



In this issue... BigHorn 14 Poster Revealed,
“Life’s A Beach” Photo Page, and so much more !

Email any submissions, photos, etc to: BigHornEditor@ngra.com



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello fellow NGRA Members! We are officially in the Summer Season, along with that comes Rodeo Season in full swing. It has been great to hear all the feedback from fellow members that have attended and help out with other association’s rodeos.

With that I thank you, as it is nice to show our support with the other organizations. Speaking of Rodeo, while we are not producing BigHorn Rodeo this year, as we are focusing on Finals out at the Avi Resort in Laughlin, be sure to stay tuned as to what is in store for BigHorn Rodeo 14 2011.

I am pleased to announce that the Board approved a date consolidation for our meetings. With that being said the Board of Directors Meeting will now take place on the 3rd Monday of each month starting at 6:30 p.m. at The Center, starting on July 19th with the General Membership meeting immediately following. The second Monday of the month starting with July 12th will be the fundraising meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. at the center.

Be sure to check out the calendar section along with our website for our NGRA events along with other events being held by our Royalty Team Kimberli Foxx and JD Jensen, DeShannon, and other community events.

Don’t forget that NGRA’s state convention will be held on Sunday, July 18th. This is the one time a year that we can make changes to our bylaws. Everyone is invited and I hope to see you all there.

David Blackwood

Congratulations to: Ken Wells for winning the “Guest the Butt Contest”.

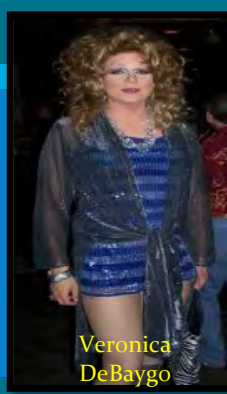
The butt belongs to our one and only Douglas Graff.



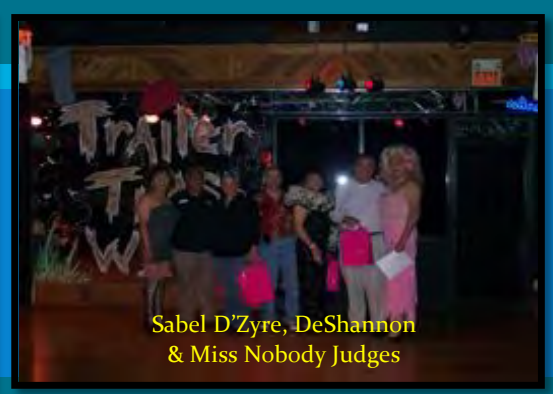
Mormonizer



DeShannon



Veronica DeBaygo



Sabel D'Zyre, DeShannon & Miss Nobody Judges

FROM THE EDITOR:

6 issues of the BigHorn Gazette later and it looks as if most of you really like the new NGRA BigHorn Gazette Newsletter. I know we can't please everyone, but that's where your feedback as readers and NGRA members comes in to play. Please let me know how we can make **YOUR** newsletter bigger and better. I am always open to all suggestions, ideas, and, yes, even criticisms. That is how growth is achieved. All submissions are always welcomed as are your ideas for new features. Thank you.

You can always email me at: BigHornEditor@ngra.com at any time! Thank you!

-JOEL CASTILLO
BIGHORN GAZETTE EDITOR

2010 NGRA Trustee Election

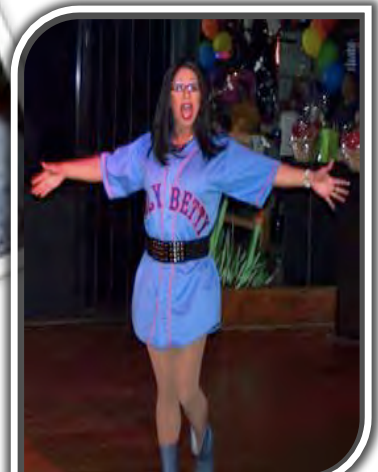
NGRA will be holding an election for the office of Trustee. The office of Trustee is a three-year term to begin on January 1, 2011.

For more information regarding the responsibilities of the position, please see the Trustee's article included in this issue of the newsletter.

Interested parties should contact our Election Chairperson, David Hering at elections@ngra.com. Deadline to apply is August 9, 2010.

*Editor's Note: Brian Rogers, our current Trustee, has said he is available to answer all questions any prospective candidates may have regarding the position. You can reach him at: trustee@ngra.com

Miss Nobody 2010 Photo Recap





Rodeo Round-Up...

BigHorn 14 News from
Laura Scott, Rodeo Director



Congratulations to BigHorn 14 Rodeo Poster
Contest Winner: Bill Watkins!!

