

JOEL CASTILLO , EDITOR



In this issue... IGRA World Gay Rodeo Finals Information, Seeking NGRA Trustee, & so much more!!!

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



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Let me first start off by saying I hope everyone has found a way to beat the heat. While I know we live in desert, you know you are in the middle of summer when it is 94 degrees at 4 a.m., and as many I am one that can't wait for the cooler months.

I first would like to say thank you to all that attended our Annual State Convention on Sunday, July 18th. A lot of progress was made, while not every proposal passed, those present voted in the best interest of the association. I would like to personally thank Shaun Sewell, who served as our president before me to take on such a huge undertaking and re-writing our standing rules. While as it was brought up at Convention, we have followed past practices on a number of items and they are now properly documented. I would like to thank Colin Moulton for taking on the task of running convention this year along with Jeffrey Neal who now as the huge undertaking of updating these for everyone. While the updated by-laws and standing rules went into effect immediately at the close of convention, we do have a timeframe to get these updated and ready for you. Once ready, a notification will go out to the membership. I would recommend that everyone take a moment to look over them so they can see just what hard work took place.

Monday, August 19th the Board of Directors took on a change in that immediately following, well a small break was provided, the Board Meeting we had our General Membership meeting. It was nice to see all that attended. As we move forward, I look for ways to hopefully improve our meetings, move them along and complete the need business in a timely manner. I am open to suggestions and ideas, as it can only make us better.

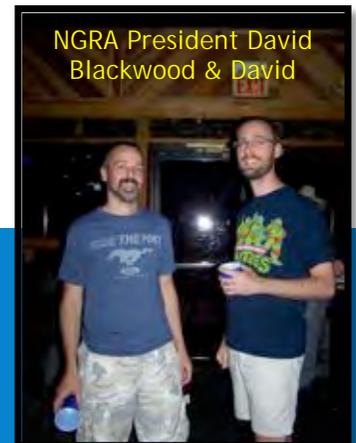
By now you have probably heard that our Royalty Competition has been slated for Thanksgiving weekend and Mitch Gill aka DeShannon has been appointed our Competition Director. After a lengthy discussion on what date is best suits everyone, the Board of Directors as it states in the standing rules, deemed that this weekend was the best suited to hold the competition, allowing those crowned the opportunity to represent NGRA at IGRA University in St. Louis, MO January 14 - 16, 2011.

Here's to everyone finding a way to stay cool in the 100 degree temperatures.

David Blackwood

NGRA President

NGRA President David Blackwood & David



Michael Judkins & Bill Watkins



The 2011 NGRA Royalty Competition date has been slated for Thanksgiving Weekend, November 2010.

For information, please contact our 2011 Royalty Competition Director, Mitch Gill at memberatlarge4@ngra.com

Jason & Bootsy



Winnie & Alex



Katrina



Diana Prince



Leila & Rob



FROM THE EDITOR:

This month we are launching the 3rd article in the Triumvirate of features in the BigHorn Gazette! We have "From the Horse's Mouth", "NGRA Member Spotlight", and now we launch "Where are they now?" I hope you like your new newsletter! As always, suggestions for whom to interview is always welcomed!

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

DRAGAPALOOZA!

Miss Diana Prince



Miss Winnie Baygo



Miss Leila



Empress Bootsy





Rodeo Round-Up...

*BigHorn 14 News from
Laura Scott, Rodeo Director*



August 9th, we will be starting our Rodeo Planning Committee Meetings. They will be held right after the Fundraising Meetings, which starts at 6:30 P.M. at The Center. The first few meetings of RPC should not take very long as there will not be a lot to report. Our first meeting will be more about the vision of the rodeo. I will introduce those Coordinators that have already been chosen and see if they have anything to report as of yet.

If you have anything you would like to bring to the meeting, please do so.

