

Membership Meeting
 Sunday, January 27, 2008
 Innuendo 4:00 p.m.

NSGRA is a proud member of



We thank our IGRA Sponsors:



We thank our 2008 local Sponsors:



GLBT Pride

 NSGRA PARTNERS

Your help is needed! We have formal sponsorship packages \$500.00 on up for businesses and individuals are welcome to contribute as well! Sponsorships are 100% tax deductible. Many corporations have GLBT employee groups and if you work for a company that has one, **YOU** could make a huge difference just by talking to **US** about submitting a sponsorship proposal to **THEM**! The sponsorship committee needs volunteers and ideas, please drop a note to sponsorships@nsgra.org or call our new and improved hotline: 763-87-NSGRA

Write ⁱⁿ the Saddle

January 2008

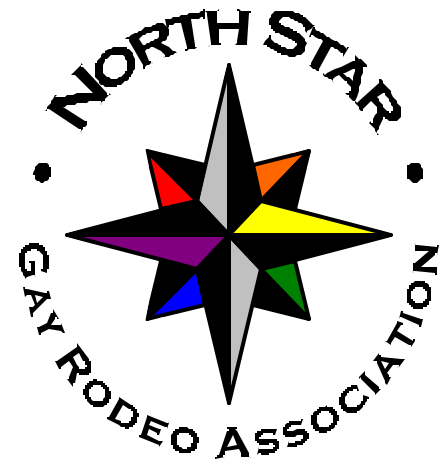
North Star Store!

Just in time for the New Year! What could be more up-to-date than having an online store? Our North Star Store is open for business to better serve everyone!

You can order NSGRA team shirts, pins and badges along with renewing or upgrading your membership! Heck, you can even become an official sponsor of the 2008 North Star Rodeo, sponsor an award buckle or make a donation and it is all very easy and secure. Simply click what you want to buy or sponsor, add it to your virtual shopping cart and when you are done, click "check out". Once you check out you are transferred to a secure billing site and you just follow the simple steps to pay for your order.

Starting 5 weeks before our rodeo, as per IGRA rules, you will be able to register to compete at our 2008 rodeo online at our store. No more postage stamps required!

Visit www.nsgra.org and click on "Store" to see how cool this is!



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NORTH
STAR
GAY
RODEO
ASSOCIATION



PO BOX 48039
COON RAPIDS, MN
55448

[HTTP://WWW.NSGRA.ORG](http://www.nsgra.org)

(763)-78-NSGRA

12TH
North Star
Regional Rodeo
July 4 – July 6, 2008



IGRA UNIVERSITY

Las Vegas, NV February 22-24, 2008

www.igra.com/University/index.htm

University and Host Hotel:
Tuscany Suites & Casino
255 E. Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89109

1-877-887-2261
\$85.00 Sunday-Thursday
\$115.00 Friday & Saturday
Ask for "IGRA University"

You can register online or print your registration from the website.

The opportunity to learn everything from rodeo web design to marketing rodeo is included. Visit the curriculum page for details.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Black Bart Editor
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Cowtown Rodeo

Fort Worth TX February 29-March 2, 2008

W.R. Watt Arena
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Inn Suites Hotel & Suites
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\$69.00 TGRA Rate (1-2 guests)

www.tgra.org



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Sending Your Updated
Address Info &
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membership@nsgra.org
or call us at
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2007 Rodeo List

Road Runner Regional Rodeo
Phoenix, AZ 1/18-1/20

IGRA University
Las Vegas, NV 2/22-2/24

Cowtown Rodeo
Dallas, TX 2/29-3/2

Sunshine Stampede
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 4/4-4/6

Hot Rodeo
Palms Springs, CA 5/2-5/4

Liberty Stampede Rodeo
Philadelphia, PA 5/9-5/11

Great Plains Rodeo
Oklahoma City, OK 5/23-5/25

LA Rodeo
Los Angeles, CA 6/20-6/22

Canadian Rockies International
Rodeo Calgary, Alberta 6/27-6/29

**North Star Regional Rodeo
Twin Cities, MN 7/4 -7/6**

Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo
Denver, CO 7/11-7/13

Sierra Stampede
Sacramento, CA 7/25-7/27

Zia Regional Rodeo
Albuquerque, NM 8/15-8/17

Bay Area Gay Rodeo
San Francisco, CA 9/14-9/16

Windy City Rodeo
Chicago, IL 8/22-8/24

MGRA Show Me State Rodeo
Kansas City, MO 8/29-8/30

**For More Rodeo Action,
go to this website:**

WWW.IGRA.COM

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Howdy Folks!