As you all know, we have been running the poster contest for the past month and had five submissions. We would like to congratulate Bill Watkins for once again coming up with our branding for next year's BigHorn Rodeo 14. I think you will all be pleased with the outcome as much as we are. I would for you all to welcome my fellow black shirts for next year's BigHorn Rodeo: Guy Puglisi, Jeffrey Neal and Joel Castillo. I am very honored to have these gentlemen by my side as we strive to make BigHorn Rodeo 14 the best Vegas has ever seen. There has been one major change in the rodeo. After days and days of research, it was decided that to better serve NGRA and the charities that we have committed to raising money for, we have changed the date to May 20, 21, & 22, 2011. This was not an easy decision, but believe it is in the best interest of all parties to do so. We will go back to the normal daytime format.

If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of BigHorn Rodeo 14, please contact myself, Guy, Jeffrey or Joel, and we would be happy to speak with you. We will be having a Mentorship Program for next year's rodeo to ensure that we have qualified and enthusiastic volunteers not only for 2011, but for the future of our rodeo.

With Cowgirl Pride,
Laura

Contact us at:

Laura Scott: rodeodirector@bighornrodeo.com
Guy Puglisi corodeodirector@bighornrodeo.com
Jeffrey Neal assistantdirector1@bighornrodeo.com
Joel Castillo assistantdirector2@bighornrodeo.com



Fundraising Committee Report



The fundraising meeting has been moved to July 12th at 6:30 p.m. at the Center. Everyone is welcome to attend, as your input and suggestions are greatly needed. NGRA needs to work on raising funds to help cover our support with World Finals, along with working on raising money for BigHorn Rodeo 14.

Please come with your ideas and suggests on how we can work on planning our events for the remainder of the year.

-Fundraising Committee



TRUSTEE'S REPORT

By Brian Rogers

Now that it's July, it's time to start looking ahead to the end of my 3-year term as your Trustee. I can't believe the time has gone by so quickly. It has been a huge honor for me to serve as your representative with IGRA these three years. Serving at the IGRA level has allowed me to make many new friends and I hope I have been able to bring benefits to NGRA through my efforts in this position. The NGRA Board is currently soliciting candidates for NGRA Trustee 2011-2013.

NGRA Bylaws dictate the following process for the election of the Trustee: Ballots shall be mailed or posted online in a secure manner every third (3rd) year immediately after the August general membership meeting and must be received by the Board of Directors no later than the September general membership meeting.

IGRA Bylaws state that the Trustee term of office shall be three (3) years. Election shall be by the respective Member Association in accordance with its bylaws or rules and all Trustees shall assume office on January 1.

In addition to local Board duties as proscribed by NGRA Bylaws, the NGRA Trustee serves on the **IGRA Board of Directors** which has fiduciary responsibility for International. It approves contracts and negotiations with external entities and resolves any disputes between member associations. The BOD manages most of the business operations of the organization.

The NGRA Trustee also serves on the **IGRA Board of Trustees**. The trustees are responsible for interpretation and administration of all Rodeo, Dance, and Royalty Competition Rules. The BOT is also the responsible for review and approval of variances and date changes for all rodeos, and oversight and ruling on matters of conduct for competitors and officials.

Any disputes arising over interpretation of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Resolutions of the Annual Convention, Resolutions of the Board of Directors, Resolutions of the Trustees, Standing Rules and Procedures, Code of Ethics and Sportsmanship, and Rules of Sanctioned Rodeos are resolved by the Trustees.

The list below includes most of the specific duties and responsibilities potential candidates should be aware of:

- Attend the four quarterly IGRA Board of Directors meetings and the four quarterly Board of Trustees meetings plus the World Gay Rodeo Finals as Trustee.
- At rodeos attend the pre-rodeo and post-rodeo review meetings.
- Write a Trustee's article for the NGRA Newsletter each month.
- Attend the NGRA BOD and GMM Meetings each month.
- Strive to provide NGRA representation at every rodeo. If you cannot attend a rodeo, try to find someone who can attend as Alternate Trustee. Brief him/her on their duties, and the Monday prior to the rodeo, send an email to the IGRA Board yahoo group, informing the BOD of the Alternate's name and which rodeo s/he will be attending.
- Ensure that the Rodeo Additional Insured request is sent to the IGRA Administrative Assistant at least 30 days prior to rodeo.
- Ensure that the IGRA Rodeo Settlement Sheet is completed and returned to the IGRA Treasurer no later than 30 days after rodeo.
- Act as team leader for NGRA at the annual IGRA Convention. Help solicit delegates and alternates. Discuss proposed IGRA Bylaw, Standing Rule and Rodeo Rule changes with NGRA BOD.
- Take nominations for International Awards to the third IGRA BOD Meeting.
- Complete IGRA Membership Renewal application and send it to the IGRA Secretary no later than 60 days prior to Convention.
- Solicit IGRA Convention Delegates and complete Delegate Registration forms.
- Submit NGRA's Appreciation Award selections to the IGRA Secretary before the announced due date (usually October 1).
- In the event NGRA has IGRA Royalty contestants, the Trustee will sign-off on the contest application.
- Sign-off on the upcoming year's Rodeo Application and submit it to the IGRA Secretary no later than seven days prior to Convention.