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



Your Fundraising Committee has been tasked with coming up with a way to help offset the deficit we have encountered this year. While the numbers look daunting at first glance, your committee has been re-energized to come up with original, creative, and out-of-the-box ideas for fundraising ventures. We are about 9 months away from BigHorn 14, and we cannot do it without your support. If you follow our members on Facebook, see what they are planning. NGRA has a fan page on Facebook as well. Follow us, get involved, support, and if you want to know "What can I do?"... well, just look in your wallet. Ask yourself, "What can I spare?" and donate that to NGRA. It can be in the form of a gift basket for raffles, buy a gift card to a retailer or restaurant and donate it, or even just send in some cash! Keep an eye out for those new and exciting Events coming soon!!!

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

By Brian Rogers

The IGRA Annual Convention and Royalty Competition is coming up November 10-14 and this year we'll be hosted by our neighbors to the north in Reno.

NGRA is seeking up to six delegates and 5 alternates to officially represent NGRA at this important annual meeting. Our representatives will attend the Committee Meetings on Friday and the Convention Sessions on Saturday and Sunday. This is where IGRA Associations meet and consider changes to Bylaws and Rodeo Rules. The many Standing and Ad Hoc Committees of IGRA meet and recommend proposals, which are considered by the entire Assembly on Saturday and Sunday.

In addition to all the business we will conduct, and the thrilling Royalty Competition, HSRA has a full weekend of fun activities planned for us. The weekend schedule includes:

- Wednesday • November 10th
 - Biggest Little Welcome Party in the World
- Thursday • November 11th
 - Early Option - Delegate Welcome Bus Run / Bar Crawl
 - Late Option - Welcome Night Entertainment
- Friday • November 12th
 - IGRA Royalty Step-Downs and Crowning - Harrah's Reno - Sammy's Showroom
 - After Royalty Entertainment / Show
- Saturday • November 13th
 - Dance with Live Entertainment / DJ - Harrah's Reno - Sammy's Showroom
- Sunday • November 14th
 - Survivor's Party

Attending IGRA convention in Reno is sure to be a trip you'll never forget. Please contact me no later than September 1 if you'd like to attend IGRA Convention with our delegation. We plan to field a large contingent this year so make your plans now!

Reminder: The Trustee election takes place this month after the General Membership meeting. Interested candidates should contact special election chair David Hering for additional information.

Save a Horse...

Your Trustee

IN NEED OF HELP. NGRA member Bill Watkins is asking persons to volunteer their time in helping with a Community Goat Dressing event. This event will be held at Horseman's Park on Saturday September 11th - 6:30 PM to 11 PM. The proceeds of this community goat-dressing event will be going toward improving the facilities at Horsemen's Park. If you're not interested in volunteering to help in this event, you are more than welcome to participate! It is \$10 for a two-person team. There will be several ribbon place winner and a travel trophy for the fastest team.

WORLD GAY RODEO FINALS REPORT

WORLD GAY RODEO FINALS UPDATE

Brian Rogers - 2010 Finals Rodeo Director

The IGRA Finals Entertainment Committee is proud to announce THE CARTER TWINS as official headliner for the World Gay Rodeo Finals 2010.

You may have heard them on the airways across the nation, seen them recently in People's Magazine, or even watched them on CMT.



JOSH AND ZACH JOSH CARTER www.cartertwins.com

Growing up in Akron, Ohio, twins Josh and Zach Carter were surrounded by music from the time they were born. Their mother worked in country radio and encouraged their interest — Zach stole time at her piano, while she taught Josh "Stairway to Heaven" on the guitar. The family moved to Hilton Head, S.C. when the brothers were fifteen, and they continued to craft their musicianship playing hundreds of live gigs while juggling a busy high school schedule.

In 2008, the Carter Twins were in Los Angeles performing and scored a chance meeting with an MTV exec, who ultimately led them to CMT. The brothers recently completed high school and moved to Nashville to pursue their music career full-time under the development of CMT. Still settling into their new digs, Josh and Zach spent the summer working with some of Music City's best songwriters and crafting as many as 30 songs in just three months. Under the helm of Frank Rogers, *Billboard* magazine's #1 country producer, the Carter Twins are working on their debut album.

#1 Hit Single: "Heart Like Memphis"

Recently Released: *"So What"*

Tickets for Saturday, October 23, 2010 are \$15, \$22, \$30. More details to follow...

