



October 2014 BigHorn Gazette

Walking with Pride

September 5 saw the NGRA once again enter the Pride Parade



The NGRA Banner was carried by Efrain Pc and Julio Cesar



Ida Slapther, Miss IGRA 2014 – Katrina Davenport,
and your Volunteer Coordinator – Carolyn Jones



That well known comedy duo Gary Segal and Johnny-Bob Dalton performed their usual antics
along the way



David Wright drove the first truck carrying the NGRA 2014 Royalty



Ms NGRA 2015 Contestant – Traci Foxx and Mr NGRA 2015 Contestant – Dawg

Carolyn Jones, Volunteer Coordinator

Presidential Ramblings

Many of you know that I come from GSGRA (California) and the Bay Area specifically.

I'm just back from the Best Buck in the Bay and I gotta tell ya...it was an awesome way to recharge my Rodeo Battery! Having been the rodeo director there during a venue change once before, I know how difficult it can be. My hat is off the Rosemary, their Rodeo Director, and her team. They made the move very well. They involved the business leaders of the new community and leveraged the skills and connections of their local members.

Wednesday night we had a great NGRA meeting where we talked about BigHorn Rodeo 2015 and what we wanted to see. More than once it was more community involvement. To do that, we need you, our community to step up and share your skills and connections. Laura Scott is returning to the Rodeo Director helm and has some great energy, ideas and team members already on board. Keep your eye out for meeting notices. We'll need your help to make sure BigHorn Rodeo 2015 is a smashing success.

I'm going to be doing a fair amount of work travel for the next couple of months, so I will be missing a few of our events, but I still have my spies. :-) Please come out and support our reigning royalty as they prep for finals and the new "kids" as they prep to run for our 2015 positions.

See you soon
Douglas Graff
NGRA President
president@ngra.com

From Your Volunteer Coordinator

Firstly I would like to thank those of you who turned out to march with us in the Pride Parade.

As autumn comes we are starting to look forward to BigHorn 2015 with Laura Scott returning as our Rodeo Director. We are also returning to a weekend, daytime rodeo but with a very manageable start time of 10 am.

I hope you will all consider volunteering to help with rodeo. Some folk have already contacted me with offers of help. Thanks to them. Look out for an invitation to my next rodeo volunteer gathering which is coming soon. Anyone interested in finding out more about rodeo and considering volunteering will be welcome.

Don't forget contact me for anything to do with volunteering for NGRA.

Carolyn Jones,
Volunteer Coordinator
volunteers@ngra.com

Rodeo Director for Bighorn 2015



You can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl. I am thrilled to be NGRA's Rodeo Director again for BigHorn Rodeo 2015. For the next month and a half, Ken Hruby, our Assistant Rodeo Director and I will be talking with different people about joining the BigHorn Rodeo Team.

One of the big changes we are making is we are going back to the original format of a Saturday and Sunday day rodeo. The dates are May 9 and 10, 2015, at Horseman's Park. We are in talks with Alexis Park to once again

be our host hotel and Friday May 8, we are hosting a Pool Party from 11:00 – until???

Our first Rodeo Planning Meeting will be Monday, November 10, and subsequently all meetings will be the second Monday of each month, 6:30 pm at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center. At our first meeting we will be choosing our poster for the rodeo. If you are interested in designing the BigHorn Rodeo 2015 poster, look for the information in this Newsletter.

That's what we know right now so keep watching these pages and our web site, www.bighornrodeo.com for more information.

Thought for the month~ what advice do cows give? Turn the udder cheek and moooooove on!



Laura Scott
Rodeo Director
BigHorn Rodeo 2015
rodeodirector@bighornrodeo.com

Rodeo Pride Charlie's Saturday, September 13

We had our monthly NGRA event at Charlie's Las Vegas with Rodeo Pride. We are happy to announce that we raised \$331.00 dollars that night. We would like to thank the staff and management of Charlie's Las Vegas, as well as all those that attended. A special shout out to our performers: Vivianne Dumonde, Taylor Trash, Jason Metzger, Preston, A'Lotta Trash, Ida Slapther, Michael "Dawg" Yarborough, and Traci Foxx. We would like to thank the 2015 Royalty Contestant Team for selling raffles, as well as Phil Lombardi for selling jello shots.

From Your Royalty Team

Hello Members

Wow, what a year it has been! First, we would like to congratulate Michael Dawg-Yarbrough, & Traci Foxx on kicking off their candidacy with their "Road to NGRA" event at Flex Cocktail Lounge on Saturday, October 4th. We will be there, won't you? Also, we are excited to be back at Charlie's on Saturday, October 11 from 9pm-midnight for our event, titled "Coming Out with the Boys," in celebration of National Coming Out Day. We will also be at the Garage on Saturday, October 25 for "City Slickers & Country Kickers" from 5 pm - 8 pm. We promise these events will be lots of fun.

