

Membership Meeting  
 Sunday, January 11th, 2008  
 Lee's Liquor Lounge 4:00 p.m.

NSGRA is a proud member of



We thank our IGRA Sponsors:



We thank our 2008 local Sponsors:



GLBT Pride

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 AND ALL OUR LOCAL NSGRA  
 PARTNERS!

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

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

## January 2009

### 2-4-1

We have two membership events this month—all on one weekend! When you add the NSGRA Charity Beer Bust, this is 3 fun-filled nights!

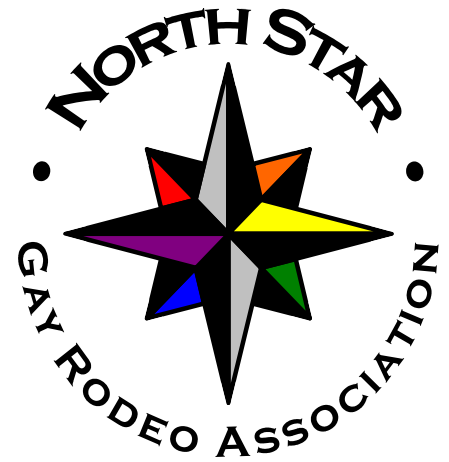
Please mark your calendars:

Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> is the NSGRA Charity Beer Bust at the Brass Rail 8PM- Midnight.

Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> is a Bowling Party at Sun Ray Lanes from 4-7PM.

Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> is a free light supper at Lee's Liquor Lounge at 7PM.

More information on these events is on page 5 and 6 in this newsletter. Please come out and bring your friends!



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**NORTH  
STAR  
GAY  
RODEO  
ASSOCIATION**



PO BOX 48039  
COON RAPIDS, MN  
55448

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



Road Runner Regional Rodeo  
Phoenix, AZ January 16-18,  
2009 [www.agra-phx.com](http://www.agra-phx.com)

Rawhide Wild West Town  
5700 W North Loop Road  
Chandler, AZ 85226

Host Hotels:

Grace Inn Phoenix  
10831 S 51 St  
Phoenix AZ 85044  
Reservations: 1-800-843-6010  
Ask for the Arizona Gay  
Rodeo Association room block  
Reservation Deadline:  
December 15, 2008  
Room Rate: \$85.00 plus tax  
per night

Radisson Hotel Phoenix City  
Center  
3600 N 2 Ave  
Phoenix AZ 85013  
Reservations: (602) 604-4901  
Ask for the Arizona Gay  
Rodeo Association room block  
Reservation Deadline:  
December 15, 2008  
Room Rate: \$121.00 plus tax  
per night

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ric F.....President  
Jack R.....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



**NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Black Bart.....Editor  
Steve L.....Editor in training  
Carl S.....Assistant



**Be sure to read about IGRA  
University in Las Vegas from  
last month's newsletter. This  
can be an excellent opportunity  
to get out of the cold!**



**Please Help Us By  
Sending Your Updated  
Address Info &  
Email Address To:  
[membership@nsgra.org](mailto:membership@nsgra.org)  
or call us at  
**(612) 82 - RODEO****

**2009 Rodeo List**

Road Runner Regional Rodeo  
Phoenix, AZ 1/16– 1/18

IGRA University  
Las Vegas, NV 2/20 – 2/22

Cowtown Rodeo  
Fort Worth, TX 2/27 – 3/1

Sunshine Stampede  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 4/3 – 4/5

Rodeo in the Rock  
Little Rock, AR 4/17 – 4/19

Hot Rodeo  
Palm Springs, CA 5/1 – 5/3

Great Plains Rodeo  
Oklahoma City, OK 5/22 – 5/24

Sierra Stampede  
Sacramento, CA 6/5 – 6/7

Canadian Rockies International  
Rodeo  
Calgary, Alberta 6/26 – 6/28

Heartland Rodeo  
Omaha, NE 6/26 – 6/28

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

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

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I hope this newsletter finds you all rested and ready to tackle 2009. With every New Year come brand new ideas, hopes and dreams. It is my hope that North Star can utilize this year to rebuild and strengthen our membership as well as our stance within our community. To help us achieve this goal, we are planning membership activities in addition to our monthly meetings and fundraisers. These activities are designed to boost our membership and give those people involved in NSGRA a chance to mingle without feeling pressured to give money. We have already had a pizza party, our annual Holiday Party, and are currently working on the next few activities. Keep an eye on our newsletter for more info on future events and check out our website for up to date information on these activities.



