

Membership Meeting
 Sunday, February 8th, 2009
 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

 AND ALL OUR LOCAL NSGRA
 PARTNERS!

 Please visit:



WWW.IGRATRAVEL.COM

IGRA shares in the normal commission rate instead of sites like Travelocity and the funds are used to support IGRA Finals. It costs you nothing extra to use it, too!

Write ⁱⁿ the Saddle

February 2009

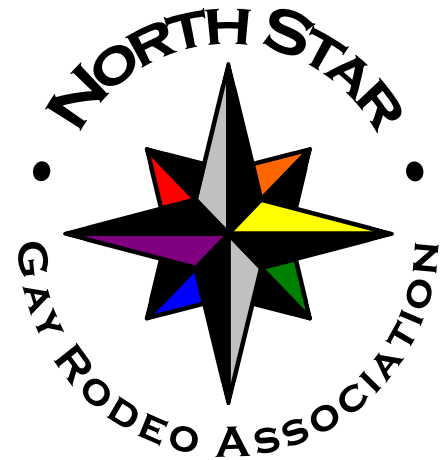
Membership Activities

A goal of NSGRA is to have a membership activity each month that is not primarily a fundraiser. Since none of us is clairvoyant, your help is needed to select activities. (If you *are* clairvoyant, you knew that this article was coming!)

Our monthly membership activities this month are our membership meeting and an activities meeting right afterwards to schedule events over the next several months. Treats will be provided at both meetings.

Your help and involvement is needed! We have a spring barn dance, Pride, and a gymkhana in the works for this summer, but that still leaves a few months to plan.

A few ideas are: Boots and Boxers Dance, trail ride, road trip to Wisconsin. If you can't make the meeting, but have an idea, or better yet, are willing to coordinate it, please e-mail Pup Ric or call the hotline.



IN THIS ISSUE:

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES	1
RODEO INFO PAGE.....	2
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE/MEMBERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES MEETING	3
MEMBERSHIP GREETINGS/ NSGRA STORE/DANCE NEWS....	4
BEER BUST/TRUSTEE'S REPORT/ RODEO DIRECTOR	5
EDITOR NEEDED/PR TEAM	6
SHERIFFS MARSHALS/ CALENDAR	7

**NORTH
STAR
GAY
RODEO
ASSOCIATION**



PO BOX 48039
COON RAPIDS, MN
55448

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



Cowtown Rodeo
Fort Worth, TX February 27-
March 1, 2009 www.tgra.org

W. R. Watt Arena
3401 W. Lancaster Avenue
Fort Worth, TX

Host Hotel:

Inn Suites Hotel & Suites
2000 Beach Street @ I-30
Fort Worth, TX 76103

Reservations: 1-800-534-4801
Ask for the TGRA rates
Reservation Deadline:
December 15, 2008
Room Rate: \$74.99 -\$149.00
plus tax per night

This is the 25th anniversary of
TGRA. They have events
planned from Thursday night
through Sunday night. This
promises to be a fun weekend!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ric F.....President
Jack R.....Vice President
Jerome H.....Secretary
LeAnn V.....Treasurer
Carl STrustee
Frankie SContestants
Steve O.Fundraising/Entertainment
Patrick SSponsorship
Carl S Membership
Patrick S Public Relations
Linda R.....Rodeo Director



NEWSLETTER TEAM

Black Bart.....Editor
Carl S.....Assistant



**There are currently some good
airfare sales going on.
Watching for low priced tickets
can make rodeos much more
affordable.**



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

2009 Rodeo List

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

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

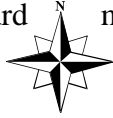
**For More Rodeo Action,
go to this website:**

WWW.IGRA.COM

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy February everyone!

Who's ready for some warm weather? Well I for one am and with that I am looking forward to IGRA University in Las Vegas, NV. Several of your board members, including myself, are heading to University over the weekend of February 20-22. This is an opportunity for us to educate ourselves and bring back new ideas on how to connect with our community, sponsors and most importantly members in hopes of bettering ourselves and our organization. If you are interested in attending this educational weekend there is still time. Visit www.igra.com and register. This weekend promises to offer North Star some very much needed guidance and new ideas.