Next, we would like to wish Miss IGRA 2014 Katrina Davenport well on her step-down at IGRA World Gay Rodeo Finals October 16 - 19 in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas. You are an incredible inspiration and we are all proud of you. Thank you for representing NGRA and IGRA with such class and dignity.

And now, we want to congratulate Laura Scott for being named as Rodeo Director for BigHorn Rodeo 2015. If you haven't heard, we will be going back to a Saturday/Sunday daytime rodeo.

Finally, we want to wish each other good luck as the 2014 NGRA Royalty Team heads to the IGRA 2015 Royalty Team Competition.

Your 2014 NGRA Royalty Team:

Mr NGRA – Brent Rosinski
Miss NGRA – A'Lotta Trash
MsTer NGRA – Preston
Mr. NGRA 1st Runner-Up – Jason Metzger

Happy Birthday

To those Members with birthdays in October:

7	Lance Coss
	Robert Honeycutt
14	Shawn Dunlap
15	Christopher Sanders
16	John Gomes
17	Dennis Shaul
18	Billy Pierro
	Scott Bullock
20	Eddy Krien

Welcome to the NGRA Corral

Jacob Butler

Member of the Month

Phil Lombardi

Phil Lombardi was nominated as September Member of the Month for helping at all the events.

Congratulations Phil.

2015 Royalty Competition Charlie's Saturday, November 29

For those of you who don't already know this, the NGRA hosts two major events each year. The first, and our most popular, is the internationally famous BigHorn Rodeo, scheduled for May 9th and 10th 2015 (mark your calendars). The other, less known but extremely important, is the Annual Royalty Competition. In this event, NGRA crowns its Royalty for the following year.

Just getting to the competition can be difficult. For starters, you have to be a member of NGRA, in good standing, for 180 days prior to the start of the competition — that's the easy part. I'm not going to do the math but that roughly means anybody who joined NGRA after the 31st of May was not eligible for this year's competition. Then, 90 days prior to the competition, individuals had to formally announce themselves. That happened on the 30th of August at Flex. Once the competitors have been announced, they need to demonstrate their commitment to NGRA and to the local community. Each competitor must attend a minimum of three General Membership Meetings and one Board of Directors meeting prior to the beginning of the scheduled competition. Additionally, contestants must singly, or jointly, host at least one fundraising event in which the money is donated to a nonprofit organization. They are required to raise at least \$250 individually or \$500 for a group of two. This year, the candidates have opted to do a joint fundraiser, on Saturday, October 4th at Flex. The proceeds will benefit The Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (again, mark your calendars).

This year, we have two competitors, vying for two positions. Don't be fooled though, just because we only have one competitor for each category, doesn't mean it's an automatic win. Each contestant will be judged on personal interview, western wear, entertainment, on-stage public presentation, and spirit/community service. The judging is done by a panel of impartial individuals. The scoring can be a bit complicated but that's actually to ensure everybody has a fair shot at the title. Additionally, some areas carry more weight than others, for example, Personal Interview is worth 100 points but Western Wear maxes out at 50 points. To win the title, each candidate will have to score at least 75% of the total available, which is 300 points. For those of you (like me) who are terrible at math, this means they have to score a minimum of 225 points out of 300 possible. If that sounds easy, I ask you to remember how you felt when you had to take "Public Speaking" in High School. Now imagine being judged on that while you're also being judged on your clothes, your NGRA and IGRA knowledge, and how well you can entertain a crowd.

This year's competition is taking place on Saturday November 29th and is broken down into two areas. The "Closed" portion of the judging will take place at The Center. That's where the contestants will be judged on the Personal Interview and Spirit/Community Service. The "Open" portion (where the public is invited, and encouraged to attend) will take place that evening, at Charlie's, and is where the contestants will be judged on Western Wear, Public Presentation, and Entertainment.

Once the Competition is over, and the Royalty Team is announced, its real work will begin. The Royalty Team is required to serve as active members of the Fundraising Committee, which includes putting on monthly fundraising shows. Additionally, Members of the Royalty Team must represent NGRA in a positive manner at as many rodeos, including BigHorn Rodeo, as physically and financially able (at least one non-NGRA rodeo is required) and they must be visible members of the Southern Nevada Gay Community by attending NGRA fundraisers, and fundraisers for other community organizations, while wearing a sash. In short, NGRA Royalty is the public face of NGRA to the rest of the Southern Nevada Gay Community and the face of NGRA to the IGRA.

