

Membership Meeting
 Sunday, March 8th, 2009
 Lee's Liquor Lounge 4:00 p.m.

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We thank our IGRA Sponsors:



We thank our 2009 local Sponsors:



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Write ⁱⁿ the Saddle

March 2009

Chili Feed/ Beer Bust

YEAH it is March and we only have to wait a little longer for spring to sprung!!!

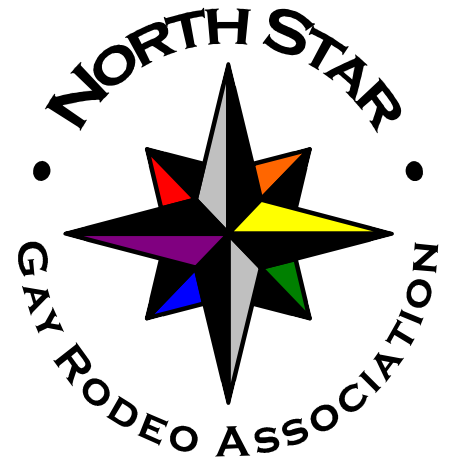
To help Spring get sprung... We will be having a Chili Feed/Beer Bust at the Minneapolis Eagle on March 21st from 5- 8 pm in the middle bar. It will be \$8.00 for the beer bust and Chili or \$ 5.00 just for Chili. YES... ALL YOU CAN EAT...

We hope you will come and warm up with us and enjoy an evening in the cites celebrating the western life style at the Eagle.

I will be glad to assist anyone with renewing their membership or bring a friend along and help have them join us. Giddy up and we will see you at the Chili feed!!!!!!

Carl

Membership Chair



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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



Sunshine Stampede
Fort Lauderdale, FL April 3-5,
2009 www.fgra.org

Bergeron Rodeo Grounds
Davie, FL

Host Hotels:
Sheraton Ft Lauderdale Airport
Hotel
1825 Griffin Road
Dania, Florida 33004
Hotel Direct Telephone
Number: 954-920-3500
Rates from \$127.00 per night.

Hilton Ft Lauderdale Airport
Hotel
1870 Griffin Road
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33004-2214
Hotel Direct Telephone
Number: 954-920-3300
Rates from \$125.00 per night



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



NEWSLETTER TEAM

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



Rodeo in the Rock
Little Rock, AR April 17-19,
2009 www.dsra.org

Arkansas State Fairgrounds
Little Rock, AR

Host Hotel:
La Quinta Inn & Suites
617 S Broadway
Little Rock AR 72201
1-800-531-5900 \$77 rooms
“Rodeo in the Rock” rate

**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

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

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

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

WWW.IGRA.COM

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, welcome to March everyone! Hopefully this means warmer weather, too. I don't know about you but I am sure ready for some.



IGRA University was awesome. I took some excellent marketing classes as well as a wonderful class on how to run this organization more like the business that it is supposed to be. I would suggest that when IGRA University rolls around next year that anyone and everyone make an attempt to visit this very educational event. Next year it swaps dates with the Phoenix Rodeo meaning it will be held in January versus February.

During IGRA University I learned that we as an organization handled the crisis of missing funds appropriately. The only step we have left out is to acknowledge what will be happening next. The membership has elected to suspend and/or deny membership to the individual who owes NSGRA money until said money is repaid. Also due to IGRA rules we have notified IGRA of this decision which they will then deny membership and participation to this member until they have been notified that said money has been paid back.

I also learned that according to Robert's rules of order the Treasurer's report does not have to be approved. The example is that if you are sitting in a room with four walls there is no debating or approving that it has four and only four walls. The treasurer's report is the same. If the Treasurer provides bank statements showing what is in the accounts then there is no debating of those amounts. The treasurer will still be required to provide a report for the membership's general knowledge.

While away I received notice that Linda R. has accepted the rental amount of 600.00 for the Dead Broke Arena for the planned July 4th practice and play day. This is good, now she and her committee can get cracking on a more in depth budget and plans for this event so we can get the info out to the general IGRA population. While speaking to several people at University there was some definite excitement over a day where practice could be had without the added pressure of making points to further a contestant to IGRA Finals, so I am excited that NSGRA can provide such a opportunity to our fellow IGRA brothers and sisters.

After the last membership meeting there was a committee meeting/brainstorming session held to plan membership activities for the remainder of the year. I am excited for this because we now will have events scheduled out more than a month in advance. Watch for notification from our Membership Chair about these events.