Wow can you believe that its 2008 already?? letter finds you all in great spirits after a joyous have prepared you for what is ahead!



Where has the time gone? I hope that this little holiday season!!! I hope those great spirits

Yep you guessed it; we are only 7 short months away from NSRR #12. Can you believe it? If not you better start, because in my eyes we are now in “Crunch Time”. We are in GREAT need of Sponsors! If you have any possible leads or connections please pass them along to our Sponsorship Chair, or, better yet, make his job easier and contact them yourself. Just remember to notify him of who you plan to contact so he doesn’t send someone else knocking on their door! I encourage each of you to take an active role in helping us make this rodeo bigger and better than ever! If you would like to volunteer or just want to enquire about what services are still needed please contact Chris at rodeodirector@nsgra.org!

If you were not at the December meeting please note that, unless otherwise notified, ALL membership meetings will now be held the 3rd Sunday of each month at Innuendo. ALL meetings will begin promptly at 4pm.

Due to the “NSGRA and Friends Retreat” the 3rd weekend of January our monthly membership meeting will be held on January 27th rather than January 20th. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Jarred Haynie
NSGRA President 2008

NSGRA HAS A NEW HOTLINE

(763) 78-NSGRA

A local call in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area—please make note of this!

CHICKEN DANCE REVUE

JANUARY 12TH

On Saturday, January 12th, we have our second “Chicken Ranch Revue”, the monthly Show and Beer Bust at Innuendo! Our new royalty team will be out performing and they invite you to come check them out! The Show is from 8-11PM and the beer bust is from 8PM-2AM. Innuendo is giving us a monthly opportunity to socialize, meet new friends and raise money for our 2008 rodeo—please bring your friends! Innuendo is located across the street from the old Union Railroad Depot in Lowertown (Downtown) Saint Paul at 213 4th Street East.

RODEO COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 27TH

The Rodeo committee will meet at 1:30 PM at our Rodeo Director’s house (preceding the membership meeting). We will be examining and selecting our 2008 North Star Regional Rodeo Award buckle designs at this meeting—you must attend to vote! There should be time for a drink after this meeting and before the membership meeting. E-mail Chris for easy directions to his house or call the hotline by 11 AM on Sunday the 27th.

NSGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JANUARY 27TH

Please attend the membership meeting at **4 PM** on Sunday, January 27th at the Innuendo. Participation makes our association strong so please attend! Innuendo is located across the street from the old Union Railroad Depot in Lowertown (Downtown) Saint Paul at 213 4th Street East.

MEMBERSHIP

RHONDA

Happy New Year! For those whose memberships are expiring there is still time to continue your affiliation with NSGRA. Please visit http://www.nsgra.org/about_nsgra_join_now.php. Now that we are 501C(3) if you become a Sheriff or Marshal, the portion above your membership fee is tax deductible!

PLEASE let us know if your mailing address or e-mail address has changed. We don't want to lose touch when you change addresses (either kind). Please note our changed mailing address on the previous page. Sending newsletters in electronic formats is faster than a printed version and saves postage and trees. Nevertheless, we will send a printed version to any member who requests it.

If you are a current NSGRA member and have not been receiving the email versions of the monthly newsletter, please check your Spam guard. The emails are sent blind carbon copied to respect our members' privacy, and they currently come from blackbart@blackbart.net.

NSGRA encourages all members to contribute articles for Write in the Saddle. Ideas for articles and other submissions are always welcome! It is our connection with each other. Let us hear from you! **In fact, Bart is looking to give someone else the chance to edit this fine newsletter—please read his article on page 6!**

NSGRA TEAM SHIRTS—ARE YOU READY? ORDER YOURS NOW!

The 2008 IGRA Circuit starts has begun - do you have your team shirt? We have NSGRA events coming up and it is always fashionable to wear your team shirt.