As I've already mentioned, this year's competition will take place on November 29th and I encourage all of you to come to Charlie's to witness this amazing Competition and to show your support for the two candidates vying for titles. See you on the 29th of November and don't forget to bring as many \$5 bills and \$1 bills as you can afford — it is a fundraiser, after all.

Ken Hruby, Vice President

Meet the NGRA 2015 Royalty Contestants

Mr NGRA 2015 Contestant – Dawg (aka Michael Yarbrough)



My friends call me DAWG. I was born Michael Yarbrough to a horse ranching family in Arkansas in 1972. I grew up on a working ranch – meaning early mornings, late evenings, hard work and even greater rewards. As I grew up I was involved with the rodeo system from local 4-H to national competitions.

When I came out as a gay man I lost direction and motivation for a long time. Attempts to fit in and find a place among the crowds was depressing. I found a few organizations that allowed me to be myself, meaning I was encouraged to be a guy's guy as well as to embrace a community service system that I grew up with – nurture the community and you will reap great things for that community.

I have been a long standing member of the International Court System, holding titles in a few cities and lifetime titles as well. I have also been a member of the Leather organizations where I lived and through both of these I finally found Gay Rodeo when I lived in Seattle, WA. I felt like I had come full circle and was home again. The family and relationships that I developed in this organization has been some of the most rewarding of my life.

I look forward to many more years and many more amazing roads to travel and new family and friends to discover along the way.

Ms NGRA 2015 Contestant – Traci Foxx (aka Traci Kimberlin)



Traci Foxx is no stranger to the Las Vegas GLBTQ community. She has been active, or volunteered with various organizations, in addition to NGRA, such as SNAPI, IGRA, Sin City Sisters, GLBT Center, Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, to name a few. Of which she has even held some titles within the organizations. Of all the titles Traci has earned, her most coveted will always and forever be the title of "mom".

Traci is the mother of two beautiful children: Braedin and Nicholas, ages 5 and 4 respectively. She is also the fiancé of MsTer NGRA 2014 "Preston".

When not out organizing, or performing, and supporting or raising money for a sister organization's event, Traci is also out raising awareness for children's rights, homeless youth, and one that is dear to her heart, the transgender community.

You've heard the saying "a woman's work is never done" and in Traci's case, this is true. While the majority of our community is unwinding, taking off our party clothes, make up or having a cocktail, Traci's work continues on. Tucking her babies in for the night, telling them bed time stories, preparing lunches, laundry, and even assisting her fiancé in preparing for the upcoming IGRA competition.

Traci looks forward to the possibility of being the next Ms NGRA 2015 and her ultimate goal is to bring the values of "unity" back to our community.

Fundraising into 2015

We hope you have enjoyed our many fundraisers so far this year! The planning is about to begin for next year's fundraisers, and boy do we have a lot of fun ideas on the table! We would love your input, and invite you to be part of the Fundraising Committee. As a member of the Committee, you would be sharing your ideas and helping put on the events that we all enjoy so much. These funds that we raise will be used to put on one heck of a rodeo and to give back to our community. If you are interested in getting involved, please email Cristina at fundraising@ngra.com.

Christina DiGioia
Fundraising Director
fundraising@ngra.com

Gay Rodeo on This is Life with Lisa Ling

Hi folks

I'm happy to announce that we now have a confirmed air date for our episode, Gay Rodeo, on *This is Life with Lisa Ling*. The episode will premiere **Sunday, November 9th at 10 pm EST on CNN**. Mark your calendars and spread the word!

The series begins on Sunday, September 28 and a new episode will air each week. We hope you'll tune in! You can find more info on <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/us/this-is-life-with-lisa-ling/index.html>

Thank you so much for the work that you've put into this show. Many of you selflessly volunteered your time to help us, whether by coordinating shoots in the arena, digging through rodeo archives, or telling your story on camera. It would not have been possible without each and every one of you. We are so proud of how it's shaping up - the IGRA is full of important stories and I'm so glad that this show could be a vehicle for telling them!

Warm regards,

Jackie Hurwitz



Road to NGRA

We're more than just country

Join the 2015 candidates
as we start our
journey to NGRA Royalty!