Potential candidates should be mindful of the significant commitment necessary in terms of availability for travel and of the expense of travel and lodging for the necessary meetings and rodeos. Please do not seek this position unless this is not an obstacle for you. The new Trustee should plan to attend this year's IGRA Convention in Reno, November 11-14 to learn the ropes and network.

David Hering has been selected by the NGRA Board as Chair for this Special Election. Please contact David for further information on candidacy for this position. I am also available to discuss the position in detail with anyone interested and of course will also be available if needed to support the transition. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Trustee@ngra.com.

Save a Horse...
Your Trustee

WORLD GAY RODEO FINALS REPORT

WORLD GAY RODEO FINALS UPDATE

by Brian Rogers - 2010 Finals Rodeo Director

Finals Rodeo preparation continued in June with a marathon series of meetings in Laughlin and Mojave Crossing on Friday, June 18. We met with the new General Manager of the Mojave Crossing Event Center where we reviewed the entire rodeo event to make sure we were in alignment. We had a very positive and productive meeting and even got some nice new benefits.

We also met with the AVI General Manager, F&B Director, Marketing Director, Catering and Special Events, and our Entertainment Director. We toured the facilities and met with the AVI tech people.

Following our meetings there, we headed over to the Lariat Saloon where we discussed details of our plans for the events that will take place at the location.

The IGRA Board and Finals Committee approved our selection of the Sin City Sisters Drug Assistance Program as our local beneficiary. The Mojave Crossing Indian tribe has asked that we also make a small donation to the Aha-Macav Boys and Girls Club in any amount. This organization provides important growth and development programs for tribal youth. I will consult with the Finals committee on that request.



Transportation is shaping up and I want to thank James Crawford for his work obtaining bids. The schedule is gelling and we will be looking for volunteer drivers that weekend to do one or more runs. Please let James or myself know if you are interested.

The NGRA Finals production committee meets following the General Membership on the third Monday of each month at the Center. Please come get involved!



The Royalty Roundup

From...
Mr. & Miss NGRA 2010

Howdy Fellow NGRA Members!

Your Mr. NGRA, JD Jensen, and I have had a busy month out representing NGRA and hosting fundraisers, both for NGRA and to meet our requirements to run for IGRA. We want to thank all of the NGRA members who come out to support our fundraisers twice a month - whether you buy a beer bust, a Jell-o shot, perform, or even just tip a dollar to a performer, you are helping raise money for NGRA and to put on BigHorn Rodeo 14.

JD and I were in a unique position earlier this year, since there is no rodeo in 2010. NGRA is as much a fundraising organization as it is a rodeo organization. The board decided that half of the funds from January to May would be distributed to local charities of the Royalty Team's choosing. The Shiloh Horse Rescue and Sanctuary will receive \$325 and the Sin City Sisters AIDS Drug Assistance Program will receive \$652 from our fundraising efforts. By the time this newsletter is published, we will have presented the check to Shiloh, and we will present the Sin City Sisters their check at their birthday party on July 2 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Everyone is invited!

In June, I held the first of two fundraisers to meet my requirements to run for the title of Miss International Gay Rodeo Association in November in Reno. The Real Housewives of Las Vegas, Trailer Park Edition was Friday, June 18 at Charlie's (Thanks to all the staff there!) - and a special thanks goes out to everyone who performed, helped, or attended: I raised more than I was required to raise to donate to IGRA.

JD and I also want to thank J.Son for inviting us to help host the best LGBT pool party in Las Vegas - Temptation Sundays at the Luxor. It was a Wild Wild West Sunday at the Luxor, and folks from Las Vegas PRIDE and other entertainers around the valley joined us for an afternoon of fun in the sun. The cast of Naked Boys Singing even stopped by to wrap up their weekend of festivities celebrating their one-year anniversary!

On Memorial Day Weekend, JD was proud to represent NGRA at the Coronation 35 of the Royal Court of the Golden Spike Empire in Salt Lake City, Utah. Congratulations to the new monarchs, Emperor Earl Kane and Empress Korynne. On June 5, JD attended The Center's MPowerment Group event "Torn from the Pages." MPowerment group members were invited to dress as their favorite superhero, and there was even a superhero contest, hosted by Ginger Grant! JD served as a judge for the contest.

In July, JD and I will be pleased to represent NGRA at the 28th Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo presented by the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association July 9 -11. I will be competing in goat dressing and steer decorating and JD will be competing in goat dressing.

On July 10, we hope everyone will come out to Charlie's for Hot and Bothered, our monthly Charlie's Night. We'll have a beer bust starting at 9 p.m. and a show starting at 10, along with our usual excellent Jell-O Shots and Hot Summer themed raffle prizes.