NSGRA team shirts are available from size XS to 7X and in Tall Sizes. The standard team shirt is in royal blue and includes the NSGRA logo on the left front, the letters NSGRA on the back, and your name embroidered on the right front. You don't need to be a contestant to order a shirt - just have team spirit! For competitors (or those with extra spirit) a second team shirt is available in a neutral (beige/gray) tone with the same lettering/logo/name.

The shirts in sizes XS to XL are \$35 each. For larger sizes, add the appropriate amount for each shirt. For 2XL add \$1.50, for 3XL add \$3.00, for 4XL add \$4.50, for 5XL add \$6.00, for 6XL add \$7.50, for 7XL add \$9.00. Tall Sizes are available in sizes LT - 3XLT for an additional \$2.00.

To order your shirt(s) just send the correct amount along with the COLOR and SIZE of shirt that you want (and how you want your NAME spelled) addressed to NSGRA MEMBERSHIP, PO Box 11199, St Paul MN 55111-0199. If you have questions, contact info@nsgra.org or call the hotline.

NSGRA BADGES AVAILABLE

ORDER YOURS NOW!

A great way to show your rodeo pride is with our badge—it is perfect for those attending other rodeos! The NSGRA team badge is a combo outline of the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin done in black on a silver background. You can get your NSGRA name badge for only \$10. Go to the NSGRA website for a preview peek at the badge. Hangtags showing the offices you have held are also available for only \$3 each.

NSGRA PINS AVAILABLE

ORDER YOURS NOW!

We have ordered new pins that will be even more fabulous than our previous ones—and much more durable! Get yours soon! They can be worn on a vest, shirt, or even as a hatpin. They also make lovely (and inexpensive at \$5 each) gifts, and they are the perfect complement to your NSGRA Shirt and Badge.

FRIENDLY FRIDLEY DANCE

JANUARY 5 & 19

Come to Friendly Fridley! The North Air Banquet Hall is located at 6831 Hwy 65 (Central Avenue) in Fridley, about a mile north of I-694 on the east side of the highway. There is PLENTY of free parking right next to the building, just in time for winter. From I-694 go north 1.5 miles on Highway 65 to Mississippi Street. Turn right (east) then the first left (north) onto Lucia Lane. The end of the block is the entrance to the parking lot.

The cost for entry is \$10 per person. There are free 2 step lessons at 7:30pm, and open dancing from 8 pm – midnight. Additional dance information is at <http://www.2stepmsp.org/>.

DANCING AT LEE'S LIQUOR LOUNGE

EVERY SUNDAY

Lee's Liquor Lounge offers weekly country-dance to the GLBT community on Sunday evenings. Lessons begin at 6 pm with open dancing from 7 - 10:30 pm. They also offer a light supper! Lee's is located 4 blocks from downtown Minneapolis at 12th Street and Glenwood Ave.

DANCING AT INNUENDO

JANUARY 10TH

Just remember the 2nd Thursday of each month—dance lessons at 6:30PM and open dancing 7-11PM. Innuendo is located across the street from the old Union Railroad Depot in Lowertown (Downtown) Saint Paul at 213 4th Street East.

2008 GRAND MARSHAL NOMINATIONS

JARRED

Many will ask what exactly is a Grand Marshal? Some will ask what the requirements to be Grand Marshal are! It's pretty simple really, but at the same time it is so important! The title of Grand Marshal is an honorary title we bestow upon those who have truly gone above and beyond to help insure the success of both the NSRR and NSGRA! There are no real requirements, nominees can be either individuals or groups, and they don't even have to be members of North Star!

I do however encourage you to put some thought into your nomination! Don't nominate someone simply because they are your friend, or they have been a part of NSGRA since its inception! Remember that this is an honor, and lets bestow it on someone who has truly supported NSGRA! I also encourage you to attach a brief note to your nomination explaining why you feel the person you are nominating is deserving of this title!

If you wish to nominate someone for the honor of Grand Marshal for the 2008 North Star Regional Rodeo please attend the January 27th 4 pm membership meeting at Innuendo. Nominations can also be sent to Jarred at president@nsgra.org. Only those members in attendance at the meeting can vote on the selection of Grand Marshal.

Please attend!

Howdy, all!