I want to apologize for the January Beer Bust being cancelled at the last minute. As many of you know and have experienced first hand there is a serious case of the flu, or as my doctor called it the crud, going around. I also have to at this time announce that the February Beer Bust will be cancelled as well. The Brass Rail has closed its doors for a period for a much needed remodeling and face lift. We wish them well and look forward to working with them again in the future after they reopen as the much improved Brass Rail.

Thank you to Colin for putting together the dinner at the Sunday GLBT Country Dance at Lee's Liquor Lounge on January 25th. Sorry I couldn't attend but I was knocked out due to a severe case of the crud.

We are working on putting together some other fundraisers and visiting some of the other clubs within the Twin Cities and outside of the Twin Cities, in places like La Cross, Eau Claire, Duluth, etc. Look for further updates on our website in the near future.

Also I want to express my interest in the NSGRA working closer with the Imperial Court of Minnesota over the next year. Many of you know both IGRA and the Imperial Court System were created by some of the same people and both have a goal to help raise funds for well deserving charities within our communities. IGRA and the Imperial Court System have signed an accord to help each other further our goals and I for one would be proud if NSGRA took this to heart.

Well I know this is short and sweet but here it is, my letter for February. Once again if you have any questions please feel free to email me at mrnsgra08@yahoo.com or phone at 651-269-9406.

Sincerely,

Pup Ric
2009 NSGRA President

NSGRA MEMBERSHIP / ACTIVITIES MEETING FEBRUARY 8TH

Please attend the membership meeting at 4 PM on Sunday, February 8th at Lee's Liquor Lounge. Participation makes our association strong so please attend! Right after the membership meeting we will have an Activities meeting to discuss and schedule what events the membership is interested in. We will have free treats at both meetings. Lee's is located 4 blocks from downtown Minneapolis at 12th Street and Glenwood Ave. (101 N. Glenwood Avenue)

Howdy NSGRA Membership... February is here and all good things are yet to come. As membership chair, I am asking for a group of members to gather at our next meeting to help coordinate activities for each month for our membership. It is very important that we all assist in keeping our organization strong. Any members who would like to be a member of the NSGRA Activities Team please attend a planning activity following the meeting on Sunday, February 8, 2009. I would like to acknowledge our recent renewed and new members: Skyler K, Nate A, Brent F, Steve O, James P, and LeAnn V. Welcome back, we currently have 81 active members.

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. We are still 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!

Carl S
2009 Membership Chair

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 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.

DANCE NEWS

There are two dances at the Ballentine VFW at LynLake in South Minneapolis this month. Saturday February 7th and Saturday the 21st. Both 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. 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/>.

The Brass Rail is closed for remodeling and we don't have a date that it will reopen. We hope to know more in time for next month's newsletter.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT**CARL S**

Happy Month of the Heart NSGRA Members... I hope you will give and receive a number of warm heart felted opportunities this month. This month is a busy month for IGRA. Our first IGRA Board meeting of the year is being hosted at IGRA University in Las Vegas, Nevada- February 20-23, 2009. I will be representing NSGRA at the board meeting and if you have any IGRA concerns please forward those to me. IGRA University has great opportunities if you would like to learn about the international association or if you would like learn how to be an announcer, rodeo official, involved in fund raising, and of course there will be great social opportunities to hang out with our "Rodeo Family". I do have a room so if others would like to join us ... let me know.

Then next event is the Cowtown Rodeo in Fort Worth, Texas -February 27- March 2. I will be attending as Trustee and competing. This rodeo is always a lot of fun with a great viewing area for all to enjoy the rodeo. The Dallas/Fort Worth area always tries to do their best to keep us smiling while at their rodeo.

Rodeo season has started so dust off your boots and let NSGRA be well represented around the country as our 2009 Rodeo season begins. If you are planning on attending a rodeo, please drop me a line via our website or leave a message on our hotline-I can't make every rodeo and it is nice to have an Acting-Trustee to represent NSGRA. Thanks!

Carl

RODEO DIRECTOR**LINDA R**

HI All!