WORLD GAY RODEO FINALS REPORT

In addition to the big concert, the weekend will feature performer and singer-song Writer...



MIKE SCHIKORA

...and those famous hot cowboys from America's Got Talent: Season 3



DC COWBOYS

The committee is currently finalizing details for additional talent to be named soon. We look forward to bringing you the hottest entertainment line-up possible. Come experience Abercrombie & Fitch meets the Cowboy & Cowgirl at the World Gay Rodeo Finals!

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

The Royalty Roundup

From...
Mr. & Miss NGRA 2010

Howdy, NGRA!

It's hot outside! So, we hope you're staying cool!

JD and I want to thank everyone who has come out to the NGRA fundraisers we've had all year long! It really is a team effort to raise money for our community and for BigHorn Rodeo 14.

We were proud to represent NGRA at Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo in Denver in July, and we hope we see everyone at tomorrow night's fundraiser - the 3rd Annual Cowboys and Leather Go Together.

In August, we're looking forward to the Evening of Duets show at Charlie's on Saturday, August 14, with the beer bust beginning at 9:00 P.M. and the show beginning at 10:00 P.M. Be sure to come out for the travel fundraiser for JD and I to head to the International Gay Rodeo Association competition in November! That's on Friday, August 13th at 9:30 P.M. at Charlie's Las Vegas and it's "A Night of Cowboys and Indians"! There's a prize for best themed attire!

Finally, on August 21, head on down to Laughlin and Bullhead City with the folks of NGRA. We're hosting "World Gay Rodeo Finals Stampedes the Lariat" at the Lariat Saloon in Bullhead City at 9:00 P.M. hosted by DeShannon and Kimberli Foxx. We'll also have a lot of fun all day at Harrah's Laughlin and spend the night there, too. See this newsletter for more details.

Thank you, again, for all your support throughout the year.

Until then in rodeo spirit,

Kimberli Foxx &
Miss NGRA 2010

J.D. Jensen
Mr. NGRA 2010



Miss NGRA 2010 Kimberli Foxx performs at "Cowboys & Leather Go Together" at Badlands Saloon.

(Below) Shaun Sewell watches his wife, Kimberli, with cowboy pride in his eyes and smile.



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO MITCH GILL FOR
BEING NAMED THE
2011 NGRA ROYALTY
COMPETITION
DIRECTOR!**

HAPPENING IN OUR NGRA COMMUNITY ccc

The Nevada Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center

An Evening of Duets

Saturday August 14th

Charlies Las Vegas

13.00 Bud Light Beer Bust begins at 9:00 p.m.
 The entertainment starts at 10:00 p.m. Through out the evening enjoy \$1.00 (20-oz) shots or possibly also a coffee price.

Wipe and a throat would like to perform a duet just along with a NGR member when you arrive. Your participation is most welcome.




2010 WORLD GAY RODEO STAMPEDES THE LARIAT

DeShannon Miss NGRA 2010 1st Runner-up & Katrina Foss Miss NGRA 2010

SATURDAY AUGUST 21, 2010 9:00 PM



ESCAPE THE HEAT COME PLAY IN THE RIVER



TAKE A TRIP WITH NGRA

Stay overnight at Harrah's Laughlin!!
 \$65/person Double Occupancy
 \$95/person Single Occupancy
 Depart Las Vegas 9 AM from Commercial Center
 Hotel Accommodations at Harrah's...only Hotel with private beach front on Colorado River
 Depart Harrah's at 11 AM on Sunday, August 22.

Reserve your seat now, visit NGRA.com or send email to whitneyhapp@ngra.com

Congratulations to...
 NGRA Members
 Stephan Schuppert
 &
 Katrina
 for a great event!
 IRSCDEI's ICPR Ball at
 The Pool at The Tropicana Hotel



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

NGRA Member Spotlight: Rounding out the Triple Crown of features in the BigHorn Gazette, we proudly introduce "Where Are They Now?" This feature was inspired by hearing such great things about those NGRA members who came before us and paved the way in the other Member features. Our inaugural interview is with Ms. Kathi Bennett, aka Ms. NGRA 1997.