I have been involved with creating this newsletter right back to the dark days of summer of 2001. Our 1998 rodeo had ended in great debt and we were losing members; not making much progress towards retiring our debt, and getting back to hosting rodeos and being an active association again. It is hard to believe that we were considering disbanding but it is true! Part of turning things around was better communication through having consistent monthly newsletters. By and large, I think we have done that.

With the New Year starting, I think it is time to look for fresh perspective and a fresh approach to "Write in the Saddle". I am looking to step down as Editor to allow positive change and growth in our newsletter. I am still willing to help write articles, mentor and so on, but I find that I have grown stale and even "Wonder Bread" doesn't have an unlimited shelf life! I have on CD an example of every newsletter I have edited in Word format. One need not be a wordsmith to be an editor, but having spellchecker certainly helps! I especially encourage members who have not made major commitments to volunteer in the past to consider this position. You can use the existing format as a template or create your own. Please drop me a line if you are interested.

Let's Rodeo!

"Black Bart" blackbart@blackbart.net

NEW IGRA TRAVEL WEBSITE

IGRA Members,

The new IGRA Travel site that was previewed at Convention is now up and operating with a link off of www.igra.com or directly by book marking: www.igratravel.com.

Use it instead of sites like Travelocity and Expedia and help support IGRA. IGRA will use the proceeds to support the member associations.

Here is how it works: when you use a travel-booking site, the sponsoring company gets a monetary commission (typically a small percentage, built in to the cost of travel, NOT added to it). With the new IGRAtravel.com site we receive a split of that commission percentage for every item booked using the site. In the decision making process, we tested various sites and found this program to offer travel prices equal to, in most cases, and sometimes less than other group travel websites sites like Travelocity and Expedia.

Please, next time you book travel thru a site, consider using the igratravel.com site and help IGRA build new revenue sources to support GLBT rodeo. I would like to thank Frank Harrell for all his hard work on this project and Ed Barry who helped manage the evaluation of the opportunity for IGRA.

See you on the circuit in 2008!

Brian Helander
President IGRA

Greetings!

It is not often when you will hear from me in the newsletter as your Treasurer, but with the New Year dawning, I thought I should let the membership know more about my position on the board and what I need in order to do a good job.

Now that NSGRA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, it is essential that our accounting is beyond reproach. Our goal is to have an independent auditing of our records before we close the rodeo books each year. In order to do this, we need excellent accounting and transparent ledgers that show a budget with a balance between income and expenditures. We need to be able to show that money going out is properly authorized and that paperwork is associated with each paid bill. In addition, we must also keep our rodeo operating account separate from our membership account. What is the difference between the two? In a nutshell, newsletter expenses, our hotline, items related to membership such as IGRA Convention delegate registration fees come out of our membership account. All matters directly related to hosting our rodeo such as: advertising, livestock rental, dance tent rental, arena rental, food and beverages sold at the rodeo and so on, are germane to our rodeo operating account.

No matter which account we are discussing, NSGRA now requires paperwork before we will write a check for anything. This can be as simple as an invoice from a company we are doing business with, or a written request from a North Star member asking to be reimbursed for an authorized expense along with a receipt. All fundraising must be clear whether the proceeds go to put on our rodeo or to further a goal of the membership. NSGRA has a worksheet on hosting events-especially fundraisers-that explain the process. Special care must be given to make sure that the money is properly counted and deposited. Again, we have written guidelines for this and both our Fundraising Chair and I have copies to send to interested folk.

I appreciate your assistance and understanding in regards to protecting North Star's reputation for good financial accounting. Remember: money donated to put on our 2008 North Star Regional Rodeo is tax deductible and we are looking for sponsors. For as little as \$100.00 you can become a Sheriff (individual supporter of the rodeo) or a Marshal (a business supporter) and the amount in excess of your membership fee is totally tax deductible. We also look for donations of goods and services and we will grant sponsorships based on the value of the donation. Again, they are tax deductible.

I am also keeping a file on in-kind donations. Any items that are purchased and used for NSGRA that are not reimbursed are eligible for an income tax deduction. I am encouraging all of our members to turn in receipts for all items purchased whether they want to be reimbursed or not. This will help me record actual costs and include them in our budget for the following year.

Have a Happy New Year!