On July 16, I am joining with DeShannon at Badlands Saloon for "Friends Helping Friends." DeShannon is still out there working hard to raise money for IGRA and its charities, and the proceeds from my half of the event will go to support the Sin City Sisters as part of my requirements to run for Miss International Gay Rodeo Association.

And finally, we hope to see you all on July 24 at Badlands for Cowboys & Leather Go Together - our third annual joint fundraiser with the League of Gentlemen, starting at 9 p.m.

Until then in rodeo spirit,

Kimberli Foxx & JD Jensen

Miss NGRA 2010 Mr. NGRA 2010

HAPPENING IN OUR NGRA COMMUNITY CCC



NGRA 2010 CONVENTION

It's that time of year again, the new Board of Directors are in settling in and it's time for our annual NGRA Convention. It will be held on Sunday, July 18th at 11:00 AM in the Board Room of CHSI Nevada located at 770 Pilot Road. This year's venue offers us a large meeting room with plenty of audio/video equipment, conveniently located just south of the airport. As we get closer to the date, an email blast will be sent with directions.

This is the only time of year when the Bylaws can be changed and is one of the opportunities to change the Standing Rules as well. Everyone's opinions and ideas are important, so if there is anything that you feel could use more clarification, should be removed or added to the Bylaws, come and present them to the membership.

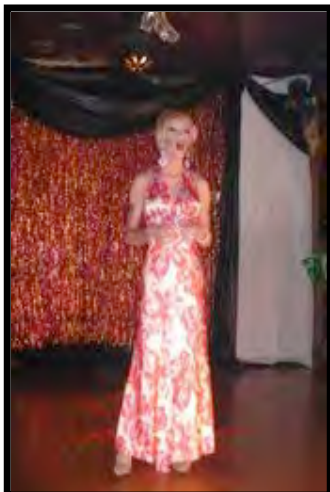
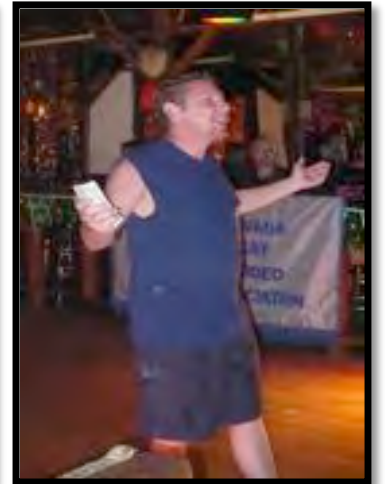
The Convention Chair is Colin Moulton and he can be reached at memberatlarge3@ngra.com. Please send your ideas, along with the section of the Bylaws and he will prepare them for presentation and voting. All submissions received by June 23rd will be compiled and emailed to the membership on approximately June 26th so that you will have time to review and discuss them before the convention. Proposals received after that date will be compiled and presented at convention itself. In addition, proposals can be presented from the floor after all other previously submitted items have been voted on.

The current Bylaws and Standing Rules can be found on our website ngra.com <<http://ngra.com>> > Member Info > NGRA Bylaws. Please bring a copy to the meeting. Lunch will be provided.

HAPPENING IN OUR NGRA COMMUNITY



NGRA
PRESENTS...
LIFE'S A BEACH
AT
BADLANDS
SALOON



NGRA Featured Member Spotlight

Rob aka Veronica DeBaygo, Member Since 2010

NGRA Member Spotlight: Every month we will begin featuring a long-standing member of NGRA and celebrate their contributions to NGRA. This month, we are introducing you to one of our newest members. May we present Rob, aka Veronica De Baygo...



Miss Veronica De Baygo was birthed from soiled uterus of one of the IGRA Rodeo Circuit's Most Wanted, the infamous Winnie Baygo, in 2010. Rob, however, is quite a different story. This young man was born and raised in the South and spent several years serving the Ole U.S. of A. in the military. He moved to Las Vegas after he got out of the service so that he could begin his higher education career. He is currently going to school for Business. (And being a Baygo, we can only imagine what that business is!)



This young man has not had much free time, as we all know how demanding a scholastic career can be on a person. He says, "I actually haven't done much lately other than go to school. I love to travel and like art, music, documentary films, museums, reading, and some other things but I stay busy with school and have a boring life." Rob is a newer member of NGRA, and when asked what he likes best about our organization, he replied, "Well, the main thing I like is the people I've met through Doug [Graff] and performing for NGRA. The Drag Performers are all very kind and helpful, and all the people I've met at the shows and events were nice as well. Also, I like cowboys!" And really, who doesn't like a nice derriere in a pair of well-fitted Wranglers?

