



May/June 2001

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Bighorn

g a z e t t e

DON'T FORGET OUR MEMORIAL WEEKEND SHOW



Saturday - 9:45pm



May 26th

MC/Guest Performer will be Kenny Kerr

Let's get together and party to celebrate the outstanding job NGRA did in the Pride Parade and the Pride Festival. We won a trophy for the Best Noble Try (aka Most Effort) for our Float. And what a grand float she was too.

From Your President

Benjamin Avant

Hi, everyone. I'm excited to write to you this month with an update on all the activities going on within NGRA. As I write this, I'm still recovering from Gay Pride weekend. I'm sure you know that NGRA had a float in the parade on Friday night and we sponsored the NGRA Coors Light Country

Western Dance Tent at the festival grounds on Saturday. First, I have to say thank you to all the members who worked their buns off before, during, and after Pride to make everything a success. The float, the jail, the entertainment, the raffle, the flyers—everything was great and it could not have happened without all of you. Many of our newer members jumped in with both feet and we're very grateful for your help! I was very pleased to see the response we got from the crowd during our line dance lessons and entertainment.

This is by far the best representation NGRA has ever had at Pride. There are still a lot of people who aren't really sure what

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NGRA is all about. We were able to educate them about our activities and let them know that we're active all year long, not just at rodeo time. We even saw a few new faces at Backstreet after Pride of people who wanted to know more about NGRA. Each of our members can be proud of our accomplishment! (Look for more Pride information elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The next activity for NGRA is the dinner and show at the Las Vegas Rainbow Guesthouse on Saturday, May 19. By the time you get this

newsletter, the show will be history, but I hope most of you had a chance to attend. Colin and Gordon have outdone themselves to partner with NGRA for our mutual benefit. We'll have more information at the General Membership Meeting.

Speaking of, we invite all of you to come out on Saturday night, May 26 at 7:15 pm at Backstreet for our monthly meeting. You'll be interested to see what the RPC has to report from their most recent meeting. Also, we'll open nominations for delegates to the IGRA convention, which will be held in Long Beach in July. Lize has asked me to remind you that the last chance to turn in your Member of the Year ballots is at the meeting. We'll have the Member of the Year presentation at the June General Membership Meeting.

The next date to remember is Sunday, June 10. This is the date of the annual NGRA State Convention. (This has been changed from the previously announced date of May 27, so make a note!) As you may know, we are allowed to make changes to our NGRA bylaws only at the annual convention, so it's a pretty important meeting. I encourage each and every member to attend. Look for your convention package in the mail. It will include the exact time and location of the convention, a proxy form in case you are not able to attend, and a copy of the proposed changes that have been received to date. If you have any changes that you'd like to propose, please get them to a board member as soon as possible. You may e-mail them to me at president@ngra.com. Don't worry if you're unsure how to word them in "bylaw" format. Just get the general idea that you'd like to see and we'll take it from there. We look forward to seeing you there!

I guess that's about it for this month. As always, the board is working for you, so if you have comments, ideas, or suggestions, please contact any one of us. We're excited about the future of NGRA and we look forward to working with all of you this year.

From Your Vice-President

Lize MacDonald

Lize asked me to write a few things on her behalf. She is going to the Utah Rodeo next weekend, and then up to Calgary for the Canadian Rockies rodeo... so will report on, at least, Utah in the next newsletter. She has been very busy and apologizes for missing this letter.

From Your Secretary

Guy Puglisi

Greetings members! The last month has been a very busy and productive month for many of us and many other organizations in the community. I hope that all of you had a chance to join us at the Pride Parade and Festival on May 11-12th. We all had a lot of fun, but I am happy to say we can all rest for awhile before the planning starts again for next year's event.

I am so grateful for all the people that participated in the planning stages of the pride events this year and I hope that more of you decide to get involved in the future. I also hope to see more partnering with other organizations because together we can all accomplish great things. Many people do not realize the efforts that go into planning an event such as pride or a rodeo. The amount of work involved is tremendous and many do not realize that if more people

got involved, everyone could do a little instead of a few people doing everything. I hope everyone realizes that any help is always appreciated in any volunteer organization such as our own.