LeAnn
Treasurer NSGRA

2009 POSTER CONTEST

Got Spurs? Got Chaps? Got Talent? The rodeo poster contest is now in progress. Artists, graphic designers and creators, we're looking for you. Be creative and design a winning entry for the 2009 NSGRA Rodeo poster contest. The contest is open to NSGRA members and the general public. The top poster as judged by the membership of NSGRA at the February membership meeting will become the design for 2009. The winning entrants will receive: two free weekend passes to the 2008 and 2009 North Star Regional Rodeo events, as well as be recognized in the 2008 and 2009 rodeo program.

Rules & Instructions to get you started:

- ? Final Poster Size will be 24"x36" - winning design will also be reproduced at 8½x11
- ? Final poster must include the following legends prominently:
 - Largest : "North Star Regional Rodeo 2009"
 - "IGRA Sanctioned Rodeo" or "International Gay Rodeo Association Sanctioned Rodeo"
 - "North Star Gay Rodeo Association"
 - "July 3-5, 2009"
 - "Deadbroke Arena. Hugo, MN"
 - "For more information- visit www.nsgra.org or call (763) 78-NSGRA"
- ? The poster must include room for sponsor logos – leave approximately 69 sq. in. area for logos - about 3"x23" or equivalent - logos to be printed on the final poster include:
 - IGRA
 - NSGRA
 - RainbowVision
 - Pride Partnered logo
 - Logo
 - (IGRA Sponsors and regional/local sponsors will be added or provided by NSGRA)

Contact info@nsgra.org for electronic versions of sample logos.

- Poster must be reproducible using standard 4-color process (i.e. no neon or reflective inks, etc)
- No more than two (2) poster entries per individual
- Submissions must be full sized print of poster and print ready file on CD-RW
- Final Submissions must be received by February 10th, 2008

Contact Scott Tat fundraising@nsgra.org for delivery information. NSGRA board and general members based on overall design and effectiveness of presentation information will judge entries. (See third bullet point above). The winning entry will be announced at an NSGRA event in February. All entries will become property of NSGRA. The winning entry will become the property of NSGRA, which may make modifications to design as necessary for use in rodeo promotion. Artwork must be presented to NSGRA in its original native format and potentially converted to other formats for printing and Rodeo promotional needs.

Many other gay rodeo associations have samples of their posters and other promotional material online. Please feel free to visit these organizations for inspiration! Links to all International Gay Rodeo Association member associations are available at www.igra.org. If you have any additional questions or need further information please write to us at info@nsgra.org. Please include "Poster Contest" in subject line.

"What Sells Rodeo?"

As I thought about writing this article, my gaze drifted to the cover of the current month's Twin Cities Business, which prominently features a rodeo cowboy in mid-ride on the cover. My curiosity was piqued at the time, so I figured I'd better pick it up.

Turns out Jac Sperling, formerly of the Minnesota Wild, is trying to market professional rodeo in the same style as professional wrestling. His goal is to try to sell the competitors of the event more than their actual performance.

For what it's worth, I wish him luck. The PRCA and the PBR have tried this before in a couple of different formats with different degrees of success. The truth is, the die-hard fans are the only ones that really know the competitors. Your average run of the mill fan is more likely to talk about who lost out on Survivor while hanging around the water cooler. But, any effort to sell the event is a good thing... right?

No. Our goal in selling this rodeo is to not just bring in spectators, but to foster the spectators that will have a growing interest in the sport. It would be pretty easy for us to charter a bus, stop by a gay bar on Sunday morning, and offer a free ride and admission to encourage someone to watch our gay rodeo (provided of course, they buy lots of food and beverage). Technically, that would bring in money, but it could also cost us money in the long run.

In selling our event, we walk a fine line between the contestants, the spectators, and the sponsors. Each one of these groups benefits from a successful rodeo.

The sponsors want a good entertaining show, and they also want to know that their sponsorship can benefit them by giving them good customers in the future.

The spectators also want a good entertaining show. They want to have an enjoyable day with their friends. Maybe while they're there, they might learn more about a sponsor that caters to their needs or wants (Ok, I'll admit that conclusion is kind of cheesy, but it does happen once in awhile).