How's the winter treating you all? As you know we are looking into having a Game Day. We really don't have a lot of plans set but am working on it. It will be a one day event. We are looking at the 4th of July as that is in sync with the Rodeo weekend. It will be different then our traditional rodeo and fun so plan on coming on out. The initial thoughts include camping out, and horse events including some that you may not know. Planning takes more than one person and I greatly appreciate your help.

Oh yes, by the way, I am still gathering aluminum cans. Let me know where and when and I will be there.

Until we meet again

Linda

Howdy, members!

Just a reminder that I am looking for a replacement. Please e-mail me directly at 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”

North Star Gay Rodeo Association's Public Relations Committee has as its primary responsibility the care a protection of the NSGRA Brand. A brand is really just the feelings and thoughts people have when they see the brand's images.

Many companies have their brand totally focused around a company logo. They put it on everything they want to identify with and that is going to be anything they want you to get all those warm fuzzy brand feelings when you see their logo on the product. (Bad PR - Sometimes the feeling may not be warm and fuzzy.)

North Star GRA actually has two strong brand images. The first is our “Compass Star” logo and the second powerful brand image is the western wear (for example: cowboy hats) our member cowboys and cowgirls wear. Both brand images stand out when competing against the brand images of other organizations. It is a very intense image and people may love or not. But it is hard to not notice the North Star GRA brand images.

This is where the “We Need You” part comes in:

- 1) We need a group people to join the North Star GRA PR Team to keep our brand image in view of the GLBT community.
- 2) This can be as simple as going to events as a small group wearing the North Star GRA brand image (western wear) and handing out a NSGRA business card if someone asks.
- 3) You can certainly participate with your partner. (Even if he/she doesn't do western wear.)
- 4) As a group, there does need to be at least one person who is comfortable with chatting with strangers but if you are quiet and shy but willing to wear the brand images (I think Cowboys are sort of quiet most of the time.) you would be an important asset to the work of this team.
- 5) This sort of advertising is at a much lower cost and higher impact than other things we could pay for and the team gets to enjoy the events they attend.

Cowboys! Cowgirls! You know what you need to do. Contact Patrick to get more information and to signup. **Do it TODAY!**

Email: patrick.schreier@gmail.com Put “NSGRA PR” in subject line to grab my attention.

Thanks!

Patrick (aka Patrizio) S.

NSGRA SHERIFFS AND MARSHALS

As part of our upgrading of the membership list, we want to make sure we have all Sheriff and Marshals listed! If you are a current Sheriff or Marshal, or want to be, please contact Carl or your friendly editor.

For those of you who think we are discussing law enforcement, you are mistaken! Being an NSGRA Sheriff (Individual) or Marshal (business) is a type of membership where the amount over your normal membership dues is tax deductible. Your contribution helps us meet our goals “assisting 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.” For those interested, you can upgrade your regular membership to either Sheriff or Marshal with an additional contribution of \$75.00 or more.

Starting next month, we will start to list our Sheriffs and Marshals as a small thank you to those reaching in their pockets during these uncertain economic times.

Lest anyone wonder, your contribution of time is also greatly valued by NSGRA. No matter your financial resources, everyone’s participation is needed and appreciated!

NSGRA CALENDAR

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2009

February 2009

- Sat 7 Imperial Court of MN E & E Ball – 6PM Gay 90’s (www.impcortmn.com)
- Sat 7 GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown (www.2stepmsp.org)
- Sun 8 NSGRA Membership Meeting—4 PM Lee’s Liquor Lounge (www.leesliquorlounge.com)**
- Sat 14 Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM (www.mnstorm.com)
- Fri 20 NSGRA Charity Beer Bust – POSTPONED DUE TO REMODELING**
- Sat 21 GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown (www.2stepmsp.org)

March 2009

- Sat 7 GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown (www.2stepmsp.org)
- Sat 14 Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM (www.mnstorm.com)
- Sun 8 NSGRA Membership Meeting—4 PM Lee’s Liquor Lounge (www.leesliquorlounge.com)**
- Sat 21 GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown (www.2stepmsp.org)

Happy Valentine’s Day!