

M G R A

VOLUME 2, Number 7

July 1987

FROM THE PRESIDENT

MGRA Roundup III is over but definitely not forgotten. A great time was enjoyed by all who attended. We had guests from Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and several from various towns in Missouri, where we are gaining more members and more support. Thanks, Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, Jefferson City, and everywhere else for your support.

Our goal was to provide a weekend of fun and frolic to acquaint everyone with MGRA and who we are. Also this was our major fund raiser to help with our share of the Great Plains Regional Rodeo. This was achieved, thanks to the cooperation of our members, our guests, and all of our friends.

Bob

IGRA CONVENTION

The 2nd Annual IGRA Convention will be held July 10, 11, and 12 in Albuquerque, NM. The convention will be at the La Posada Hotel and hosted by NMGRA. Anyone that would like to attend the activities are welcome. In connection with the convention will be a Country-Western dance contest. Entry fee is \$250.00 per couple with prize monies awarded 1st--\$1,000.00; 2nd--\$750.00; 3rd--\$500.00; and 4th--\$250.00.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Thank you contestants for your support & spirit for Mr., Ms. and Miss MGRA. Congratulations go out to Mr. MGRA-Little Ray; Ms. MGRA-Kay; and Miss MGRA 1987-88-Melissa Leigh; 1st Runner-up--Twmora Mourning; and our own Miss Mae.

I would personally like to thank Michele, Debbie, Shannon, Scott, Sharon B., Vick, Lana Jo, Bruce (the bitch), and Keith. Most of these people are not members and worked their tails off!!

And to Nancy Jordan, thank you for refereeing the volleyball games & Tri-State Olympics. Billy and Dick, we couldn't do it without you!! and for the judges from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri--Our deepest thanks.

We had a hell of a time---To KGRA, OGRA, & TGRA--Come back and let's go for GPRR.

FROM OUR NEW MISS MGRA

Dear Officers and Members of MGRA:

I want very much to just take a few moments to say THANK YOU for a fantastic weekend in Joplin at the Round-up.

The hospitality and warmth of the Association is truly something to be proud of! I know that I am very proud and excited about being Miss Missouri Gay Rodeo. I promise all of you that I'll make you proud of me throughout '87-'88, and anything I can do - just let me know! I'm planning on attending and performing with Fritz Capone, MIGR, in OKC during the Great Plains Regional Rodeo August 14-16. Hope to see all of you there also!

I would like to suggest another function in my home city, Kansas City, in the near future. What do ya say? Let's Do It!

Respectfully yours,
"Melissa Leigh"
Miss Missouri Gay Rodeo

THANKS!! (I think)

This is your parking lot attendant. I would like to thank the people that covered for me at the Roundup, that donated the use of their picnic tables, and a special thanks to Charlie and Bobby. I feel that the weekend was a big success because of the efforts of everybody involved. However, the so-called clean up crew sucked!!! Bonnie

FROM PHIL, YOUR TREASURER

I would like to express my appreciation to all the people who worked behind the scenes to make Roundup III a big success. Too often we forget that special events such as this one take lots of hard work.

I especially want to thank all those people who helped out on my committee. Thanks to Bruce, Carl, Bill, Walt, and Vicky for relieving me at the gate. Thanks also to Lana Jo and "Bake" for keeping me company at the gate when things were slow. Nobody's reputation was safe with the three of us around.

A special thanks to Little Ray for the use of his truck to sell tickets from. It sure wasn't easy on my derriere, but did allow us to move with the shade--a genteel, delicate flower of the South such as I does not expose herself to direct sunlight. Causes freckles don't you know.

My extra, extra special thanks to Frances and R.L. Without their selfless dedication to that oven we called a ticket booth, things would not have run as smoothly as they did. At first, I didn't understand why R.L. thought the window should be lower, but after he showed me the guy in the yellow shorts, I began to comprehend. R.L.--you tramp!!

Again, thanks to a special group of workers/friends who helped an old lady out in her hour of need!! Unlike Blanch DuBois in A Streetcar Names Desire (after whom I have patterned my entire life), I have never had to depend upon the kindness of strangers. Thanks my dear, dear friends. Phil

FROM LITTLE RAY

That's it, come to PaPa. Of course, PaPa is MGRA and what is coming to it, the Tri-State Olympic Trophy, of course. We did it folks, we got it back.

If you missed Sunday at the Roundup III, you missed a day of fun and excitement. It was almost as much fun as Saturday night after the bar closed. No really, our team (MGRA) competed against OGRA and KGRA in the last fight for the trophy. Let me tell you those people put their hearts and a little bit of every other part of their body into it. We had volleyball, and egg race, a sack race, beer chug, dollar-a-dance, and tug-of-war. On the beer chug, I have never seen so many people from Missouri open their throats or yell so loud in my life. When it was all said and done, Missouri ended up on top. Actually everybody was on top and bottom both. Every team won at least one event, and everybody had fun. I want to thank OGRA and KGRA for coming to Joplin and competing. I really was proud of Bridget, Scott, Bruce, Paul, and Walt. You all did good. You won, so I'll be true to my promise (let's see, I think Carl works Tuesday). Just kidding. A big thank you to the people of Joplin and the surrounding community for supporting us.

As your new Mr. MGRA, I will try to make you all proud of me. Thank you. Okay, team, tug-of-war practice at 5:00 so we can practice pulling. Everyone play safe and be careful.

Take care!
Little Ray

TIDBITS FROM CLAUDE

We are heading into the last six months of this MGRA year which means any new members we get need only to pay \$12.00 for the rest of the time remaining. For those of you who may not know it, dues are paid through December 31, 1987, no matter what date you paid.

All the people have been thanked already for the Roundup so all I would like to add is I had fun and hope everyone else did, too. I'm looking forward to OKC.

Deadline for articles for the newsletter is MIDNIGHT, the 25th of each month. To Phil and Bob, thank you for being ahead of time. When I came to work that night, your articles were already in the drawer. Little Ray had to be dragged from a pool game, Bonnie from her beer can, and Sharron (after an 11:47 phone call) came running in at 11:59 and then decided she wasn't done yet!! Got an idea!! Anyone who wants to contribute an article for the newsletter, meet at the bar on the 25th around 8-ish and we'll just write them then. No hassles, no panic, no phone calls, . . . Just a thought!

Our next meeting is Wed., July 8, at 8:00 in Billy Jack's. Since no one has mentioned it yet, all of you have a safe and happy 4th of July. See ya 'round.

Claude Cummings
Corresponding Secretary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

8--MGRA Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Billy Jack's
10-12--IGRA Convention, Albuquerque, NM
25-26--Work Weekend, GPRR, OKCity

AUGUST

8-9--Work Weekend, GPRR, OKCity
12--MGRA Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Billy Jack's
14-16--Great Plains Regional Rodeo, Oklahoma City
22-23--Dan's Campout

SEPTEMBER

9--MGRA Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Billy Jack's
18-20--1st IGRA Finals, San Francisco, CA

OCTOBER

14--MGRA Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Billy Jack's

NOVEMBER

11--MGRA Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Billy Jack's
13-15--TGRA Rodeo, Dallas, TX

DECEMBER

9--MGRA Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Billy Jack's
(1988 Elections)



AUGUST 14-16

BILLY JACK'S BAR

JOPLIN, MISSOURI



"ALWAYS COUNTRY"

720 MAIN

(417) 781-6453

C.G.'s

CHA CHA PALACE

the dance continues...

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Joplin, MO 64801

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