Kathi first joined the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association in 1996. She paved the way on several levels while involved in the NGRA. She was crowned Miss NGRA 1997, but did you know that she was the first Ms. NGRA to compete for the Ms. IGRA title? Did you also know that she was also the first female to be NGRA's Closet King? Kathi was definitely a trend-setter for us. Now let's meet this dynamic and pretty awesome cowgirl... Ladies and gentlemen, Ms. Kathi Bennett.

J: Hello, Kathi. Thank you for taking time to meet with me so our readers can get to know you. When did you join NGRA? And what drew you to join in the first place?

Kathi: Thank you, Joel. I joined in 1996 and joined because it really looked like a lot of fun. The people were very nice and I love going to the Rodeo and shows.

J: What is your favorite fundraiser you did?

K: It would have to be when I did the "Shoe Shine Fundraiser". I used the old chair in Backstreet [now known as Charlie's] and raised a lot of money. And, of course, slapping my knee on the balcony.

J: The balcony? I daresay therein lies a juicy story not fit for print! Have you ever served NGRA in any capacity? If so, in which years? And tell us about that experience.

K: I was Ms. NGRA 1997. It was wonderful! I had a lot of fun, made many friends, and learned a whole lot. I also got the nerve to sing live in front of an audience.

J: Do you hear that Fundraising Committee? We got ourselves another live one! I bet that was a great time for you.

K: I had many great shows with a great turnout - many with Amy Smith and Laura Scott. They used to call it "The Amy & Kathi Show". Ms. IGRA was a fantastic time. I had a great coach. Thank you, Laura [Scott]!

J: Rumor around the stables is that you were also NGRA's first Closet King. Tell us about that.

K: Wow, you have done your research. I believe it was 1998. That was so fun! After that, many women stepped up and decided that they wanted to do it as well.

J: And your legacy lives on this year. We crowned Thomas Foxx as Closet King earlier this year. What was your greatest memory from your time with NGRA & IGRA?

K: There are so many. I would have to say IGRA Finals. We had so much fun there. Plus, I so enjoyed every fundraiser that we all did together.

J: It's so true. There is no family like your rodeo family. What have you been up to in your time away?

K: I have never left Vegas. I have been here all along. I have mainly been working. I enjoy riding my Harley every chance I get.

J: I know we all need a time away from time to time, so when can we see your return to NGRA?

K: I am not a member currently but I am going to re-join next month. I really miss the rodeos, the shows and the people.

J: Are we going to get to see more of you in the coming months?

K: I really hope so.

J: Have you ever competed in any IGRA Rodeo Event?

K: I have competed in the NGRA events. Wild drag is what I remember. Most of my time at rodeos was either helping in the barn or performing.

J: What are your favorite events at rodeo and who is your favorite competitor on the circuit?

K: I enjoy watching Barrel Racing, and Steer Wrestling [Chute Dogging]. I would like to try that.

J: You should read my other article, "From the Horse's Mouth" featuring Sara Suminovich. She rides bulls! What are your goals in 2010/2011?

K: To spend more time with my family, motorcycle!

J: Any last words for our readers?

K: Don't let your friends get away from you. Always stay in touch. They are too valuable of an asset.

J: Very wise indeed. Thank you so much and we look forward to seeing more at the many NGRA events coming up!

K: Thank you.



Which NGRA Member do you think The BigHorn Gazette should feature next?

Let us know at: BigHornEditor@ngra.com

NGRA Featured Member Spotlight

Darren Wernette – Mr. NGRA 2009, Member Since 2005

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 Darren Wernette, Mr. NGRA 2009!!



If you have ever attended an NGRA fundraiser, you have probably seen this man selling Jell-O Shots (which he most likely made), selling raffle tickets, performing on stage, or just having a beer and making those around him laugh just a little more. When asked why he does it, he often says, "It's for the children." Please welcome one of NGRA's finest and most dedicated members, Mr. NGRA 2009, Darren Wernette.

