarding
the monthly ARGRA newsletter
and how you can get involved.**

Email: communications@argra.org



Members at Large

by Alec Masee

How many of you remember the first rodeo that ARGRA or more properly AGRA (at that time) held? Our rodeo and the association have come a long way since then, and there is a member who has been involved from the beginning. You have probably seen her at the dances faithfully working the beer bar, and perhaps even seen her working diligently behind the scenes taking care of the rodeo grounds, our very own Carol Bernier.

As Carol put it, she remembers the rodeo that doesn't count, as we weren't a member of IGRA at that time. For many years, Carol has been involved with the association, and especially enjoys the rodeo aspect of the association and the mixed socialization of ARGRA events. Carol grew up around rodeo, and as such, that has always been something that she has always enjoyed. It was about 4 years ago when Carol was asked by then rodeo director David Freeman to help out with rodeo grounds, and has since taken over that role, working many hours of preparation, coordination and working all rodeo weekend



long to help ensure her part in a successful and organized rodeo weekend.

So, the next time you are at a dance getting that beer from the beer bar, or at the rodeo watching or participating, our Carol is there helping. Thanks Carol for all that you do.

Do you know of someone who makes a difference within ARGRA and should be recognized as a "Member at Large"?

Submit your ideas and suggestions to Alec at secretary@argra.org, we'd love to hear from you.

ARGRA Win's **Website Award**

At this year's IGRA Convention in Nashville, ARGRA received 3rd place for its website amongst all member associations. Association websites were judged on 10 different factors by an independent panel for things such as initial impact thru to navigation. Awards were given out to the top 5 associations, ASGRA, GGRA, ARGRA, GSGRA and SMRA.



Contact *ARGRA*

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Treasurer

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The Black & White Holstein Hop!
The best in live stock, circuit parties!
November 18, 2006

Sound: Zimmars Music! Have you heard the Holstein Hop is coming. Moon!

West Black & White and join **ARGRA** in the moonlight times!

New Dance Location!
Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community hall
1320 5th Ave. N.W., Calgary, Alberta
Doors open at 7:30pm.
\$6 members/ \$10 non-members
Visit: www.argra.org for all events!

Titty Sooter
BUD LIGHT, OUTFITTERS, Calgary Rodeo, etc.

OVER 18 *Policy*

Due to our liquor license anyone under the age of 18 will not be allowed into the ARGRA dances. This includes the monthly dances as well as the CRIR Entertainment and dance Friday night, Saturday night dinner and dance, Sunday night awards and dance. All ages are welcome to attend the rodeo Saturday and Sunday. If you look like you may not be 18, then you will need to produce a picture I.D. Thanks for helping us enforce our liquor license obligations.