In an effort to drive up our membership, Laura Scott and I threw Paint the Town Pucker shirts donated by De Kuyper/Jim Beam Company with membership applications enclosed in them at the Pride Parade. I hope to see more people become members of NGRA so that we will have a stronger foundation when it is time for us to put on BigHorn Rodeo 2002. I feel that NGRA has been doing many great things and many different things and the more involved we become with the community, the more support we will gain by increased membership and reciprocal involvement from others.

I will be attending the UGRA rodeo in Salt Lake City the first weekend in June and hope to see some of

you there.

From Your PR Director

Gary Mendyka

What a month May has been. The Stepping Out with Pride Pre-show at Backstreet was very entertaining. We had a lot of live singers,

Pride Parade was a hit, I was so proud of our float, you guys did a great job. I helped decorate the float, then walked behind the float all the way to Fremont Street from Charleston. We had Cae Andrews and Omega One on the float to entertain us. People just loved it.

Pride Festival was another great day of showing the community what's NGRA is all about. The day was going along just fine, than it got a little windy. Then Dorothy came thru and almost blew away

everything. We survived it okay. Our entertainment was super and a lot of people took membership applications.

We will be voting for the **Member of the Year** at the next membership meeting so don't forget to bring your ballot.

Anyone having pictures of the NGRA float at the parade or at the pride tent on Saturday, please talk to Brian Rogers so we can put them on the website (792-3786) or (bhr9@email.msn.com).

Enclose in the newsletter packet is your new membership card, so please look for it and don't throw the envelope away until you do.

Anyone interested in going to Golden Rainbow this year, please call or e-mail Alan Huss (395-6906) (EVPG@aol.com). Lets get a group of people together again like last year.

If anyone, or if you know of anybody who wants to advertise in our newsletter, here are the prices:

Newsletter Ad Rates

Size	Annual	Monthly
Full Page	\$500	\$50
Half Page	\$350	\$35
Third Page	\$250	\$25
Fourth Page	\$175	\$17.50
Eighth Page	\$100	\$10
(Business Card)		

Also note NGRA has a new P.O. Box/Address.

NGRA
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If you have any suggestions, ideas or even an article for the new newsletter, please let me know.
NGRAGARY@aol.com

Member News

June Birthdays

- ◆ Richard Armstrong
- ◆ Kip Kipilla
- ◆ Brad Bradley
- ◆ Alan Huss

We would like to congratulate our May Member of the Month

Tracy King
A.K.A. - Raven Diamond Knight

Raven is always there for NGRA; she puts in 100% in her performances and helps out with our staff. NGRA would like to congratulate her for all her time



From Your Fund Raising Director

Don Phillips

Now that the pride event is over we can really focus on our fundraising activities. We had the first Fund Raising Committee meeting at my house this month and were able to successfully put together a long list of ideas for future shows. We were able to plan out the next 3 months shows and events. Overall I was very excited with the turnout and input everyone had.

We are looking to put on new shows with new people and great new fundraising ideas! We have listed the shows and dates along with decorating dates and times on the web site. Please visit the site to keep up with all the events dates and times.

One of our goals is to put together a list of contacts for performers that are interested in participating in any of our shows. This list of contacts would be used for planning upcoming shows and events. Any of you that are interested, please send your info to me, Don Phillips, at MrNGRA2001@aol.com I would like to have name, phone number, address, and special interest for shows. I would like to have a brief bio from everyone if possible to keep on file for future shows.

I look forward to seeing you all out at our shows the second and forth Saturdays of the month at Backstreet.

Pride Committee Update

Don Phillips

Hello to all.

I'm happy to say that Pride is finally over!!!! Those of you that participated in putting together the events at pride know how much time and effort went into all the activities.

I would like to say thanks to a long list of individuals--without them we could not have completed everything on time.

First, thanks to the committee for being small but powerful! To Guy Puglisi for his dedication to organization and leadership. To Laurie Banks for her time and endless support of ideas and feedback! To Liz McDonald for being there when her work life was so crazy! To Gary Mendyka for his unique creativity, and all those that supported us by simply attending some of our meetings to hear what was going on. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Next I'd like to thank all those volunteers that helped assemble the float, build the jail, and work the tent for pride: Lance Coss, Liz McDonald, Benjamin Avant, Laurie Banks, Laura Scott, Julie Gallai, Joanna Bacon, David Murie, and Brian Rogers thanks for your help on building the float. This group of people together donated over 107 hours stuffing over 22,000 sheets of tissue paper. Thanks for your endless support.

