



Big Horn Gazette

FEBRUARY 2006 ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brian Rogers

2006 started out great for NGRA. Our fundraising events were successful and we are fortunate now to have two venues for events. This will be my briefest report as I am consumed with the minutia of planning for IGRA University, which we are hosting at the Plaza, February 17-19.

Planning is coming along well for this event. So far we have 11 NGRA members signed up to take classes on Association Development, Rodeo Arts, and Community Service. This should bring great dividends to the organization.

We are still in need of a van for transporting IGRA students to the Vegas Sands Ranch for Royalty Horsemanship 101 on Friday afternoon and Arena Crew training on Sunday afternoon. If you have any ideas or if you can volunteer during the weekend, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Dick Casola, at volunteers@ngra.com.

As many of you know, The Center is moving and will be going through transition during the next couple of months. Starting in February all NGRA meetings will take place at The Legal Support Group located at 2801 South Valley View near Desert Inn. I'd like to thank Teri Rogers, Vice-President of TLSG, for her donation of the space and her continued support of NGRA. TLSG has offered technical and logistical support for

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Contestant Results From Phoenix Rodeo

Chris Due

The Road Runner Regional Rodeo in Phoenix, Arizona, kicked off the 2006 rodeo year with a bang! The rodeo was held at the new "Rawhide" on January 14th and 15th, and true to form, NGRA was there to take home some points. In a rodeo where some of the toughest competitors come out to compete, Richard Armstrong of NGRA let them know he can compete with the best of them. Richard Armstrong, the IGRA Finals Flag Racing Champion back to back in 1999 and 2000, added another flag racing buckle to his collection. A last minute decision to borrow Cathi Bianchi's (GSGRA) horse Buster, paid off. Richard placed 2nd on both days of the rodeo, but with times fast enough in the end to take home the top prize. In Barrel Racing on Saturday, Richard and his powerhouse horse, Cash, took 4th and on Sunday moved up a spot to 3rd, giving him an over all of second... almost winning another buckle. In Pole Bending on Saturday, Richard once again was someone to watch. Using his barrel horse Cash, who has never run the pole pattern in competition before, turned in a time good enough for 6th place, and came back on Sunday and moved up the board three spaces to 3rd, with an overall placing of 5th. All in all, NGRA ended up with 230 points and placed 9th out of the 15 organizations receiving points at the rodeo. Congratulations!



CELEBRATE NGRA MEMBERS' FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Michael Steele	February 1
Kirtus Veater	February 3
Chris Hunter	February 9
Johnnie Lingo	February 14
Michael Simonelli	February 15
Gerry Gomez	February 20
Robert Salcedo	February 20
Dale Tims	February 23

Member of the Year

Ballots are being prepared for the selection of the NGRA Member of the Year for 2005. Watch your mailboxes for the ballot and make sure to return it by February 28 in order to show your support for those who contributed significantly to NGRA last year.

continues from page one

IGRA University as well.

Finally, speaking as Rodeo Director, I am very happy to announce that The Center has been selected as sole beneficiary of the net proceeds from our 10th Anniversary BigHorn Rodeo. The Center is the preeminent local organization supporting the community and NGRA is proud to recognize and support this fine organization. In keeping with "The Year of The Center" for NGRA, Candice Nichols, Executive Director, and Joshua Montgomery, HIV Prevention Coordinator and Mr. Las Vegas Leather, have been selected as our Grand Marshals for 2006.

The membership committee will be releasing the results of the membership survey soon. If you haven't mailed yours in, please do so soon. If you need a copy of the survey, please contact Winsor Cooper at ngravolunteers@aol.com. (note similarity to Dick's address).

See you around the ranch. Until then,

Save a horse...

Membership Committee Report

Winsor Cooper & David Murie

Hi, everyone.

This is Winsor and Dave from the Membership Committee. We just wanted to let everyone know that even if you missed the January 31 deadline, you still have until February 28 to renew your memberships with a \$10 late fee...still cheaper than a new membership with another \$20 initiation fee.

Thanks to everyone who sent back their membership surveys...if you did not send them back, please reconsider...we will be using the results to better NGRA.

Membership renewals can be filled out online or to request a membership form to be mailed to you, please call our membership hotline at 515-1093. They can also be returned via fax to 515-1094 or scanned and e mailed to ngravolunteers@aol.com.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks for your help.