Rob, aka Veronica De Baygo, was recently crowned Miss Closet Ball 2010. Getting all dolled up in drag is never an easy task, just ask any well-seasoned queen. It takes a big set of balls to be willing to tuck them away. "I'm kind of a shy person, so I was scared to do it. I thought it would be fun but of course, I had to rely on someone else to do the makeover," he says regarding the competition. Rob was sponsored by NGRA's very own Queen of the Trailer Parks, Miss Winnie Baygo. "She was able to do it and I thought it would be fun to try since I was, and still am, so new to drag. Plus, I think the NGRA is a good cause to do an event. I'm not a fan of the huge hip pads that Winnie made me wear though. When I got out on stage, I did a song that I felt comfortable with. I didn't have experience as a performer, so I was totally nervous." Always a cordial and polite young lady, unlike Mommie Baygo, Miss De Baygo said the other contestants were very nice and did a great job! She was actually surprised that she won. "I always think of others and I hope it didn't discourage them from doing drag in any way because I know they did some things better than I did. Still, I am glad to be Miss Closet Ball 2010 and thank everyone for the experience." Some of you may be wondering about the "De" in her name, and rumor has it, that is a result of a bad science experiment in the Drag Lab, and she possesses some DeShannon DNA. Neither Winnie nor DeShannon were available for comment.

Being in Drag, or embodying another persona, can oftentimes be a very liberating experience for the shy ones. Rob adds, "Veronica is my outlet for flirting with men. She loves to flirt and talk to men. She is still a very nice, innocent, sweet girl. Veronica also has a vulgar sense of humor." Well, you can add some Christi dust, but the girl is still a Baygo.

So what lies ahead for this future NGRA Queen? Well we asked and this is what she said, "My goals are to become a much better drag queen. I am learning quickly, but I still want to learn more about the make-up and how to perform and get comfortable on stage. It's a lot more work than I imagined, but I also want to have a lot of fun doing it. I'm so new so my ultimate goal is to look and be as good a performer as the others I see on stage. Also, I have never been to a Gay Rodeo, but obviously that will change soon. I'm actually from Tennessee and never been to a rodeo at all. We had them from time to time and one of our school field trips in elementary was to the rodeo but I played sick that day." As you can see, this dynamic duo of Rob/Veronica bring a breath of fresh air to NGRA and I am sure we have a lot to look forward to from this up and comer. With queens like Winnie Baygo and DeShannon in her lineage, how could she not. Next time you are at an NGRA event, and Veronica is working the stage or the crowd, please introduce yourself to her. And, tip her \$1... it all goes to NGRA.

Which NGRA Member do you think The BigHorn Gazette should feature next?
Let us know at: BigHornEditor@ngra.com

Upcoming IGRA Rodeos & Events

BIG HORN 14 RETURNS
May 21-23, 2011! GET
INVOLVED TODAY!!!



**NEW MEXICO GAY
RODEO ASSOCIATION**

**19TH ANNUAL
ZIA REGIONAL
RODEO**

**BE HELD
JULY 23 - 25, 2010**

**BERNALILLO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S POSSE ARENA**

TO

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY



The Sin Sity Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence cordially invite all NGRA members to their monthly Oink Night at the Fun Hog Ranch!
Also, this month:

Join The Sin Sity Sisters for a night of Hawaiian debauchery as we celebrate our 5th birthday party. We'll have a



great Roast of The Sisters, drink specials, and hot Leis! \$5 cover to benefit SADAP. Spice up your spam and churn up some poi for a good cause! We can't wait to Aloha you all over!

Friday, July 2, 2010
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Goodtimes
1775 E. Tropicana Ave (in Liberace Plaza)



The Men of Charlie's 4th Annual "Christmas in July Show" is approaching. As always, all monies raised that evening will be going to The St. Therese Center and Outreach.

PRIDE's 2010 Community Ally, Tito, is making another custom piece for "Christmas in July." Starting July 1, 2010 we will be selling separate raffle tickets for this item all month long, with the winner being announced the night of the event.

There will be a cameo guest appearance and Co-Host this year, Miss Savannah Bouvier.

Starting July 1st, St. Therese will be putting Food Barrels in Charlie's. Please bring in Non-Perishable items and toiletries all month long.

For additional information, call Stephan at (702) 884-6777 or via email at stephans75@cox.net. Thanks everyone and lets have a blast again this year with this event.

Stephan Schuppert

Men Of Charlie's May 2006



One of NGRA's favorite gals, Katrina, aka Miss NGRA 2008, is going to be contributing a regular article in the "Happening in our Community" section of the BigHorn Gazette... please welcome Katrina's Korner!