Thanks to Maria Trillo, Laurie Banks, Laura Scott, Todd Jensen, Josh Bower, Benjamin Avant, David Murie, Johann Kristinsson, Joanna Bacon, Amanda Hazelbrook, Dane Bathea, Scott Tickler, Gary Mendyka, Lance Coss, Liz McDonald, and Tom Coleman for all the time they gave at the tent. These people assisted in putting together running and tearing down of the tent and jail cell. As the sun rose and fell on the day these people all were available to help put our organization in front of many people from our community.

Special thanks to Mike Brent and Jerry Griffin for their time and donation of sound equipment. These men really had their hands full with the winds, band, and performers. Thanks so much guys!

A special thanks to Omega 1 and their entertainers for giving us 110%. What a great talented group of people. The professionalism they displayed and the talent they provided far exceeded any of my expectations. Thank you and I look forward to working with you again!

And of course we can't forget the special talents of Scott Tickler AKA Victoria London Miss IGRA. Without him, acquiring my hangover would not have been so much fun!

After all is said and done I was extremely pleased with all of our members and the time they provided. Whether they gave us one hour or one day, their time is greatly appreciated.

Message From Miss Closet Ball 2001

Guy Puglisi a.k.a. Jasmine

I hope that all of you are well and well rested after such a busy, busy month. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that helped make our event at pride this year such a success. Even **Jasmine** did her share helping to stuff the thousands of bags at **The Center**; which were given away on the day of the festival.

Thank you to **DeKuyper**, who provided us with the t-shirts and flashlights to give away at the parade. I would like to thank **Miss Victoria London (Miss IGRA 2001)** and **Doug Stevens and the Outband**, for providing entertainment and **Dane**, for instructing the dance lessons in the

dance tent also to **Michael Brent** and **Jerry Griffin** for providing the music and sound equipment. I was very impressed with the way things turned out and was glad to see that we had so many different activities going on in the dance tent to keep the day moving along. And finally a very special thank you to **Coors Light** for their financial sponsorship that made the entire event possible.

I also express my gratitude to those who put countless hours into building the NGRA Jailhouse (especially **Bob Bellis**, Vice President of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center); without his craftiness, we might still be building that thing! A lot of fun was had by all of us; it reminded us of those episodes of *Three's Company*; you know the ones with all the innocent innuendoes (stick it in, push, do it harder, pull it out.) Last, but not least, I want to thank **Charles Wilson** from **Gundaker Wardley GMAC Real Estate** for all of his help transporting the jail, tables, and chairs to and from the pride event. If you are looking to buy or sell property, Charles will donate \$500.00 to the non-profit organization of your choice after escrow closes. This is another way you can help the community, even NGRA if you so desire.

Rumor has it that **Miss Closet Ball 2001** will be making a special appearance at the Mr./Miss Firecracker pageant to be held by the **Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire** on June 30, 2001. It will be her first appearance since her lip reduction procedure. So maybe she will see you there! May you all be blessed with good health and happiness, farewell for now.



Laurie's Corner

Laurie Banks

As one who has been around NGRA a few years I'd like to take this time to say welcome to the new Board of Directors, Royalty Team and Rodeo Director. Those of us who have worked long and hard to improve and make NGRA the best in IGRA and best organization in Las Vegas should watch the excitement and enthusiasm that this new group is bring to our organization. No, we are not all going to agree with their methods and ideas but we should appreciate the renewed passion that is being generated and support and help it anyway we can. I don't just speak just of the retired leaders but of all the members. There is many things that you can do to help the group, i.e. offer to take flyers to the bar or gay organization or place of business that you go to, offer to work the spotlight, clean up after a show, attend the shows, when you attend other groups talk about NGRA with eagerness, get involved with some of the smaller committees such as the NGRA Pride committee, support the causes that we donate to such as the candy for the Easter Baskets we donated to the Las Vegas community, the AIDS walk, Golden Rainbow, Pedregal House (they always need yard work done and NGRA has done a lot of this), support other groups such as The Court when they do shows, the list is endless. The point being it does not have to be a full time volunteer thing a one time or once in awhile offer is what can help build the organization. Don't wait for someone to come to you, they may not know what talent you can offer, **get involved**. We need a full time photographer that can give the

web master a CD disk the night or day of any event so they can go right on line. How about going to the Fund Raising coordinator (Don Phillips) and ask if he needs help in areas such as decorating for a show or doing the line ups. If where you work or you know of a business that would donate something, anything, such as show tickets, dinners, souvenirs (can be items with their business names on them), country western items such as statues, key chains and so on ask them to help us. These can be used at the PRIDE tent for our balloon raffle or as give always at our shows. A little at a time adds up to a lot. If you belong to another group be sure and give the dates of their activities and special events to Gary Mendyka so he can add them to our newsletter.