Well that's it for this month. Have a wonderful start to Spring everyone and I look forward to seeing you all out and about.

Pup Ric
2009 NSGRA President

NSGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MARCH 8TH

Please attend the membership meeting at **4 PM** on Sunday, March 8th 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)

Howdy NSGRA Membership!

March is here and can spring be far behind? We have a few things of interest to our association throughout this newsletter. Please read about our chili feed/beer bust on page one, details on our July 4th fun date on page 5 and news about a new upcoming editor on page 7 and much more!

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.

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 March 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/>.

We are hoping to have a Boots and Boxers night soon—more next month!

Hey Cowboys and Cowgirls

Have your HEARD? Linda is Rodeo Director again (YAH!), and we are getting a Horse show and games event ready for your enjoyment and educational fulfillment. We aren't having a rodeo this year, because it is just too expensive - but we need to do something fun - so lets have a horse show and games day.

It is officially scheduled for Saturday, JULY 4th this year- one day only. It is at Dead Broke Arena again too. They are renting the arena to us for a very reduced price ----thank you Linda for your handy negotiating.

You can come early on Friday and Camp over night (for a small fee) this year, and even stay Saturday night too. No stalls will be available but you can bring fences or tie your horse up to your trailer. Or just bring yourself and still be a contestant. There will be many fun events on foot, and MANY events will NOT need a horse to participate.

We are trying to keep this horse event fun and inexpensive, yet professional, competitive and safe as well. Event fees per event will be around a \$5 per person per event so it won't be a burden on any participant. Take advantage of competing in every event with this minimum fee. Exact fee amount is not yet set as of this article date, but it will be very economical in these tough money crunching times.

I have voiced my thoughts that we should call it a "Horse Show" or more precisely a "Western Horse Show" and not a rodeo, etc. Even "Western Horse Show and Games" would be cool by me. I know some said the title Horse Show brings up images of horsemanship classes, halter events and even English riding and we don't want that. So if we use the word "Western" horse people will bring up images of horse races: barrels, poles, flags, and fun foot events and other horse games that every western horse show has.

The NSGRA Saddle Club that is sponsoring this event is not associated with any other Saddle Club, so I say we define for ourselves what we want in the "Horse Show." Calling it a 'Western' event and giving some historical background for each event will also help us fulfill our NSGRA mission statement of encouraging the Western Lifestyle.

Our events and games will be competitive too. We will use the same rules as IGRA has for Barrels, Poles, Flags, etc. We will make the rules thoroughly available for any other events we have too. If you do the best in your event we will reward you with ribbons and/or other prizes as they come available.

The events of our Horse Show will be described in brief on the tri-fold brochure, which I will do as Contestant Chair and get out to any prospective contestant, thus giving prospective contestants and spectators a heads up of what to expect. I will work with Patrick and get them on our website too.

Some fun events may be the Rescue Event and Scoop Shovel race, Egg race etc. We can even do Goat Dressing if we can get a goat. To make it even more fun we may have a cute guy (or gal) out there pretending to be a goat. The best goat dressing I ever saw was when Ric was the goat at a bar fundraiser. It was a hoot! Everyone loved it. I also suggest we do some foot races using the same poles or barrels, but, of course, put them a little closer together so to get as many/spectators to participate as possible. We can simply call them Barrels on Foot and Poles on Foot. We can describe these foot events and use the same rules as regular barrels on horse furthering our educational mission.

If we do a Three-legged race lets make it different some how with a western 'twist' to it, such as, they must wear boots and cowboy hat and have to circle a barrel, and have 'ungentlemanliness' encouraged to make it another hoot. Hehehe

I really want to be at the next Board Meeting with these ideas and more, but I was in town this week and believe I must work during the next board meeting in Des Moines. At the very least I will present a Contestant Chair Report and have Linda read it for me. It sucks being so far away from the action, and I am trying to buy a house down here too.

I encourage you to be at the next board meeting to give your ideas about events, etc for this horse show. We need your input. We will take all of these ideas to the Horse show committee and finalize them in the next couple months and get out the exact info as soon as we can.

AND don't forget to volunteer this year at our event. It is only one day and we will need lots of help. We won't need a Chute Crew. but we will need a large Arena Crew, Judges, Announcers, Timers, and the list goes on.

Cowboy Up, on Deck and in the Hole!