Speaking of the newsletter, it is my duty to inform the membership that due to life events Steve L. has decided to step back from the newsletter staff and we here at North Star wish him well. We also want to say thank you to Colin for taking the reigns until a permanent newsletter editor can be found. If anyone is interested in taking over the newsletter, please contact Colin for more information.

Also a thank you goes out to Carl S. - our Membership Chair - for staying up to date and current and letting people know when their memberships have either expired or will be expiring. Membership seems to be strongly progressing with new members as well as renewals coming in each month - all because of the diligent work Carl is putting into this position!

Although we are not hosting a rodeo in 2009, Linda – our Rodeo Director - is working on a play day where people can come out and practice their skills in certain events. The play day the fledgling stages so stay tuned for future updates on this event. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this or other events such as this please contact Linda directly.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that IGRA will be IGRA University in Las Vegas in February. This University is held over 3 days and is an in-depth conference with classes on subjects ranging from how to become a rodeo official to sportsmanship and ethics to how to effectively market a rodeo and even some fun classes like line dancing for competition. The event is a bargain at \$60.00 for the entire weekend of classes; the University coincides with the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association Royalty Contest (which I have been asked to judge) and the IGRA International Dance Competition. Several of the current NSGRA Board members will be attending and I would suggest that any one with interest in effectively running an organization or rodeo seriously think about attending this event as well. The information on the event can be found at [www.IGRA.com](http://www.IGRA.com).

Well that's about it for this month. Remember that a resolution is a firm decision to do something. If NSGRA takes this opportunity to make a resolution on which direction this organization will head and sticks with it, there is nothing that anyone can do to stand in our way!

Until Next Time,  
Pup Ric  
NSGRA President

**Happy 2009!!!**

**Happy New Year!**

I would like to welcome our newest members to NSGRA: Wade H, George T and James P. NSGRA is on the move again!

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). We are looking for a new editor so that Bart can get a well deserved rest from typing.

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!

Please don't forget the membership activities this month!

Carl S  
2009 Membership Chair

**NSGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING****JANUARY 11TH**

Please attend the membership meeting at **4 PM** on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at Lee's Liquor Lounge. Participation makes our association strong so please attend! Lee's is located 4 blocks from downtown Minneapolis at 12th Street and Glenwood Ave. (101 N. Glenwood Avenue)

**NSGRA STORE**

With the new rodeo season here, 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.

**NSGRA MEMBERSHIP YAHOO GROUP****JOIN NOW!**

Did you know that NSGRA has a Yahoo Group? This is a great way to keep informed about the upcoming events North Star has planned.

To join all you have to do is go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com). Once there click on the "Groups" link on the left hand side of the page. Once there, in the search box type "NSGRAMembership". That will bring up the link to join the group. It's that simple!

Join today for all the up to date information!

## DANCE NEWS

There are two dances at the Ballentine VFW at LynLake in South Minneapolis this month. Saturday January 3rd and Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Depending on when this newsletter goes to press, keep in mind that you can ring in the New Year on Wednesday, December 31st. All dances are from 9PM – 12:30AM. The cost is \$10 and that includes one drink ticket. It is located at 2916 Lyndale Avenue South.

Lee's Liquor Lounge offers weekly country-dance to the GLBT community on Sunday evenings. Lessons begin at 6 pm with open dancing starting at 7 pm. Looking for a cheap place to grab a bite to eat? Lee's also has a \$3 light dinner offered during these colder months. (*Please read on page 6 about the FREE dinner on the 18<sup>th</sup>!*) 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 CHARITY BEER BUST

### JANUARY 16TH

North Star Gay Rodeo Association will be hosting a monthly Beer Bust every third Friday of the month. These Beer Busts will be held at The Brass Rail and will start at 8pm and go until 12:00 am. Each Beer Bust will benefit one of our individual charities (The Aliveness Project, Clare Housing and One Heartland).