This is an exciting time we, out of necessity, took a year off from producing a rodeo and now is time (one year away) to produce another one as only Las Vegas can. This will take a lot of work and support from everyone in the organization not only monetary support but support in the details of putting a rodeo together. The RPC committee will be looking for volunteer committee chairpersons or just volunteers to work on various committees. Laura Scott has been working extremely hard with her negotiations at Horseman's Park for a new date for our rodeo. She has found an alternate location but Horseman's is the venue of choice if we can get a good date. We have visited the Vacation Village to look at it, as a site for the host hotel, and believe me it looks good. It is small, intimate, country western theme, large public venues and the rooms are adequate. There are many benefits being offered by them that we never have had at any other site. It is electrifying to see the dedication of the few people that have been attending the RPC meetings. Good things are



happening and when anyone asks you when are we going to have another rodeo you can tell them with certainty that it will be about a year from this April.

Lest we forget, **kudos** go to everyone that has served on the past Board of Directors, the past Royalty teams, the past RPC Directors, coordinators and volunteers, people who have supported such projects as painting the Golden Rainbow apartments, putting in the yard at Pedregal House, being always the largest single nonprofit group to attend the Golden Rainbow shows for many years, supported all the AIDS walks, supported all our booths at PRIDE, attended all the IGRA conventions as representatives, helped us put on our own IGRA convention, attended and spoke out at the NGRA conventions each year, supported and put on the last five rodeos, supported all the rodeos in other IGRA organizations, organized and put on production shows, designed and built stage sets and decorations, gathered up items for raffle baskets, fed us free snacks at shows, and not least of all performed in our many shows over the past years. If it were not for these people NGRA would not be where we are at now. Many, many hours of hard work and a lot of time and money has been donated by these pioneering souls. We still need them to help support the new regime and I for one will be there to help. The people that have kept this organization the viable group that it is today and they deserve our thanks and gratitude. Thanks everyone and from me my heartfelt love I'm proud to be an active member.

Rodeo Directors' Corner

Laura Scott

As you know the RPC meeting for May was to be an exciting one. We were going to choose the design for BigHorn 2002. We had 14 entries for the rodeo poster and 3 for the dance poster. This was the most that we have ever had and we were all pretty excited about it. I would like to thank everyone who submitted a design, they were all wonderful and the choosing of the design was not an easy thing to do. It ended up coming down to two submissions done by the same man. He was a new member as of that night. After much discussion the committee made its choice. So congratulations to Bill Watkins our newest member and design poster winner, and also to Tom Coleman who designed our dance poster. The final work on these should be completed soon and Brian will have them on the web page. And now for the news everybody has been waiting for. I feel like I should be hearing a drum roll.

**BIGHORN RODEO
APRIL 5TH 6TH AND 7TH 2002**

Yes, folks it finally happened. After many phone calls and talks with Clark County and the officers of 3 different groups that also hold events at Horsemen's Park we have our date. Now the fun begins and I would love to see all of you be a part of this fun. So come on out to the RPC meetings every 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 at Backstreet. We look forward to your ideas and in the next couple months we are going to start picking committee heads. Come be a part of one of the biggest and finest rodeo's NGRA has ever put on.

Laura - Rodeodir2002@aol.com

Rodeo Stuff

Howdy!

The Bay Area Chapter of the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association would like to invite you to our rodeo in San Jose, Friday, June 15 through Sunday, June 17. You know you deserve a break in the warm California sun, so make plans now to come on out and join us at the best little rodeo in Northern California, and don't forget our super pool parties as well. Below are some details for the weekend, but all the information you need can also be found at our website, WWW.GSGRA.ORG/BAC

Schedule:

Friday - June 15
Boots n Suits Pool Party
Registration
Kick-off Dance

Saturday - June 16
Rodeo Rodeo Rodeo
Pool Party
Buckin Ball Dance

Sunday - June 17
Rodeo and more Rodeo
Awards Ceremony and Happy Trails Show

Hotel Info

Airport Hyatt - San Jose
1-888-975-1234 or 1-408-993-1234 - Ask for RODEO 2001 rate

Need Travel Help?