Trustee Report

Lorry King

I had quite a weekend in Phoenix January 13-17! Friday night I was the Auditor for AGRA's Royalty competition. All candidates were excellent and I hope we can invite them to entertain us in Las Vegas. Then over the course of the weekend, I attended six Trustees' meetings! I was talked out by Monday night (well, almost!)! Unfortunately, due to the rising cost of insurance and the loss of International Bud Light money, we will have to contribute to the 2006 insurance policy. However, the cost is being spread out among all associations, so our share will only be about \$384.00, which is a bargain for putting on the type of event we have. IGRA has again signed a contract with HERO Unit to film rodeos and if we are filmed, NGRA will receive \$1,000.00. In addition, the 2007 contestant fund and the IGRA General Fund will each receive \$2,000.00 for each rodeo filmed. For those of you thinking about becoming a rodeo contestant, Palm Springs will be holding a rodeo school Saturday, March 11.

The Phoenix Rodeo was very well attended by NGRA folks. We had at least 10 members marching in Grand Entry behind our banner and several more were in the stands cheering us on. Chris Due presented the Women's Mounted Breakaway Buckle that NGRA sponsored at Awards Sunday night to Christy Cotton from California.

Don't forget that February 17-19 is IGRA University at the Plaza Hotel in Downtown Las Vegas. Volunteers are still needed and there are many great classes available for our members to attend.

NGRA MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

**KEN
WELLS**

JANUARY

**DAVID
MURIE**

Congratulations to Ken Wells and David Murie who were selected by the membership at the January meeting as Members of the Month. They were responsible for putting together the very successful Wild 'n' Wooley Wodeo event at Charlie's Las Vegas on very short notice. Everyone there had a lot of fun and it created great exposure for NGRA. **Great job guys!**

Royalty Team Report

Melissa and the 2006 NGRA Royalty Team

Wow- another high powered month for the Royalty Team this month as Joe and I hit the first Rodeo of the New Year in Phoenix at the Road Runner Regional Rodeo January 13-16. We sold over 600 tickets just on our Sunday shift- contributing to a hugely successful weekend for Phoenix. We were even interviewed by the local Phoenix paper and the Associate press where we proudly announced our new Bighorn Rodeo dates for this year.

We also performed at the newly remodeled Charlie's Phoenix which helped contribute to the amazing grand opening of Charlie's Las Vegas on the January 21st. Melissa, Joe, Cookie, Ken and Terry were on hand early at the "standing room only" event that further solidified Charlie's Las Vegas as a huge supporter of Nevada Gay Rodeo. Joe and I also hosted Pussy Le-Hoot- Miss IGRA 2005 and Ebony- Miss National Gay Rodeo 1982 who were a huge hit at Charlie's and volunteered their talents for our rodeo in October.

On January 20th, I represented NGRA at the IRSCDE Investitures at Suede where the Court distributed over \$60,000 to the community that was raised during 2005. The Court is a sincerely appreciated supporter of NGRA- thank you for all your hard work. Cookie, Ken and Blanche were also on hand to perform and lend their talents for the new Royalty to start their year.

If you haven't already heard- the NGRA Country Fair at Badlands on the 28th was a HUGE success!!! The cake walk, cow chip tossing and arm wrestling competition had people lined up to participate and everyone is still talking about the decadent treats that were raffled and auctioned away. It was a packed housed until well past midnight and I'm sure the start of the "Saturday to be at" at Badlands every 4th Saturday of the month.

Don't miss next month when our Board of Directors will have the tables turned on them and be the feature entertainment on February 25th for a night of surprises and craziness.

Also, get to Badlands early on February 11th for Melissa and Joe's "Valentine's Disco Bash". Just about every community organization in town is getting together for spectacular party and show to benefit the Center of Las Vegas. The IRSCDE, the Winged Dragon Society, the League of Gentlemen, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and of course, NGRA will be entertaining you all evening "Disco Style" with fabulous prizes and entertainment so good we can't even advertise it!

All our love!

**Pictures taken at
Wild N' Wooley
Wodeo at
Charlies'
Las Vegas**

*more on page 9
photos taken by Paul Scott*



OPEN LETTER FROM THE CENTER

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada has made its home in Las Vegas for more than a decade. We are honored to provide a safe haven for education, services and advocacy for the LGBT community and aspire to remain an asset to our community for many years to come.