The contestants want a rodeo that will succeed because if the rodeo doesn't succeed, there won't be any more of them. If a good rodeo committee brings in the best combination of spectators and sponsors, there will be more competitors. More competitors mean more possibilities of a better contestant payout.

Think about this. Lousy spectators could mean a loss of quality sponsors. Lousy sponsors could mean a loss of quality spectators. Lousy contestants (or to be fair, a badly produced rodeo) mean the whole mess comes tumbling down.

Putting the 2008 rodeo together is not just a month-by-month process. It means re-evaluating and refining everything we have done in the past. Seeing what's successful, what's not, or daring to try something new. We don't go for the goal of getting a spectator, sponsor, or contestant for just one year. We get them for one year and every year after that. This isn't just about making the rodeo successful, but about building successful relationships. Think about that, next time you're called upon to help make our rodeo a success.

Chris Josephes chrisj@rodeo.org

2008 ROYALTY TEAM REPORT

Greetings and howdy y'all from your 2008 North Star Royalty Team!

We thought we'd write a letter letting you, the membership know some of our plans for the following year. However, first we would like to congratulate Jade, Jarred and Jack on an outstanding title year. You guys have left some pretty big shoes to fill and we will do our hardest to fill them. We would also like to thank Jade for putting together a great Royalty competition and our gracious judges for being there and all of you for attending. It was a night neither of us will forget.

Well can you believe its already January and there are only 7 months left until our 12th annual North Star Regional Rodeo? We can't wait and we know you can't either. There is already talk in the rodeo circuit of many competitors and spectators coming to our rodeo this year seeing as how its on July 4th weekend and we are not competing with Calgary this year. How exciting! We have agreed to take on the daunting task of putting together the Grand Entry for the rodeo this year. Chris, our illustrious Rodeo Director, has asked that this year's grand entry be bigger and better than ever. We have some things in the works such as horse drawn carriages and horse drill teams but are in need of your ideas and volunteers. Please contact either of us with any info or questions regarding the Grand Entry.

Also as you may know the membership has chosen the three charities for this year's rodeo; The Claire Housing Project, The Aliveness Project and Camp Heartland. All three of these organizations do great work and could use the extra money the association will be donating to them from our rodeo. However, one thing that organizations such as these are also in need of is volunteers. That's why we as representatives for North Star will be volunteering time at each of these organizations throughout the year and we urge each of you to do so as well. Not only will this allow you to see how our money is used but it will also allow you the opportunity to help put a face with NSGRA in the public and do some good while doing so.

Speaking of the NSGRA public face, we as the 2008 Royalty team are often approached while in public wearing our sashes (Let's face it they are big ole billboards for NSGRA). Many times we are asked what NSGRA means, or what do we do or simply told that people weren't aware that such a thing as "Gay Rodeo" existed. Your royalty are happy to answer any and all of these questions and urge you to do so as well. The more people that know we exist and what we are or do the more opportunity there is to grow as an organization. This will also allow us to make more money to put towards our rodeo and operating accounts.

Ah money glorious money! We need more! And when we say "we" we mean NSGRA. That's why we will both be working the Chicken Ranch Revue each month at Innuendo. This is a monthly show and beer bust that benefits NSGRA. It is the second Saturday of each month so please come down and join us and show your support. Likewise we will both be putting together several other fundraisers at various other clubs and events throughout not only the Twin Cities but also our entire region, that's right this means ROAD TRIPS! So stay tuned for further info about those.

Well that's just a few of the things we hope to accomplish over our title year. If you have any thoughts or concerns please feel free to contact us we would love to hear from you. So until next time Happy New Year and COWBOY UP!

Sincerely,

Augusta Wind - Miss NSGRA 2008

"Pup" Ric - Mr. NSGRA 2008

Editor's note: I had the pleasure of listening to a country band recently featuring the musical skills of a long-time NSGRA member. I thought it would make for a refreshing interview. Enjoy!

Toby, I hear you are part of a Country Western band. What can you tell us about it?

Well, Bart, first of all, thanks for this awesome opportunity to interview for NSGRA. The band is called "Shane Wyatt" and is focused on the leader, Shane Wyatt, singer / songwriter. He grew up in Oklahoma where he focused on fiddle and started on his songwriting skills. A job transfer brought him to Minnesota where he decided he wanted to move from solo work to a commercial working band.