Katrina presents a weekend...
"All Among Friends"
Friday, September 17, 2010
at Charlie's Las Vegas
A benefit for Gay Cowboy Legacy Project at the Gene Autry Museum in Los Angeles, CA

&

The 3rd Annual:
Katrina's Brunch
At the Tropicana Hotel
To benefit NGRA BigHorn Rodeo 14 and Sin Sity Sisters SADAP program



NGRA's Member of the Month - May 2010

Congratulations to the May 2010 Member of the Month... (drumroll please) Jason C. This dynamic young man has quickly immersed himself in NGRA and is a huge supporter who can be seen at all events, fundraisers, and anywhere a beer & fun can be had. He was nominated for his continuous support of NGRA! Way to go, Cowboy - thanks for always taking one for the team! That booty is bumpin'!

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

ESCAPE THE HEAT
 Take a trip with NGRA
 and your Host Winnie Baygo

3 Day overnight at Hurricane Laughlin!
 Price includes: bus, double occupancy room,
 water, soda, beer, snacks on the bus and
 a whole lot of fun and games!
 Seating is limited, to reserve your seat,
 please visit www.NGRA.com, or
 send email to WinnieBaygo@gmail.com

The bus leaves from Commercial Center
Saturday, August 21, 2010
9:00 a.m.



HOLIDAY VIBES THE YEAR
 &
 SAIL TO
 THE ISLANDS
 JULY 31, 2010
ICPR BALL
 Tropicana Las Vegas
 Door & Dancing at 8:00
 Entertainment 9:00
 Pool Side
 Cash Bar
 Ticket Price \$30.00



**MEN OF CHARLIE'S
 PRESENTS**
4th Annual
Christmas in July
 Friday July 30th *Charlie's* Las Vegas
 Hosted by
Savannah Bourcier & Miss Frankie
 Entertainment *Jello Shots*
 \$5 Raffle Baskets
 Special Raffle Item Donated by
 Olga's Jewelry (Tito)
 Proceeds to Benefit
St. Therese Center



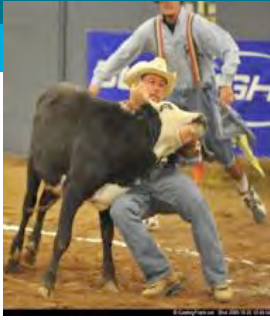
Oftentimes we are asked to give back to those who have given to us. GSGRA Member, and friend of NGRA, Scotty Shaddix has asked anyone who can help to please help an amazing ally.

Conny Van Dyke came to IGRA via her son, Bronson Page (who won his first buckle at the BigHorn Rodeo in 2008), and his husband Sam Page. Both are competitors in Chute Dogging and Camp Events and Conny is their biggest fan. In addition to supporting her sons, Conny also supported GSGRA with financial contributions and through volunteering at many fundraisers. Conny has also been a solo support person to many parents of gay children and published "An open letter to parents of gay and lesbian children" which has been widely distributed to many parents who desperately needed to hear her words. Conny loves "her sons" without boundaries and also their rodeo friends!!

"Our mom, Conny Van Dyke, is in some pretty dire straits right now, and she needs your help. She's three months away from her 65th birthday, September 28th... our challenge is to help her bridge the 12-week gap between now and September, ensuring that she has the needed resources to make a full recovery, regain her strength and ability, and enjoy her life fully again." - Love Bronson & Sam

For more information, please go to www.connyvandyke.com to help in any way you can.

Straight From Horse's ...



Welcome readers! This is a new, and will be an ongoing, column for the NGRA BigHorn Gazette called, "Straight from the Horse's..." (mouth). This will be an interview with Cowboys & Cowgirls from across the IGRA Competitive Circuit. We will highlight certain events in rodeo monthly and talk to the riders and their animal counterparts for an in-depth exposé into the world of competing in an IGRA Sanctioned Rodeo. Please join me in welcoming FGRA's Cowboy Keith Huber!!



Joel: How long have you been involved in FGRA?

Keith: I joined FGRA (Florida Gay Rodeo Association) in 2006, when we had our inaugural rodeo - the Sunshine Stampede.

J: What events do/did you compete in?

K: My first year in rodeo I only competed in Camp Events, as most that start out in IGRA do. I competed in Goat Dressing, Steer Deco, and the Wild Drag Race at the Sunshine Stampede in 2006. I got my first ribbon at that rodeo and 3rd place in Wild Drag. I think that's what started the 'burn' to compete. The following year I went to Rodeo School in Phoenix to learn how to Steer Ride and Chute Dog. That is when the true rodeo addiction occurred.

J: What are your current rankings? Or, what was your ranking for your best year and which year was it?

K: My current rankings, per the IGRA.COM web site as of today, are: Chute Dogging #2, Calf Roping on Foot #11, Goat Dressing #23, Steer Deco #25, & Wild Drag #34.

J: Those are impressive number, Keith!

K: Thanks! I am most excited about the #2 ranking in Chute Dogging. These current rankings are my BEST ever! I am having a really good year so far. Last year, I competed in 12 rodeos on the IGRA circuit. This year I am trying to be a bit more focused and not do as many... I guess it's working.

J: Have you ever buckled in any of these?