The staff and board of directors of The Center would like to thank you for your ongoing support over the years and once again reach out for your support as we approach a new year. It is with bittersweet feelings that we announce our upcoming move from our current home to a new location.

Over the past few months, several of the office spaces within Commercial Center have been sold. Our space is currently in the process of being sold, although a closing date is not known. In anticipation of this sale and the plans for redevelopment that will accompany it, we plan to move to a new location by March of 2006.

Our first priority in this transition is to ensure continuity for the LGBT community. We will continue to offer the services, workshops, and meeting spaces that have made us your Center. We value our community members and allies, and our goal is to make this transition a smooth one. We know that you can help make this happen.

Now is the time to continue your irreplaceable support of The Center. There are many ways you can help. Please give of your time, skills, and/or financial support as we prepare to make this move. If you know of an available space for lease, let us know. If you can pack or unpack boxes, we need you. If you can haul boxes, we need you. If you can paint, nail, or spackle, we need you. If you can write a check to make any of these things happen, we need you too!

Please use the form below to make a pledge or donation of time or money. Once again, thank you for your continued support of your LGBT Community Center. As always, we welcome suggestions from the community to help launch us into the new year.

Sincerely,
The Staff and Board of Directors of The Center



Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada We're Moving Campaign – Pledge Form

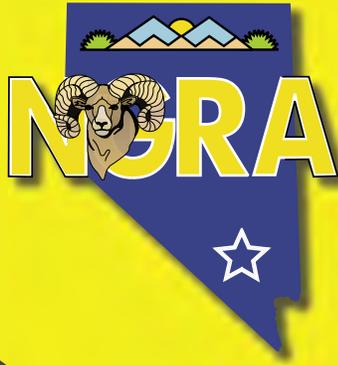
- Yes! I can give of my time. Please contact me.
- Yes! I can donate equipment/skills/materials. (Please specify) _____ Please contact me.
- Yes! I can donate financially. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$_____.
- Other _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

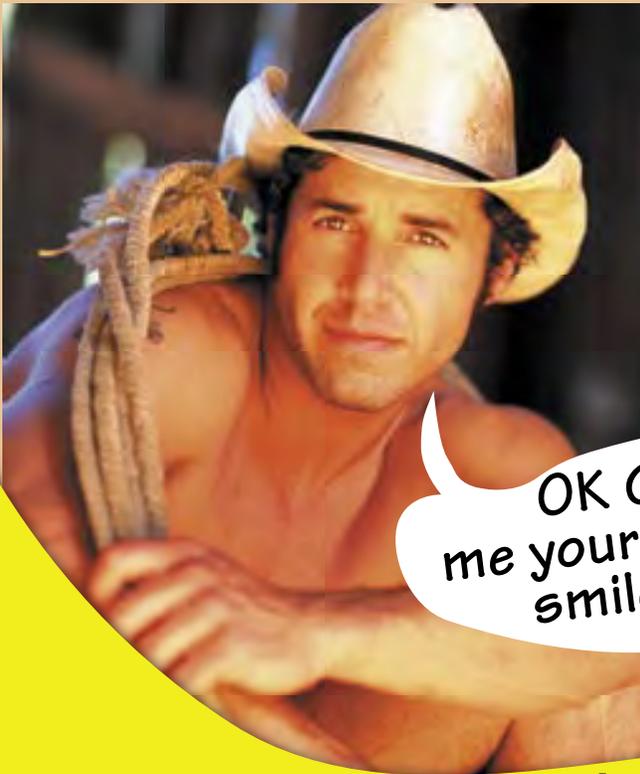
Please return completed form to The Center
953 E. Sahara Ave. Suite B-25
Las Vegas, NV 89104
Phone 702-733-9800
Fax 702-733-9075



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 3rd ANNUAL SHOW

Saturday • February 25th

BADLANDS



Show starts at 9:45 following the General Membership Meeting

If you have never seen this show, here's your chance to see some very memorable performances. This is one time where Board Members who are not so inclined to perform have an opportunity to show their talents.

NOT!

OK Guys - show me your stuff and put a smile on my face.

50/50 RAFFLE

\$1 JELL - 0 SHOTS

\$5.00 BUD LIGHT BEER BUST Starts at 9:00.