Darren joined NGRA in 2004 and has been an active member ever since. When asked what drew him to NGRA, he said, "I had a lot of free time on my hands and needed something to fill that time. I was out one night and it just so happened that an NGRA event was going on. It seemed as though everyone was having fun with a common goal so I decided to give it a try." This energetic and "young-ish" man has raised the bar on service to NGRA. He served as a Member at Large for a while, and during his tenure he took over as Webmaster for www.ngra.com as one of his duties. "Thanks to the help of GayCowboyCentral, we've now got a decent site!" This cowboy prefers to watch the rough-stock events with the steers and bulls. He also enjoys watching the horses go through their paces in the horse events. "My favorite competitor on the IGRA circuit has got to be Mr. John Beck from Colorado. He's been around the IGRA forever and is a regular fixture at so many rodeos. I've watched him mentor so many new contestants. I knew that I had made it when he started giving me a hard time! It was a real honor for me."

Darren has the distinction of being affectionately deemed the Susan Lucci of the Mr. NGRA Royalty Competition. He was Mr. NGRA 1st Runner-Up in 2007 and 2008, before ultimately winning the sash of Mr. NGRA in 2009. "As they say, third time is the charm! I had a great time being number two to Tom Coleman and Michael Judkins. They helped me get my foot in the door. I was also paired with Adam Johnson when I became Mr. NGRA 2009. Regrettably he moved before we could get into too much trouble. I was also lucky to have some great Misses to work alongside - Katrina, Kandace, and DeShannon. You've got to admire the hard work they go through to transform themselves. The things I've seen..." The things he has seen surely were not meant to be seen by *the children*.

But, Darren must have been inspired by one of NGRA's many drag queens, as he was a contestant in the annual Miss Cow Patty contest. "That's right... Angie O'Plasty comes out of the mobile home park occasionally. Unfortunately she's never managed to get a title but that won't stop her from trying. She thinks she's a lot classier than she really is."

By simply being a face for NGRA, Darren has made many new friends and contacts. He has enjoyed the recognition the title of Mr. NGRA has afforded him. The camaraderie of our members has made a big impact on him. "I believe in what our association is doing and I'm proud to have been a part of it. I may not have a sash or a title any more, but that doesn't mean that my contributions should stop." Darren has also begun representing NGRA on the IGRA Rodeo Circuit, albeit sometimes against his will. "As I have a bad back I can't do much that might mess it up more. I turned to goats first for one of the requirements to be NGRA royalty. I've gone through a lot of partners over the years but have pretty much settled with Mr. Jim Sparks from Gateway Rodeo Association. We've been able to get our act together and our times keep getting better. We've yet to come in first but have managed to get a ribbon as well as points. I keep telling myself I have enough buckles but it would be nice to win one!"

When asked about his infamous phrase, *It's for the children*, he told us its origin. "Everyone always sees me trying to sell something, from Jell-O shots to raffle tickets to who knows what else. I had to come up with a gimmick to help me sell. Believe it or not, I had seen a commercial with Sally Struthers and kind of used her line to help me out. I'll be honest, I'm sick of those dang kids... they never have any appreciation for all my hard work."

As Darren continues to fly the friendly skies, he will continue to do for NGRA what is needed to continue to give us a good reputation across the circuit. "BigHorn Rodeo is the best fundraiser of all. We work hard all year to put it on and it's very satisfying to see everything come together to give everyone a good show to be proud of. Being able to present that big check to our charity is something that we can all be proud of. And to all future members and Royalty Team contenders, I offer the following advice: Don't take on more than you can comfortably handle. Being involved with fundraising all these years has showed me what works and what doesn't. Don't obsess over the small stuff - look to the big goal and things kind of work themselves out."

Ladies and gentlemen, cowboys and cowgirls, and all the children out there... Mr. Darren Wernette!



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!!!