K: My FIRST buckle ever in a competition event was just a few weeks ago at the 2010 Sierra Stampede in Sacramento, CA. My 2nd buckle ever, came last weekend at the Greater International Motown Rodeo in Detroit, MI; it was for Goat Dressing.

J: Congrats on your first Buckle in Sacramento, I was there timing that weekend. Tell us about your steers and experience that weekend.

K: Thank you. Wow! What an emotional high. I cried like a little baby when I heard Lewis, the announcer, say, "And the buckle winner in Chute Dogging this weekend is Keith Huber". The tears of excitement were flowing. I worked so hard that day. Some say it's the luck of the draw of the animal. I think it's a combination of both luck and skill. The animals that weekend were very difficult, truly ROUGH, rough stock. Mine was appropriately named "Steerzilla"... I was the only cowboy to dog my steer both days, thus winning the buckle. I could not have made it to this point without a lot of support from other cowboys, my rodeo partner Little Hoss, but especially Brian Helander, IGRA President.

Steerzilla: Honestly, I don't understand that name. I am a gentle giant. A misunderstood, 2-ton baby. How would you feel is a cowboy grabbed you by the horns? I mean, hello? I know what I am doing. This ain't my first time at the rodeo either!

J: Welcome, Steerzilla. Let's focus on Chute Dogging for the remainder of the interview...

What kind of temperament does the rough stock animal usually have?

K: Every animal is different, but let me tell you that feeling in your gut each time you get down in the chute next to the animal is always the same. The thought that always goes thru my head is, "What the heck am I doing in here?" But then the adrenaline kicks in. The key about Chute Dogging is not being fearful of the animal, YOU must be confident, show you're in charge and to use the words of my coach and mentor, Brian Helander, you must be focused on what you are doing. When you complete the event, if you can not recall everything you did from chute gate opening to the animal or you being on the ground, then you were not focused.

S: Again, what's with the bad rap? I love it when I can smell the fear. It reminds me of the pastures at home.

J: What is your best time?

K: My best time in Chute Dogging was actually at IGRA World Finals last year, 3.85 seconds. It was an exhilarating moment... the fastest 3 seconds of my life. I ended in 5th place with that time. World Finals is

the best of the best and it calls for each cowboy to do their best. S: Only Cowboy Keith was able to "dog" me. I stand proud that I am still a 98% Chute Doggin' Top! But, Cowboy Keith is a hot cowboy, so I happily had four helium heels for him.

J: What got you interested in Chute Dogging?

K: When I attended the Sunshine Stampede in Ft. Lauderdale in 2006, I only competed in the Camp Events, but after watching the rodeo the whole day, I got the desire to compete in other events. I also learned that in order to be an All-Around Cowboy, you must compete in a Roping Event, a Rough Stock Event (like Chute Dogging), and a Camp Event. It was at that time my addiction to rodeo began.

S: I like the intensity with which Chute Doggers approach it. Each is different. My favorite reason is planting my hooves into the dirt and seeing them struggle to move my 2-ton ass any which way they can. Hilarious!

J: What do you think is the most difficult element?

K: I think the most difficult element is the unpredictability of the animals. You could get the same steer in the chute that a previous competitor just attempted to dog and it may or may not do the same thing. So, definitely the unpredictability of the animals is the most difficult element.

J: How do you practice for this event? It's not like speed events I am sure. What's your regimen?

K: I'm a City Boy and a Weekend Warrior Rodeo Cowboy, so it is kind of hard to practice for Chute Dogging. If and when a rodeo association offers a Rodeo School, I do my best to make it there so that I can get some practice in. Otherwise, it is knowing your technique, running through it prior to the event: stretching, putting on the safety gear, vest, mouth guard, gloves. Safety is very important! I've had a couple injuries in chute dogging, so safety is a big issue in the preparation.

S: Practice? What practice? I am a primadonna and will move and fall when I want to.

J: What is the most difficult element? Is it the fall, a "good dog," or holding on?

K: I think one of the most challenging animals to dog, is a runner. Although, you want a runner to get that animal out to that 10ft line quickly, but it's the keeping your feet and balance in front of the animal, so that you're not dogged. You want to PTD... Plant your feet, Turn your animal, and then, Dog'em.

J: Have you ever hit the proverbial wall?

K: LOL, oh yes, every Sunday after a rodeo after looking at my body and wondering where and how I got all the bruises all over my body. But then my rodeo partner and I start talking the fun we had and start talking about what rodeo we're doing next.

S: Only when the gates weren't opened for me to pass through and I was still a little dizzy from the event. But it happened only once in my career.

J: Any remaining battle-wounds or are they all psychological?

K: Oh geeze, where do I begin? In my 2nd and 3rd year of rodeo, I fractured 4 ribs and dislocated my shoulder all steer riding. Then I decided I'd wrestle them instead of ride them. But again, it's the staying focused on what you are doing when Chute Dogging. I've had 2 other injuries from being stepped on by steers, suffering 2 really bad contusions.