Proceeds Benefit BigHorn Rodeo



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Join the Fundraising Team of NGRA 7:00 PM The Legal Support Group 2801 S. Valley View	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Valentine Disco Bash at Badlands
12	13 NGRA Rodeo Planning Committee 6:30 PM The Legal Support Group 2801 S. Valley View	14	15	16	17 IGRA UNIVERSITY Night on the Town with NGRA	18 IGRA UNIVERSITY
19 IGRA UNIVERSITY	20 NGRA Board of Director Meeting 6:30 PM The Legal Support Group 2801 S. Valley View	21	22	23	24	25 NGRA General Membership Meeting 8:00 PM The Legal Support Group 2801 S. Valley View NGRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AT BADLANDS
26	27	28				

IT'S HOLY COW!!

NGRA'S ANNUAL COW PATTY CONTEST



FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH AT

Charlie's
Las Vegas

EVENT STARTS AT 10:00

\$5.00 BUD LIGHT BEER BUST STARTS AT 9:00

This competition is open to everyone. It is a fun camp drag event where persons dress up and perform to a fun, silly or even serious songs. Judging will cover talent (performance) Sunday Best (evening wear) and Cow Patty-ness! The winner is CROWNED as Miss Cow Patty and prize money is awarded.

**RAFFLE PRIZES
CELEBRITY
JUDGES**

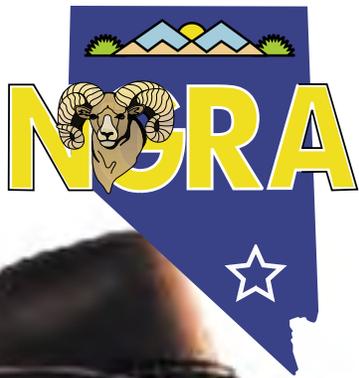
**\$100
IN PRIZE
MONEY WILL
BE AWARDED**



**If you're interested in being a Miss Cow Patty Contestant
please contact Chris Due at
<http://www.ngra.com> or MrNGRA2005@aol.com**

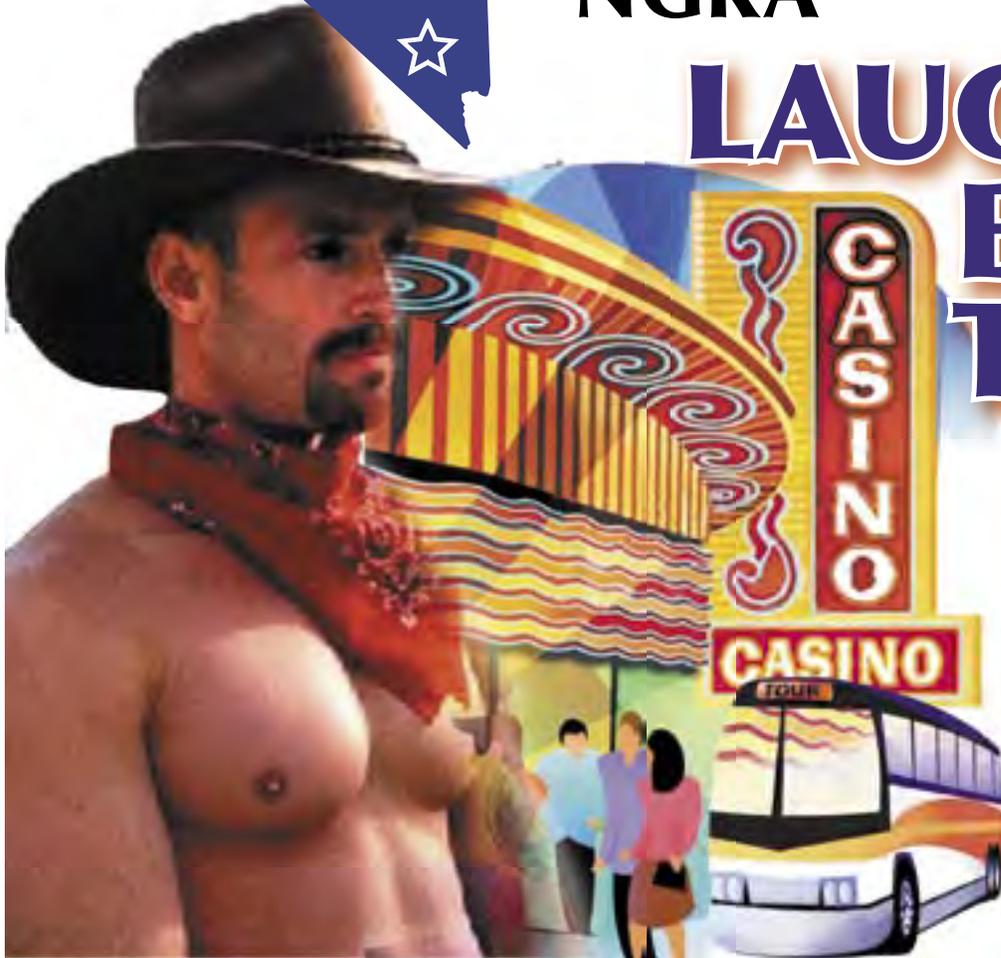
Proceeds from the raffle and beer bust benefit