Please mark your calendars for these dates:

January 16<sup>th</sup> Clare Housing  
February 20<sup>th</sup> One Heartland  
March 20<sup>th</sup> The Aliveness Project  
April 17<sup>th</sup> Clare Housing  
May 15<sup>th</sup> One Heartland

There are other fundraisers in the works so watch the website and Yahoo Group as well as the newsletter for future updates.

## BOWLING PARTY JANUARY 17TH

### PUP RIC

The North Star Gay Rodeo Association will be hosting a Bowling Party on Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Sun-Ray Lanes 2245 Hudson Rd in Saint Paul, Minnesota. From Minneapolis just take 1-94 East past downtown Saint Paul and exit at McKnight Road—go North crossing over 94 and turn right on Hudson Road. The party will go from 4:00pm until 7:00 pm. The cost is \$11.95 per person and this includes your shoe rental and unlimited soda. NSGRA will be providing pizza during the party.

This event is an all age's function so bring out your families, friends and neighbors!

The person with the highest score throughout the party will get a souvenir bowling pin signed by all of the participants. Please RSVP to Pup Ric at [mrnsgra08@yahoo.com](mailto:mrnsgra08@yahoo.com) or 612-599-0047 by January 12<sup>th</sup> so we can advise the bowling alley of how many will be in attendance.

They say there is no free lunch, but there is a free dinner! On Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, NSGRA will be sponsoring the cost of the light supper that is usually supplied at Lee's Liquor Lounge during the colder months. A member is footing the bill so this will not drain our bank account. This is a golden opportunity for NSGRA to build a closer relationship with the local GLBT country dance community, burn some holiday calories dancing, and enjoy some free food.

**EDITOR NEEDED****"BLACK BART"**

Howdy, members!

NSGRA is looking for a new editor—that is to say, I am, too! A fresh perspective would be welcome on these pages and its time for 'ol Bart to get a break after many years of editing. I am willing to mentor, double check and so on. This newsletter is composed via Microsoft Word and you are free to keep this template or create a totally new look for Write in the Saddle. We have a member who will convert the Word document into a PDF so that should make things easier. Please e-mail me directly at [blackbart@blackbart.net](mailto:blackbart@blackbart.net) if you have any interest. The newsletter is our association's conduit for information and your help is needed.

Thank you!

"Black Bart"

**NSGRA CALENDAR****JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2009****January 2009**

Sat	3	GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown ( <a href="http://www.2stepmsp.org">www.2stepmsp.org</a> )
Sat	10	Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM ( <a href="http://www.mnstorm.com">www.mnstorm.com</a> )
Sun	11	NSGRA Membership Meeting—4 PM Lee's Liquor Lounge ( <a href="http://www.leesliquorlounge.com">www.leesliquorlounge.com</a> )
Fri	16	NSGRA Charity Beer Bust – Brass Rail 8 PM- Midnight ( <a href="http://www.brassrailmpls.com">www.brassrailmpls.com</a> )
Sat	17	NSGRA Bowling Night – Sun Ray Lanes 4-7PM ( <a href="http://www.nsgra.org">www.nsgra.org</a> )
Sat	17	GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown ( <a href="http://www.2stepmsp.org">www.2stepmsp.org</a> )
Sun	18	NSGRA Free Dinner – 7 PM Lee's Liquor Lounge ( <a href="http://www.leesliquorlounge.com">www.leesliquorlounge.com</a> )

**February 2009**

Sat	7	GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown ( <a href="http://www.2stepmsp.org">www.2stepmsp.org</a> )
Sat	14	Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM ( <a href="http://www.mnstorm.com">www.mnstorm.com</a> )
Sun	8	NSGRA Membership Meeting—4 PM Lee's Liquor Lounge ( <a href="http://www.leesliquorlounge.com">www.leesliquorlounge.com</a> )
Fri	20	NSGRA Charity Beer Bust – Brass Rail 8 PM- Midnight ( <a href="http://www.brassrailmpls.com">www.brassrailmpls.com</a> )
Sat	21	GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown ( <a href="http://www.2stepmsp.org">www.2stepmsp.org</a> )