2010 WINDY CITY RODEO
AUGUST 29th - 31st, 2010



**Good,
dirty,
fun.**

Special
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Special Adult
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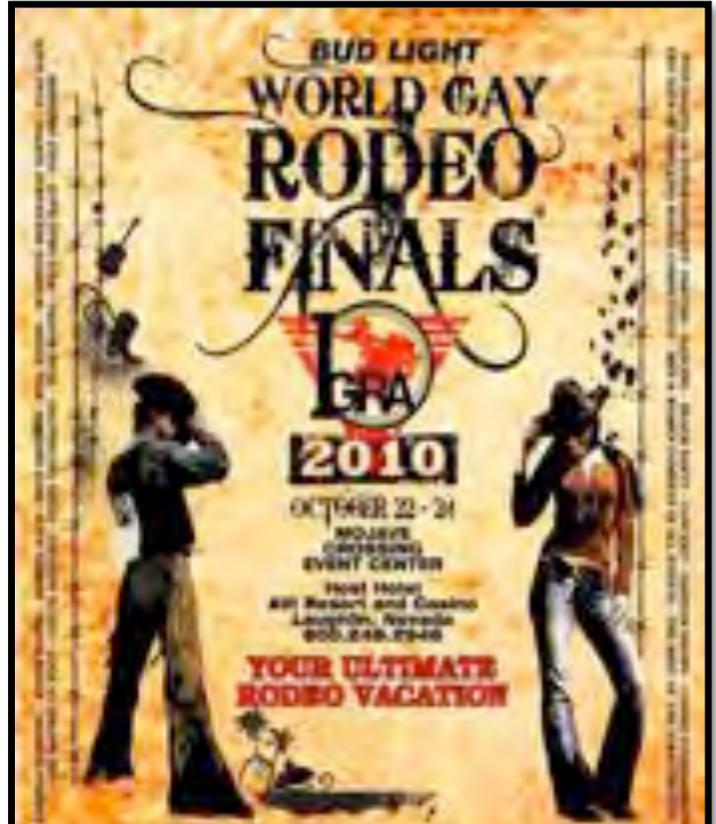
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Orland Nevada Event Center

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hotline: 415.561.9228





HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY



Mr. NGRA 2009 Darren Wernette, with the cooperation of the Silver Nugget Casino Bingo Hall present:

CLUB 0-69 - Las Vegas

Join the Fun! Come Play Bingo With Us!

This is CASH BINGO!

Sunday, August 8th, 2009 4:30 PM (sharp)

A fundraiser to benefit the Sin Sity Sisters SADAP Program

Silver Nugget Casino, 2140 Las Vegas Blvd., N. Las Vegas, 89030 (Located just north of Lake Mead Blvd. on Las Vegas Blvd.)

Over HALF the buy-in will be donated back to our community. Paper and Electronic Machines are available at reasonable prices; the more you play the more gets donated back! We will be playing a special 19 game session with fun bingo patterns.

Electronic Bingo Specials - Buy AS MANY PACKS AS YOU'D LIKE!

COMPLIMENTARY Cocktails and beverages are available throughout the game. Win CASH, win prizes, and have fun, all while donating back to the Sin Sity Sisters!



Please join The Men of Charlie's on the first Saturday of every month for their monthly Man of the Month Contest! Come on out and help raise money for charity!



Please join SNAPI for "SNAPI Saturdays" on the 4th Saturday of every month at Charlie's Las Vegas!!



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 - June 2010

Congratulations to the June, 2010, Darren Wernette. Darren is being recognized for his representing NGRA on the IGRA Rodeo Circuit not just as a face for NGRA, but for also representing as a competitor in Goat Dressing! Darren is used to Depends Undergarments & Big-Boy Pull Ups, but he's gotten better at the Tightie-Whities! Way to go, Cowboy!

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY GCC



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.