S: Ha, ha, ha! I had no idea this was a comedy interview.

J: OUCH! Ever get fined for a dropped F-Bomb, lost hat, etc.?

K: Last year was a tough year, I was penalized a couple of times in Chute Dogging due to some rule changes that made it both challenging for the competitors and judges to judge the event. These rules have since been removed from the rule book.

NGRA Members Celebrating Birthdays in July:



Sherrie Sedivy	July 1
Rob Pierce	July 1
Joel Castillo	July 4
Roger Arnold	July 7
Joe Cervantes	July 9
Robert Presby	July 11
Andrew Gagliardo	July 11
James Crawford	July 18
Laura Scott	July 27
Paul McAlister	July 31



NEW MEMBERS

Tom Coleman

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH CONTINUED:

J: Why Chute Dogging? What's the draw?

K: Well, I have to say because I'm just a crazy cowboy. It's a REAL cowboy event. I tell people I put underwear on goats, tie a bow on the tail of a steer, and you get chuckles, but then I say oh and I wrestle steers, that's when you get the, "Oh, that's really cool!"

S: For me, it's the battle of wills.

J: Is there any event you have not competed in you would like to try?

K: Like I said, I'm a City Boy and, unfortunately, I do not have a horse. I would LOVE to compete in some horse events. I have done the Flag Race before at the Liberty Stampede rodeo 2 years ago. It was quite comical. It was more like Flag Race miming.

S: I have always wanted to try Barrel Racing, but I can't seem to find a compatible equine partner.

J: What is your goal for the 2010 IGRA Circuit Year?

K: I would love to get a buckle in each of the events I compete in. I compete in 5 events at each rodeo, Calf Roping on Foot, Chute Dogging, Goat Dressing, Steer Deco, and Wild Drag Race. I have 2 so far, one in Chute Dogging and one in Goat Dressing, so we'll see how the rest of the rodeo season works out.

S: To get my numbers back up to 99% Top.

J: Who is your favorite Rodeo Competitor (both IGRA Circuit and Non-IGRA)?

K: I'd have to say my favorite IGRA competitor would definitely be my mentor, Brian Helander. I truly feel I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't from the coaching and support of Brian. Non-IGRA... I guess Ty Murray, bull rider, loved his Ultimate Cowboy Show and hey he's married to Jewel, that lucky girl.

S: I have a lot of respect for Cowboy Keith. He dogged both days in Sacramento and was the only one able to do so. Our stock contractor brought along some of our most cantankerous live stock for the Sierra Stampede.

J: Any last parting words of wisdom for our readers? What would your horse or favorite Steer say to our readers about you?

K: I just have to say I NEVER in my life thought I would be a Rodeo Cowboy, but over the past several years, I have met some of the most wonderful people from all over the US and Canada. Rodeo has not turned into a just weekend hobby for me, it's created a whole new family and circuit of friends. Get involved, volunteer, compete if you want, I'm glad I did, it opened up a whole new world to me. Words of wisdom... SAFETY FIRST! Go to a rodeo school, if you want to compete, get safety equipment, vest, mouth guard, etc. and ask for help and advice. Lastly, I'd say get a rodeo partner that will always be there. I am very lucky to have my partner Little Hoss, we've built a good relationship, we're improving on our techniques so watch out IGRA contestants, Hoss and I are on our way to claim our team Buckles.

S: Always respect your animal counterpart. And never do any events without the proper gear and safety preparations. It's all in sport and fun, we don't really want to hurt anyone.

J: Thank you both and we look forward to seeing you again at IGRA World Finals in October at The Avi Resort in Laughlin, NV!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	3 *Men of Charlie's Monthly Contest, 9:30 PM
4	5	6	7 @ Pirahna "Syren Vaughn's Glamorous Life" Show at midnight	8	9 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	10 *NGRA "Hot & Bothered" Show @ Charlie's 9:30PM
11	12 *Fundraising Meeting @ 6:30 PM at The Center. All are welcome	13	14 @ Pirahna "Syren Vaughn's Glamorous Life" Show at midnight	15	16 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's *Friends Helping Friends Show at Charlie's	17 *San Diego PRIDE
18 *NGRA Annual Convention 11:00 AM 770 Pilot Rd. All are welcome!!!	19 *NGRA Meetings: BOD, Gen. Membership, & Finals RPC Begins at 6:30 PM at The Center	20	21 @ Pirahna "Syren Vaughn's Glamorous Life" Show at midnight	22	23 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's *Deadline for August Newsletter	24 *NGRA Cowboys & Leather Show @ Badlands 9:30 PM
25	26	27	28 @ Pirahna "Syren Vaughn's Glamorous Life" Show at midnight	29	30	31