Contact our official rodeo travel agent, Rainbow Travel on the web at <http://www.rainbowtraveler.com/> or 800-595-0881 or 408-246-1414

Be sure and mention you're coming to the rodeo for special discounts on airfare.

Special Item

We've got a shuttle between the hotel and the fairgrounds - so don't

sweat flying in and being stranded - the BAC has got ya covered!

Come on out, we'll show ya the way to San Jose and how to have a heck of a good weekend.

Thanks from the members and volunteers of the 10th Annual Bay Area Rodeo.

Silly Stuff

TOP 25 COUNTRY SONGS

- 25. Get Your Tongue Outta My Mouth 'Cause I'm Kissing You Goodbye.
- 24. Her Teeth Was Stained, But Her Heart Were Pure.
- 23. How Can I Miss You If You Won't Go Away?
- 22. I Don't Know Whether To Kill Myself Or Go Bowling.
- 21. I Just Bought A Car From A Guy That Stole My Girl, But The Car Don't Run, So I Figure We're Even.
- 20. I Keep Forgettin' I Forgot About You.
- 19. I Liked You Better Before I Knew You So Well.
- 18. I Still Miss You, Baby, But My Aim's Gettin' Better.
- 17. I Wouldn't Take Her To A Dog Fight, Cause I'm Afraid She'd Win.

16. I'll Marry You Tomorrow But Let's Honeymoon Tonight.

15. I'm So Miserable Without You; It's Like Having You Here

14. I've Got Tears In My Ears From Lyin' On My Back and Cryin' Over You.

13. If I Can't Be Number One In Your Life, Then Number Two On You.

12. If I Had Shot You When I Wanted To, I'd Be Out By Now.

11. Mama Get A Hammer (There's A Fly On Papa's Head).

10. My Head Hurts, My Feet Stink, And I Don't Love You.

9. My Wife Ran Off With My Best Friend And I Sure Do Miss Him.

8. Please Bypass This Heart.

7. She Got The Ring And I Got The Finger.

6. You Done Tore Out My Heart And Stomped That Sucker Flat.

5. You're The Reason Our Kids Are So Ugly.

4. If the Phone Don't Ring, You'll Know It's Me.

3. She's Actin' Single and I'm Drinkin' Doubles.

2. She's Looking Better After Every Beer.

And the Number 1 Country and Western song of all Time is...

1. I Haven't Gone To Bed With Any Ugly Women But I've Sure Woke Up With A Few!

JUST A REMINDER

OUR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETS THE 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (UNLESS CHANGED FOR HOLIDAYS OR EVENTS), AT BACKSTREET.

FUNDRAISING MEETS THE 1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

WE HAVE FUNDRAISING EVENTS THE 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT BACKSTREET.

THE BOARD MEETS THE SUNDAY PRIOR TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP EACH MONTH AND THE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP.

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN AND YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

***Shepler's Western Wear* is giving all NGRA Members a 10% Discount. Please check this out.**



Calendar of Events

- May 26, Saturday** ***“General Membership Meeting and Memorial Week-end Show”***
at Backstreet. Showtime 9:45pm.
- June 9, Saturday** ***Salsa ‘n’ Spurs – Latino Night Show”*** at Backstreet. Showtime
9:45pm.
- June 9, Saturday** ***Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire Show at the
Cobalt” – Hosted by Moka*** - Showtime 9:45pm in the Commercial
Center area.
- June 10, Sunday** ***NGRA Convention – Vacation Village*** – 11:00am “Elvis Room”
- June 17, Sunday** ***Golden Rainbow*** – For tickets call Alan Huss (395-6906)
- June 23, Saturday** ***“General Membership Meeting” – “A Night at the Grand Ole
Opry” Show*** at Backstreet. Showtime 9:45pm.
- June 30, Saturday** ***“Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire”
“Mr./Miss Firecracker Pageant”*** at Cobalt.

NEWSLETTER MAILING: Some of our members prefer to receive one newsletter per household. This helps save money for our organization. If you'd like to combine two or more members in one mailing, contact **Gary Mendyka** (nragary@aol.com).