Cowboys & Leather Go Together @ Badlands



David, David, Jeffrey, & Katrina



Rob Haggard & Randy Meadows



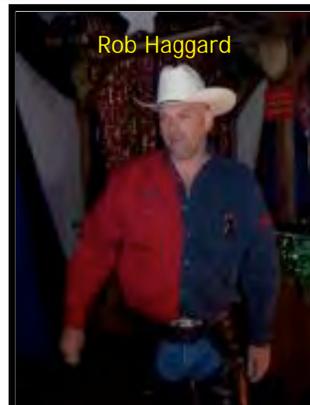
Darren & His Gaggle of STR8 Girls



David & Darren



Emperor XII Jason & Empress XII Bootsy



Rob Haggard



Bootsy playing "Fluffy Bunny"

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 GSGRA's Cowboy Sara Suminovich!!!



J: Thanks for taking time out of your busy Stock Event schedule to meet our readers. How long have you been involved in GSGRA? And when did you begin competing in IGRA Rodeo?

S: GSGRA - 5 years. I began competing in IGRA rodeo end of the 2006 season at the San Francisco Rodeo... so about four years.

J: What events do/did you compete in?

S: Generally I just stick to the bull riding. Occasionally, for shits and giggles, I'll do steer riding.

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

S: I have no idea my rankings for this year. I haven't checked. But, last year I was the 2009 Season Points Winner for Bull Riding for Women.

J: Have you ever buckled in any of these?

S: Yeah I've gotten around six or seven buckles for Bull Riding and one for Steer Riding.

J: How tall are you and weight? (This is to emphasize to my readers that size does not matter, it's skill technique, and will-power)

S: 5'1" on a good day and... beats me. I don't own a scale. Recently, Kimberley [Kay] in the announcer's booth told the crowd I must only weigh a buck ten soaking wet with all my gear on. But, I'm pretty sure I weigh a bit more than that.

J: Just a little more I am sure. What kind of temperament does the rough stock animal usually have?

S: Really they are all so different they each have different personalities. It's just like if you watch the bulls on PBR some of those bulls strut out like they own the arena, some don't. It varies with the animal.

J: What is your mental routine once you get in the chutes to psyche up?

S: I generally have my iPod on behind the chutes because things get a little crazy and rowdy back there, and you can easily psych yourself out of a ride. So I keep my iPod on to keep focused, do my stretches, and run through chute procedure in my head and just visualize the ride.

J: What is your best time?

S: I have no idea. I never check my time because it really doesn't matter to me if I hear a buzzer or if I don't. I try to not get stuck on that because you'll really drive yourself nuts. But, I will say when I was in Palm Springs, I went flying off a bull and landed so hard I knocked myself unconscious and later someone told me I missed my time by .025 of a second and I let it drive me nuts for a minute and then realized it was kind of pointless. Now I'm much better at enjoying every ride for what it is and if I happen to cover that's just a bonus.

J: I love that mantra! What got you interested in Rough Stock events?

S: A friend of mine went to one of GSGRA's Rodeo Schools down in Morgan Hill. He only did it once but really enjoyed the experience and I thought that would be something I'd like to try.

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

S: I think that's probably different for everyone but for me the most difficult element is - shit it's all fucking hard. Can I say that?

J: You can say anything you want. All our members are over 21 years of age. Go on, cowboy.

S: Thanks. I think for me it's keeping in the right head space mentally. Confidence in knowing that I've done it before and I can do it again. And not worrying about injuries, just remembering it's all a lot of fun and enjoying the ride.

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

S: Well I pretty much consider every rodeo to be practice. Every time I ride I still learn something new - whether it's something I fucked up or something I got right or just something to remember. There's about a million things to remember and try to do and very little time to fit it all in. Aside from that, I'm really not particularly fond of gyms unless I'm sitting in a sauna or something. So I'm fortunate to have a job that kicks my ass (painting houses) and lots of two-steppin' at Sundance. Oh, and

as much recreational sex as I can acquire that about does it. (LOL).

J: What is the most difficult element? Is it the fall or holding on or something else?

S: Getting' out of the way quick enough once you land. You can get pretty turned around in a ride and sometimes finding your bearings and which way is up takes a sec and before you know it you've got a hoof on you. Half the time it's not like he even means to kick you but he's going one way and I'm going the other and it didn't quite happen fast enough.

J: Have you ever hit the proverbial wall?

S: What fucking proverbial wall?