What kind of songs does the band play?

Take the K102 play list from the last ten years and eliminate the female artists (no offense, none of us can sing that high). Then choose the material with the most energy and dance ability, and you should have an idea of what we play. We try to spread our material choices among many artists in an effort to please all listeners, and Brad Paisley, Toby Keith, Dierk Bentley, Joe Nichols and Dwight Yoakum would be good examples, just to name a few.

What instrument do you play?

I play the bass. It has been my only instrument of choice for many years. I play a 1975 fretted Gibson Ripper when studying or rehearsing, but on stage I bring out my pride and joy, a 1983 custom-built fretless Gibson Victory Artist.

How long have you played the guitar?

Answering this question will date myself, you know! Let's just say I started playing bass when I was 15 in early high school. Ok, it's been 40 years and counting!

What made you quit your day job and take on a full-time band job? (Or are you still doing other jobs?)

Having played full time in the distant past, I was just getting itchy to play again. My day job is part time and very flexible, so incorporating the band into my life was relatively easy. Nowadays, the market has changed and very few clubs run music more than two to four nights a week, so it's really not full time either.

Where can we hear you play?

We are working the greater metro country circuit and have also become part of the K102 night rotation. We have a website at www.shanewyatt.com and maintain a calendar of shows there under "Appearances". You can see pictures of some performances as well as listen to some of Shane's original material. You also have the opportunity to sign up for our monthly newsletter, which will notify you of upcoming events.

How often do you perform?

We play almost every weekend and some Wednesdays and Thursdays as needed for the K102 circuit. It's a rare occurrence to play two nights in a row anywhere due to the nature of the show, so it's best to view the calendar on the web.

Do you have any groupies?

Actually, yes! Well, none personally, but there is a group of about 20 that show up at almost every show and that number continues to grow.

Do you sing as well as play?

Well, I have never been a lead vocalist, although I have pulled my weight in the past with a handful of token lead songs, but mostly I just concentrate on backup harmonies. In this band, the drummer is the primary backup, so I am only doing a few harmonies right now.

Will we see you on American Idol?

That I doubt, unless I end up in the orchestra pit! However, Shane has the quality and personality to pull it off in a competition like Idol. We'll just have to see. In the meantime, c'mon down and hear Shane and the boys kick up the dust! You won't be disappointed!

VP REPORT**LINDA**

Hey y'all,

Thank you to Jade and Jarred for doing a great job with the Royalty competition. It was well organized and things ran very smoothly. I want to thank the Innuendo and Camp for letting us use their facilities. We had a good crowd for the entertainment competition and some great performances.

It was fun for me to see the outgoing Royalty Jarred, Jade and Jack and the incoming Royalty Augusta and Pup work together to get the stage set. It was quite amusing (just kidding guys).

Thanks to Kyle - Judge of all Judges, George - Copy Editor of Lavender, Helen - Empress 16, and Jamey - Show director of Brass Rail - for helping us Judge the competition. Thanks to all the past Royalty for coming out and helping to sash the new Royalty. Thanks to all the Performers. It was a really great show!

Congratulations to Augusta and Pup. They did a great job, and they will do NSGRA proud!

Oh Yeah, I am still collecting aluminum cans for the Rodeo. So bring them to the meetings or call and I will pick them up - that is if you are within a reasonable distance. Sorry IA, SD, and WI!! Still, you can drive in from Timbuktu and drop cans off at our meetings, and I'll gladly take them!

Until we meet again,
Linda R
Vice President NSGRA

ALUMINUM FUNDRAISER

Of all the common metals, it requires a huge amount of energy to convert ore to Aluminum. That is why recycling is so important. Our Vice President, Linda Rhuby, is doing her part to financially support our upcoming rodeo by challenging us all to separate our aluminum cans and saving them. If you work at a place with soda vending machines, please ask if you can collect the recycled cans to benefit our rodeo. Linda will take these to be recycled and the proceeds will support our 2008 rodeo contestant prize money fund. Linda raised \$2,000 this way last year and she wants to increase that this year. Please do your part and bring them to any NSGRA event or contact her for a pickup.

CONTESTANTS

FRANKIE SCHATZ

Happy New Year Everyone,

CONTESTANT AWARD CERTIFICATES for 2007 were given out at the Holiday Party. If you didn't get one, because you were not there or you left early, fear not. I will send it to you via snail mail. Thank Linda R. especially, for the enclosed lovely hat pin she gave to you as an award for being a NSGRA Contestant this past year in IGRA sanctioned rodeos. She is such a sweetie.

The IGRA RODEO RULES are now officially online at IGRA.com The changes for 08 are listed on this first page of the link for easy reference. I mentioned that Chute Dogging had some changes, so read it through to understand WHY they changed some of those rules. Some reasons make sense others don't. Note that for 08 each event go around registration fee went up from \$23 to \$25. Remember, though, that that means the purse awards will be bigger too.

I know this article is usually about being a Contestant, but I have to mention the IGRA UNIVERSITY coming up in Las Vegas, NV, February 22-24, 2008. If interested in going this year or not, do visit the link to the IGRA University at the IGRA.com web site. It is very well planned out. You can take up to five classes on Feb. 23-24 which will help you be a better Rodeo organizers or supporter. I think it is well worth the money spent to get this invaluable education each year.

Depending on the number of credits you get from the classes taken you can receive an IGRA Certificate of Achievement, Associates, Bachelors or Master degree with a beautiful lapel pin to document your achievement. I heard about the IGRA University at Convention in Nov., and am planning on going this year. So if anyone wants to share hotel stays etc. let me know at frankieschatz1@yahoo.com or 612-298-7982.

Jack R. our Trustee is going as well and gives the IGRA University high grades. I'm pretty excited about going, especially after reading the course descriptions. Some are exactly what I need to be a better Contestant Chair and Volunteer Coordinator. The courses are very diverse and 'hands-on' and can meet your very needs, not to mention the hot evening parties every night.

Cowboy and Cowgirl UP in 2008!
Frankie Schatz, Contestant Chair

NSGRA 2008 MARSHALS

Marshals (Business Sponsors)

Blazing Saddle
Dance Hall Creek Farm
Travel With James

Buddy's Corral
Frankie's House Call Carpentry
ROR Financial

Sprinter Electrical
Main Club

Please support our business sponsors and let them know you appreciate their support of NSGRA.

NSGRA 2008 SHERIFFS

Sheriffs (Individual Sponsors)

Angel R.	Carl S.	Jack R.	Lawrence E.	Michael F.
Anthony B.	Curt K.	Jim M.	Lee R.	Michael N.
Barbara B.	Dick C.	Joel O.	Linda R.	Paul B.
Black Bart	Dot T.	Jorge R.	Mark B.	Toby T.
Bryan H.	Garth G.	Kyle P.	Mark L.	Tom S.
				Tom V.

Our sincere thanks to these generous individuals!

NSGRA CALENDAR

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2008

January 2008

Sat 5 GLBT Country Dance – North Air Banquet Hall in Fridley (www.2stepmsp.org)
Thu 10 GLBT Country Dance – Innuendo (www.rumours-stpaul.com)
Sat 12 **NSGRA Chicken Ranch Revue at Innuendo 8-11PM show, Beer bust 8-2AM**
Sat 12 Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM (www.mnstorm.com)
Sat 19 GLBT Country Dance – North Air Banquet Hall in Fridley (www.2stepmsp.org)
Sun 27 **NSGRA Rodeo Committee Meeting—2 PM at Rodeo Director's house**
Sun 27 **NSGRA Membership Meeting—4 PM Innuendo**

February 2008

Sat 2 **NSGRA Chicken Ranch Revue at Innuendo 8-11PM show, Beer bust 8-2AM**
Sat 2 GLBT Country Dance – North Air Banquet Hall in Fridley (www.2stepmsp.org)
Sat 9 Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM (www.mnstorm.com)
Thu 14 GLBT Country Dance – Innuendo (www.rumours-stpaul.com)
Sat 16 GLBT Country Dance – North Air Banquet Hall in Fridley (www.2stepmsp.org)
Sun 17 **NSGRA Rodeo Committee Meeting—time and location TBD**
Sun 17 **NSGRA Membership Meeting—4 PM Innuendo**

12th North Star Regional Rodeo
July 4-6, 2008