Saturday Oct 4th
Cocktails at 8 pm
Show at 9 pm

Proceeds benefit
The Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence





THE NEVADA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

★ ★ ★ *Coming Out* ★ ★ ★

with the

BOYS

OCTOBER
11TH

LET'S CELEBRATE NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY TOGETHER

CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS

5012 ARVILLE STREET, LAS VEGAS, NV 89118

COCKTAILS 9PM SHOW 10PM BEER BUST 21+

Charlie's
Las Vegas

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT NGRA AND BIGHORN RODEO





City Slickers & Country Kickers

**Saturday, October 25
5pm-8pm**

**Beer Bust
\$5 Domestic
\$8 Premium**



**The Garage
1487 E. Flamingo Rd
Las Vegas, NV 89119**



Proceeds benefit NGRA and BigHorn Rodeo

NEVADA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

GIVING THANKS

Bash

SAT NOV. 8TH

GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFTS IN YOUR LIFE:
BEER BUST | RAFFLES | JELLO SHOTS | SHOW
PROCEEDS BENEFIT NGRA AND BIGHORN RODEO

COCKTAILS 9PM

Charlies
Las Vegas

5012 S. ARVILLE STREET, LAS VEGAS, NV 89118

SHOW 10PM



NEVADA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

9 PM
COCKTAILS

10 PM
SHOW



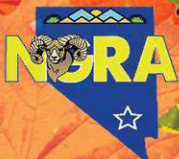
FALL
RODEO
ROUNDUP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

Proceeds benefit NGRA & BigHorn Rodeo

RAFFLES / SHOW / JELLO SHOTS

4371 W CHARLESTON BLVD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89102





THE NEVADA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:



ROYAL NIGHT

2015 Royalty Competition

Hosted by:
Alex Michaels
as
Joan Rivers

Charlie's
Las Vegas

9pm-Midnight
Saturday
November 29, 2014

Charlie's Las Vegas
5012 Arville St.
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Proceeds benefit NGRA and BigHorn Rodeo

Calendar

October

Sat 4	9:00 pm	Road to NGRA: 2015 NGRA Royalty Contestant Event	Flex Cocktail Lounge, 4371 West Charleston Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Sat 11	9:00 pm	Coming Out with the Boys	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
16-19		World Gay Rodeo Finals	John Justin Arena, Will Rogers Memorial Center 3401 West Lancaster Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76107
Tue 21	6:30 pm	NGRA Board and General Membership Meeting	Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 401 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101
Sat 25	5:00 pm	City Slickers and Country Kickers	The Garage, 1487 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89119

November

Sat 8	9:00 pm	Giving Thanks Bash	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Mon 10	6:30 pm	Rodeo Planning Committee	Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 401 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101
13-16		30 th Annual IGRA Convention	DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver – Stapleton North 4040 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80216
Tue 18	6:30 pm	NGRA Board and General Membership Meeting	Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 401 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101
Sat 22	9:00 pm	Fall Rodeo Roundup	Flex Cocktail Lounge, 4371 West Charleston Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Sat 29	9:00 pm	NGRA Royalty Competition	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118

Calendar (continued)

December

Mon 8	6:30 pm	Rodeo Planning Committee	Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 401 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101
Sat 13	9:00 pm	NGRA Fundraising Event	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Mon 15	6:30 pm	NGRA Board and General Membership Meeting	Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 401 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101

NGRA Board of Directors

Effective May 1, 2014

President	Doug Graff	president@ngra.com
Vice President	Ken Hruby	vicepresident@ngra.com
Secretary	Jeffrey Neal	secretary@ngra.com
Treasurer	David Hering	treasurer@ngra.com
Director	Laura Scott	director1@ngra.com
Director	Christina DiGioia	director2@ngra.com
Director	Jason Metzger	director3@ngra.com
Director	Brent Rosinski	director4@ngra.com
IGRA Trustee	Guy Puglisi	trustee@ngra.com

NGRA 2014 Royalty

Royalty Team		royaltyteam@ngra.com
Mr NGRA	Brent Rosinski	mrngra@ngra.com
Mr NGRA, 1 st Runner Up	Jason Metzger	mrngra1st@ngra.com
Miss NGRA	A'Lotta Trash	missngra@ngra.com
MsTer NGRA	Preston	msterngra@ngra.com

BigHorn Rodeo 2015 Contacts

Rodeo Director	Laura Scott	rodeodirector@bighornrodeo.com
Assistant Rodeo Director	Ken Hruby	assistant@bighornrodeo.com

Other contacts will be added as Laura appoints her Team.

Other NGRA Contacts

Fundraising Director	Christina DiGioia	fundraising@ngra.com
Historian	David Wright	history@ngra.com
Marketing / Media Director	Brent Rosinski	pr@ngra.com
Membership Secretary	David Blackwood	membership@ngra.com
Newsletter Editor	Barry Jones	news@ngra.com
Rodeo Education	Laura Scott	education@ngra.com
Royalty Competition Director	David Blackwood	royaltycompetitiondirector@ngra.com .
Sponsorship Director	Roger Bergmann	sponsors@ngra.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Carolyn Jones	volunteers@ngra.com
Webmaster	Brent Rosinski	webmaster@ngra.com