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

S: I have a few scars on my legs, my right wrist doesn't work quite the same as it used to. I can feel the rain coming in my bones. The first time I got stepped on in San Diego, I got hauled off in the ambulance and came back and rode the next day even though my leg was no good and I knew I'd just fall off. I knew I just needed to go through the motions and get back on and ride, otherwise there'd be months in between the next time I rodeoed and I didn't want that to build up in my head. There's a difference between having a healthy dose of fear and being scared. One is natural and bound to occur; the other one, if it sits with you, will just get you injured. Every time I've seen someone who was just scared of what they were about to do, and went ahead and did it anyway, got hurt. You've got know when to just not ride, if you're not there mentally or psychologically, even though for most of us that's about the last thing we want to hear.

J: Ever get fined for a dropped f-bomb, lost hat, etc?

S: No, I never swear.

J: Why bulls? What's the draw?

S: It's funny. It's not somethin' I ever thought I would do, it just never occurred to me until I heard about the Rodeo School. I've been skydiving and it can't even compare. It's not just the adrenaline rush with Bull Riding. It might seem weird but it's easily one of the most challenging things I've done in my life. Every ride is different - even if you draw the same bull it's never the exact same thing and when it all comes together you get a few crazy quick seconds of just right.

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

S: My friend Kishana [Watkins] taught me how to rope the fire hydrant outside the Sundance Saloon and I've had fun roping lots of stationary objects since then. However, given that calf roping on foot is always the first thing in the morning, I've only competed in that twice 'cuz... aw shit I'm not a morning person by any stretch of the imagination.

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

S: To get an invitation for finals and, shoot, while I'm there, a pretty buckle wouldn't hurt.

J: Hopefully we will see you at Finals in Laughlin at the Avi Resort! Who is your favorite Rodeo Competitor (both IGRA and non-IGRA)?

S: In IGRA, my favorite competitors are Sammy Vangelder and Chuck Browning. They are both amazing competitors really good at what they do and always so genuine, open, and incredibly supportive to new competitors that are just learning the ropes. I like Tuff Hedeman and Lane Frost from PBR.

NGRA Members Celebrating Birthdays in August:



| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Dane Bethea | August 7 |
| David McKenney | August 8 |
| Jack Morrison | August 11 |
| David Murie | August 12 |
| Andrew Goodman | August 14 |
| Joe McMullen | August 16 |
| Garry Douglas | August 17 |
| Frank Gardner | August 18 |
| Eric Hudson | August 21 |
| David Blunk | August 25 |
| Brian Rogers | August 26 |



NEW MEMBERS

Matthew Cox

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH CONTINUED:

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

S: The thing is, life is short just. Don't settle if you want to do something. Get the fuck out there and do it! Ain't nobody gonna do it for ya, just don't forget to enjoy it while you're doin' it. The bulls I've ridden would probably say, "I can't believe she drank all my beer!" They'd probably also say, "You always gotta watch out for those 'lil ones."

J: Thank you, Cowboy! This was an awesome chat. Good luck on the remaining circuit year and we hope to see you again at Finals!!



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|--|-----|---|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's | 7 *Men of Charlie's Monthly Contest, 9:30 PM |
| 8 | 9 *Fundraising Meeting @ 6:30 PM at The Center. All are welcome. *BigHorn RPC Meeting following | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's * Kimberli & JDs IGRA Candidacy Show at Charlie's *GSGRA Best Buck in The By Rodeo | 14 *NGRA "Night of Duets" Show @ Charlie's 9:30PM |
| 15 | 16 *NGRA Meetings: BOD, Gen. Membership, & Finals RPC Begins at 6:30 PM at The Center | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's *ILGRA Windy City Rodeo | 21 *NGRA Stampedes the Lariat in Laughlin, NV *Black & White Party |
| 22 | 23 *Deadline for August Newsletter | 24 *QBA Networking Lunch @ Cosmopolitan Tapas | 25 | 26 *QBA Evening Social @ Sedona | 27 *NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's | 28 *5 th Annual HRC Gala *SNAPI Saturdays @ Charlie's |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |