

Membership Meeting  
 Saturday, July 18th, 2009  
 Innuendo 4:00 p.m. \*NOTE  
 THIS CHANGE!

NSGRA is a proud member of



We thank our IGRA Sponsors:



We thank our 2009 local Sponsors:



GLBT Pride

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# Write <sup>in</sup> the Saddle

## July 2009

### 12 MONTHS TO RODEO?

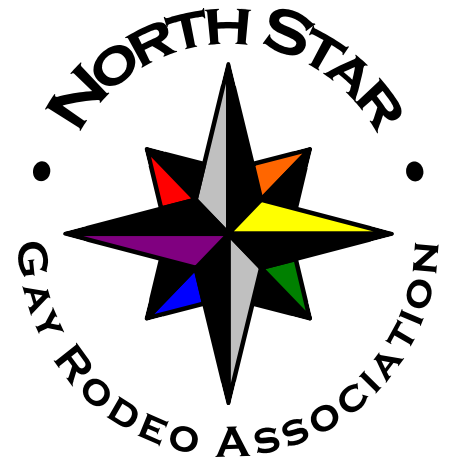
We had a very successful Pride Weekend in June—a busy Dance Tent, great presence in the parade and more!

The number one question asked at Pride was when we are having our next rodeo—people HAVE noticed that we didn't host one this year and there is community interest in another rodeo next year.

Although we won't make the official decision on whether to go ahead with a 2010 rodeo for a few months, we need to start gearing up for it and continue our work at building our association.

Please take the time to read your newsletter and answer the call to participate. We certainly have some strong boosters among us, but they need your help. This association belongs to you and cannot succeed without your help.

~Your friendly editor



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**NORTH  
STAR  
GAY  
RODEO  
ASSOCIATION**



PO BOX 48039  
COON RAPIDS, MN  
55448

HTTP://WWW.NSGRA.ORG  
(763)-78-NSGRA

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jack R.....President  
.....Vice President  
Jerome H.....Secretary  
LeAnn V..... Treasurer  
Carl S .....Trustee  
Frankie S .....Contestants  
Steve O.Fundraising/Entertainment  
Patrick S .....Sponsorship  
Carl S ..... Membership  
Patrick S ..... Public Relations  
Linda R.....Rodeo Director

**2009 Rodeo List**

Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo  
Denver, CO 7/10 – 7/12

Liberty Stampede Rodeo  
Philadelphia, PA 7/31 – 8/2

Windy City Rodeo  
Chicago, IL 8/21 – 8/23

TGRA Rodeo  
San Antonio, TX 8/28 – 8/30

MGRA Show Me State Rodeo  
Kansas City, MO 9/4-9/6

Greater San Diego Rodeo  
San Diego, CA 9/11-9/13

BigHorn Rodeo  
Las Vegas, NV 9/18-9/20

IGRA Finals Rodeo  
Albuquerque, NM 10/23-10/25

IGRA Silver Anniversary  
Convention  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada 11/12-  
11/15

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

[WWW.IGRA.COM](http://WWW.IGRA.COM)



Rocky Mountains Regional Rodeo  
Denver, CO  
July 10-12<sup>th</sup> [www.cgra.us](http://www.cgra.us)

Jefferson County Fairgrounds  
Golden, CO

Host Hotel:  
Denver Sheraton West  
360 Union BLVD,  
Lakewood, CO  
Reservations: 303-987-2000  
CGG11A Group Rate \$89.00



Liberty Stampede Rodeo  
Philadelphia, PA  
July 31-August 2  
[www.libertygra.org](http://www.libertygra.org)

Lulu Shrine Rodeo Arena  
5140 Butler Pike  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462



**NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Black Bart.....Editor  
Dale C.....Editor-in-training  
Carl S.....Assistant



Liberty Stampede Rodeo  
Host Hotel:

Loew's Hotel,  
12<sup>th</sup> and Market streets  
Center City Philadelphia, PA  
Reservations: 215-627-1200  
“In House Reservations” Liberty  
Stampede Rate \$124.00



**Please Help Us By  
Sending Your Updated  
Address Info &  
Email Address To:  
membership@nsgra.org  
or call us at  
(763) 78 - NSGRA**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Howdy Y'all!

Wow—what a weekend! I was very pleased did it look very sharp with the cowboy and the tent, but it was also used by quite a number of San Diego as an instructor really helped bring new people into our tent. (Thanks Scott and Patrick!)



with our Pride Dance Tent last weekend. Not only cowgirl banners that Patrick placed on the back of people over the weekend. I think having Scott from

I'd also like to thank those who helped staff the booth, Eric our DJ who drove all the way from Michigan to help, our dance floor assembly team, our teardown crew and especially Colin for not only coordinating the tent and our parade detail, but also busting his butt hauling the floor on Thursday. This team effort really gave NSGRA increased publicity, helped build community, and maintained our close relationship with GLBT Pride Twin Cities.

Naturally I couldn't make it to Minneapolis as quickly as I had wanted due to a schedule change hauling cargo—an occupational haphazard of being a trucker, I suppose. Still I was glad to have helped where I could and even my lack of sleep didn't dampen my enthusiasm for Pride weekend. In addition to our dance tent, NSGRA was well represented in the Pride Parade Sunday morning. We had 5 riders on horseback with two carrying flags, our royalty team in a pickup truck and a sexy clean up crew...well, sexy and wacky. Our "Bridezilla" and "her" partner got more parade spectator attention than the rest of us combined! Thanks, all!

.....

I hate to bring this up again, but we did not have a quorum again in June. I know that everyone has a life and free time is a precious commodity, but if *everyone* thinks that *someone* will attend our meetings that can mean that *no one* attends! We came fairly close to a quorum, but almost only counts in the game of horseshoes. We need 10 members to sign in at the start of each meeting—even if some have to leave partway into the meeting. We were unable to vote on the bylaw earlier this month allowing members to participate in a quorum even if they can't physically be there. (This bylaw would be of great service to a certain trucker I know!) Although the NSGRA board can act on behalf of the membership, our association is structured around the premise that the membership is entitled to participate, submit proposal and approve actions. Without your participation, the association is limping on crutches so please give us one hour out of your month. Read about our meeting and membership dinner on page 3 and 4.

Your friendly President, here to serve YOU!

=) Happy Jack - NSGRA President

## NSGRA STORE

With the rodeo season moving along, please keep in mind that NSGRA has an online store open 24 hours a day every day--just go to [www.nsgra.org](http://www.nsgra.org) and click "store". You will find our team shirts, lapel/hat pin, name badges just a few clicks away. You can even join or renew your membership there! If you click the hyperlink "you can get more merchandise here" you will be sent to <http://www.cafepress.com/nsgra> opening the door to t-shirts, tote bags, coffee mugs and more! For those of you without an Internet connection, you can either go to you friendly neighborhood library to get online, or call our hotline at 763-78-NSGRA and we can mail you an order sheet.

Howdy NSGRA Members!!!

No rodeo does not mean that you should not renew your membership,,,,,, MEMBERS,,,,,, it is time to activate that old dusty wallet for a small donation to kick off next year's rodeo with a bang,,,,,, YES, in 12 months NSGRA RODEO 2010 at Hugo will be a success If we start now,, and the first step is to renew,,, I will contact everyone with who has expired in the last 6 months and I hope you can rejoin soon.

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). 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](mailto: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!

Carl S  
2009 Membership Chair

## **DANCE NEWS**

There is one dance at the Ballentine VFW at LynLake in South Minneapolis this month: Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>. The dance is from 9PM – 12:30AM. The cost is \$10 and that includes one drink ticket. It is located at 2916 Lyndale Avenue South.

Plan ahead -- Cruising Down the River! Saturday July 18. (**After our membership meeting and dinner.**) Board at 8pm at Harriet Island, St Paul. Dance from 8:30-11:30pm. Tickets for the Riverboat Dance will be available at all VFW dances and on Sunday evenings at Lee's. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the boat (includes 1 drink). Questions/more info - call David 612-824-7150 (If you are from out of town and unable to purchase the tickets in person, David can either mail you the tickets or hold them "will call".) This event costs a lot of money to host so please join in—it is a very pleasant way to spend a sultry summer night.

Lee's Liquor Lounge offers weekly country-dance to the GLBT community on Sunday evenings. With the warmer weather, dance lessons now begin at 7 pm with open dancing starting at 8 pm. Also as a reminder, beginning 2 step lessons are held on the first Sunday of the month. If you don't know how to 2 step, this would be a great time to learn! Lee's is located 4 blocks from downtown Minneapolis at 12th Street and Glenwood Ave. (101 N. Glenwood Avenue) Additional dance information is at <http://www.2stepmsp.org/>.

## **NSGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**JULY 18TH**

Please attend the membership meeting at **4 PM on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>** at Innuendo/Rumours. (**NOTE THE NEW TIME AND LOCATION**) It is located at 213 4<sup>th</sup> St E (Lower town) downtown Saint Paul across from the old train station. Participation makes our association strong and we need a quorum of 10 people or we cannot do any business! Our goal is to have our meetings completed in about an hour—please attend! A dinner follows.

## BYLAW PROPOSAL (VOTE JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>)

BLACK BART

*Editor's note: since our President is often on the road as a long distance trucker, and we have had other board members unable to attend as well as regular members, it was suggested at the last membership meeting to draw up a bylaw proposal to allow "virtual" participation at regularly scheduled meetings. This would also help us meet our quorum requirements. This will be discussed and voted on at the July Membership meeting. The bylaw proposal is the addition in bold italics below. We must have a quorum to vote on this—please attend!*

### Section IV. Quorum.

A quorum shall constitute ten percent of the voting membership, or 10 members, whichever is greater, present in person or whereby a meeting is by mail vote, 20 percent of the total voting membership. If a quorum is present when a duly called or held meeting is commenced, the members present may continue to transact business until adjournment even though the withdrawal of a number. ***With advance notice and at the discretion of the membership chair, members unable to attend a duly authorized meeting may participate via alternative means such as a conference phone call or an online service. Said members will count as part of the quorum.***

## MEMBERSHIP DINNER

JULY 18

*Following the membership meeting at Innuendo we will head to Cossetta's at 211 7<sup>th</sup> St W St. Paul (Near the Excel Center) 651-222-3476 <http://cossettaeventi.com/> featuring inexpensive and delicious Italian food since 1911—be there at 6PM*

## MADISON BARN DANCE/CAMPOUT REPORT

JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>

I just want to say that I had a WONDERFUL time at the Madison area barn dance in June! The farm is a mile outside of a cute town called Wonewoc and a bike trail passes right through the town on an abandoned railroad line. I had a great ride then got dressed for a fabulous potluck dinner, a great dance and enjoyed seeing fireflies during the solstice. We took over a small café Sunday morning where the revelry continued. I highly recommend this event to our membership when it comes back in September. A handful of Twin Cities dancers participated and we were treated with great hospitality. Thank you to Richard, his partner and everyone who made this a weekend to remember!

~Black Bart

## TRUSTEE REPORT

CARL S

Howdy NSGRA Members!!!

WOW--that June sure did fly by! I hope everyone had a chance to either attend the recent country western dances or stopped by the NSGRA tent during pride. I really appreciate GLBT Pride Twin Cities in sponsoring our tent rental during pride weekend. It was well received by all. Once again we have educated our community to the existence of our association and shown that we are inclusive.

I wish to thank Black Bart for the logistics with the Pride committee and making sure the floor did appear.... Hats off to Black Bart and his volunteers. Thank you Bill and Dan for providing the horses so everyone would remember that there are gay cowboys and cowgirls. Thanks Bob and Garth of picking up the fresh road apples during the parade route, and I must say--the dress is **so** becoming. Patrick, the pictures made the tent. Scott's dance directions stirred many a twinkling toes. To our DJ Eric--welcome back to Minnesota! Congrats NSGRA on a great showing at Pride!!!

Carl S  
2009 Trustee

**Rodeo Fundraiser Oh My – Every Dollar Counts – \$50,000**

The mission of North Star (NSGRA) is to “assist our local community and charities through **support, education, and fundraisers** while providing a **friendly environment** for all persons to **participate in and learn** about the western lifestyle and skills.”

The North Star Regional Rodeo is our foremost event for covering most everything in our mission statement. However, the rodeo budget is about **fifty thousand dollars** (\$50,000). That’s a big number for sure and it’s best to have it in the bank before the gates are opened to allow the profit during the event to be used to support the local community and charities.

It may sound almost impossible. But if you start to break it down, you see that if 2000 gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and straight horse and/or western fans donated just \$2 per month to North Star (NSGRA) it would amount to \$48,000 each year. That is enough to fund a rodeo. (Note that the Twin Cities Pride festival has an attendance of 450,000+ people and it seems like there should be 2000 people in that group willing to fund our rodeo)

What if...

- 1) **2000** people donate \$2 per month to support the North Star Regional = \$48,000
  - a. (\$24 per year – About the cost of a membership!!!)
- 2) **1000** people donate \$4 per month to support the North Star Regional = \$48,000
  - a. (\$48 per year)
- 3) **500** people donate \$8 per month to support the North Star Regional = \$48,000
  - a. (\$96 per year)
- 4) **250** people donate \$16 per month to support the North Star Regional = \$48,000
  - a. (\$192 per year)
- 5) **125** people donate \$32 per month to support the North Star Regional = \$48,000
  - a. (\$384 per year)

What can you do? If you want the rodeo to happen, please support it with your donations and membership. If your friends like the rodeo, please ask them to support it with their funds and by becoming members. **Most of all if you like the rodeo, keep telling people about it.** If you don’t like it, tell me.

Patrick S.  
publicrelations@nsgra.org  
Public Relations Committee Chairperson  
Sponsorship Committee Chairperson

**North Star Regional Rodeo  
July 2-4 2010**

## PRIDE WRAP-UP & SPARE THOUGHTS

BLACK BART

I think others have summed up our Pride presence well, but I'd like to add a few words. Thank you to everyone who helped me this year—you are all appreciated! I have written a “how to” report that will be submitted at the July membership meeting to make planning for Pride next year a snap. We are lucky to have a close working relationship with TC Pride. I am grateful for their many kindnesses to us and their continuing support. I believe we could receive logistical, volunteer and financial support from them next year if we choose to host a rodeo. On this matter only NSGRA can decide. If we can grow our membership and get participation from our members, we can host successful rodeos and more. I am not making a judgment call—but we really do need to decide soon what direction we want to take in the future. Expect to hear much more about that in future newsletters!

Until next month!

## RODEO DIRECTOR

LINDA R

Hi y'all!

I had a great Pride weekend and the parade was just about perfect weather! It was a blast waving at the crowds and I thank Billy for bringing extra horses and Jonathan for letting Billy take a weekend off from chores. ;-)

This has been a tough year for me losing my dad and now watching over my mother—I appreciate your understanding. The following article is about the election of the new Rodeo Chairperson next month. We have a guidebook for this position so even if you have not been on the board or had that much experience with gay rodeo, you can still serve. I'll be there to assist and answer questions. Please answer the call!

Linda

## 2010 NSGRA RODEO CHAIRPERSON

ELECTION IN AUGUST

Our bylaws specify that the Rodeo Chairperson election shall be held in August—one month before the rest of the Board of Directors. This is to allow initial planning for next year's rodeo to proceed. If you are interested in running for this position please attend the August membership meeting and please e-mail [info@nsgra.org](mailto:info@nsgra.org) or call the hotline if you cannot attend the meeting but wish to be considered.

*Although we won't make a final decision on whether to host a 2010 rodeo until after the August meeting, the 2009 board is doing the initial planning work now. We also need a full board for 2010 so whether we host a rodeo or not, there are other activities that can be planned and your input is valued.*

The rodeo chairperson will be the rodeo director for the NSGRA rodeo. The rodeo chairperson must attend at least one IGRA sanctioned rodeo prior to his or her own during the current IGRA year. Shall establish and maintain a roster of active committee members. Shall establish a regular schedule and notify the Board of Directors and general membership of meeting times and places. Shall present a report of committee actions to each general membership meeting. Shall serve on the Board of Directors, coordinate all activities of the committee, shall establish subcommittees as needed, coordinate activities of their committee with the other committees. Rodeo Director shall plan and coordinate execution of the rodeo and/or rodeo related events. This includes major and/or unit rodeos, training or gymkhana dates for rodeo events, and shall carry out any other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors or general membership.

## NSGRA 2009 SHERIFFS AND MARSHALS

### Sheriffs (Individual Sponsors)

Mark D  
Lawrence E  
Mark L

Bud L  
Curt P  
Linda R

Jack R  
Black Bart  
McCallun P

### Marshals (Business Sponsors)

Blazing Saddle

Buddy's Corral  
Patrick S

Dance Hall Creek Farm

Our sincere thanks to these generous individuals and businesses!  
Please support our business sponsors and let them know your appreciate their support of NSGRA.  
We also thank those who have donated time and financial support in other ways!

## NSGRA CALENDAR

## JULY & AUGUST 2009

### July 2009

- Sat 4 GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown ([www.2stepmsp.org](http://www.2stepmsp.org))  
Sat 11 Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM ([www.mnstorm.com](http://www.mnstorm.com))  
**Sat 18 NSGRA Membership Meeting—4PM Innuendo, St. Paul**  
**Sat 18 NSGRA Membership Dinner—6PM Cossetta's, St. Paul**  
Sat 18 GLBT River Boat Dance – 8PM Boarding Harriet Island, Saint Paul ([www.2stepmsp.org](http://www.2stepmsp.org))

### August 2009

- Sat 1 GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown ([www.2stepmsp.org](http://www.2stepmsp.org))  
Sat 14 Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM ([www.mnstorm.com](http://www.mnstorm.com))  
**Sat 14 NSGRA Membership Meeting—Time & Date TBD (Election of 2010 Rodeo Director)**  
Sat 15 GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown ([www.2stepmsp.org](http://www.2stepmsp.org))