Experience the fun of an
NGRA

LAUGHLIN BUS TRIP



A full day of amusement, friendship and games. A Free Buffet at the Casino plus take a trip along the river or go to the Lariat Bar to meet and see what the locals have to offer. You just never know what in store.

SUNDAY • MARCH 19TH
BUS LEAVES BADLANDS • 10:00 A.M.
\$15.00 PER PERSON INCLUDES BUS DRIVER GRATUITY

Here's your chance to get away for the day and have some fun along the way.

WIN
your luck at
BINGO

Tickets are on sale at these locations:
Badlands, Snicks, Spotlight

We return to Badlands from a fun filled day at around 8:00 P.M.

BEVERAGES AND JELL-O SHOT
may be purchased aboard the bus

Great Raffle Prizes

Proceeds Benefit NGRA



**The Ribbon
Winners of
Wild N'
Wooley
Wordo**



Country Fair at Badlands

A great crowd of spectators as they watch the Arm Wrestling and the Cow Patty Toss





I.G.R.A. RODEO/EVENT SCHEDULE RODEO YEAR 2006

**JANUARY 1, 2006 –
DECEMBER 31, 2006**

**For more detail information
on these events you may go to**

http://igra.com/Calendar_Rodeo.htm#top2006

EVENT	LOCATION	DATES
IGRA University	Las Vegas, NV	February 17 - 19, 2006
Cowtown Rodeo	Fort Worth, TX	March 3 -5, 2006
Sunshine Stampede	Fort Lauderdale, FL	April 7 - 9, 2006
Rodeo in the Rock	Little Rock, AK	April 28 -30, 2006
San Diegp Rodeo	Lakeside, CA	April 28 -30, 2006
Gateway Regional Rodeo	St. Louis, MO	May 5 - 7, 2006
Heartland Rodeo	Omaha, NB	May 19 -21, 2006
Great Plains Rodeo	Oklahoma City, OK	May 26 - 28, 2006
North Star Regional Rodeo	Minneapolis- St. Paul	June 30- July 2, 2006
Canadian Rockies International	Calgary, Alberta	June 30 -July 2, 2006
Rocky Montain Regional	Denver, Colorado	July 7 - 9, 2006
Alamo City Rodeo	San Antonio, TX	August 4 - 6, 2006
LA Rodeo	Los Angeles, CA	August 4 - 6, 2006
Zia Regional Rodeo	Albuquerque, NM	August 18 - 20, 2006
Windy City Rodeo	Chicago, IL	August 25 - 27, 2006
MGRA Show Me State Rodeo	Kansas City, MO.	September 7 - 3, 2006
Atlantic Sampede 2006	Washington, DC	September 8 - 10,2006
Bay Area Gay Rodeo	San Francisco, CA	September 15 -18, 2006
BigHorn Rodeo	Las Vegas, NV	October 6 - 8,2006
IGRA Annual Convention	Nashville, TN	October 19 - 22, 2006
IGRA International Dance Competition	Nashville, TN	October 19 - 22, 2006
IGRA Finals Rodeo	Reno, NV	November 10 -12, 2006

NGRA Association Buckle

Jewelry Quality Rodeo Buckle
Crafted by GIST Silversmiths,
makers of the finest rodeo award
buckles in the world



These beautiful buckles are
available for the purchase price of

\$120

call the rodeo hotline at
888-643 NGRA
702-615-6261 or
you can also buy online.
www.ngra.com

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