Frankie

HI All

Well gang we are moving right along with our plans for a fun day. We are not sure what we are going to call the day yet. We have set a date and it is July 4th out at Dead Broke arena.--a place we all know and love. Some of the events that will be taking place are the traditional Barrel racing, Poles, and Flags. There will be a goat there so we will be doing goat dressing. I have gotten a lot of good ideas for events so will share at a later date.

We will be able to camp out and the cost will be \$10.00 with a \$25.00 deposit. As you know last year we had quite a mess to clean up at the camp sights. You will get the \$25.00 back if the sight is clean.

Stay tuned for more details and please read Frankie's article for his ideas.

Oh yes, by the way, I am still gathering aluminum cans. If you don't drink soda, perhaps there is a vending machine at your work. Please ask if you can save them for recycling—NSGRA is a 503(c)3 non profit. Let me know where and when you will be with aluminum cans and I will be there.

Until we meet again

Linda

Howdy, members!

I believe we have a new editor! Dale C has some awesome ideas for updating the newsletter and I am very excited. With luck, before school winds down this summer, he will take the reigns of Write in the Saddle and open a new chapter in how we design our newsletter. Thanks Dale!!!

Let's Rodeo!

"Black Bart"

NSGRA, your Trustee is hard at work!

Patrick S, Pup Ric, and Carl S attended IGRA University in Las Vegas, February 20-21. We attend very beneficial courses on IGRA Insurance, Announcer Seminar, Web Design, Rodeo Marketing, Robert Rules of Order, and the sponsorship workshop. Patrick, Pup Rick, and Carl received their associate degree. The event was well organized and we are excited to bring back great ideas and discussions for our future use at NSGRA. I encourage all members to plan for this opportunity next January.

I attended the first board of the year in Vegas before the IGRA University began. Some new opportunities await IGRA with a Rodeo finals being hosted in 2010 Laughton Nevada, 2014 the IGRA Rodeo maybe a part of the Gay Games in Cleveland, Ohio, and that the IGRA organization is strong and a great year awaits us this year. Remember to check the IGRA calendar and get out and either participate, attend, volunteer, and contribute to IGRA and NSGRA. What a better way to enjoy the western lifestyle by hanging out with cowboys and cowgirls... I am off to the Cowtown rodeo in Fort Worth this weekend.... Giddy up!

Carl S
NSGRA Trustee

Hello everyone in the NSGRA! Miss NSGRA 2009 Ms Gosh Alice Jones and Mr NSGRA 2009 Nate Vanway are very excited to be involved with the NSGRA this year. Babes 'N BooT's is the year's first fundraiser is at Innuendo Bar in St Paul. The event will take place from 9:00pm to 1:00am and raises funds for One Heartland. Please join us for a night of fun and fundraising.

We look forward to serving you in this coming year and will keep you informed of upcoming events and NSGRA promotions and fundraisers. We want your input and involvement so please let us know how we can best serve you and the community. You can email me at gosh@goshalicejones.com with your ideas and requests.

As always--Love,

Ms Gosh Alice Jones
Miss NSGRA 2009

*** Something bright for your Flag Pole.**

Anyone interested in having your very own North Star flag? These days they are able to print great color flags for a fairly low cost when you order a quantity of them. These are 3ft by 5ft indoor/outdoor color NSGRA Logo flags. If we can get twelve people willing to donate \$61 each for a flag or six willing to donate \$95 each we would be in business. This would also help NSGRA get a few flags for its use at this lower cost. If you want more information or want to confirm you are interested, let Patrick know via email PublicRelations@nsgra.org.

*** Do you need a DATE?**

We still have three Linda R. custom rodeo calendars and for a donation of \$18 dollars or more one of them could be yours. The calendar includes photos from North Star Regional Rodeos and other IGRA sanctioned rodeos as well as the planned 2009 sanctioned rodeos. See a couple photos of the calendar at www.nsgra.org near the top of the page. If you are interested or have questions contact Patrick at PublicRelations@nsgra.org.

*** Got Photos? - Living Tobacco-free and LGBT: A Picture of Health**

I received a request to encourage our members to submit Tobacco-free Rodeo photos... Lavender Magazine, in its Pride Issue, will publish the winning entries of this year's healthy living photo contest by Tobacco-free Lavender Communities. The images will also be on view in a special art exhibit and published in a 2010 calendar. Help showcase your photographic talents and create vibrant images of healthy lifestyles in the LGBT community.

Enter the Tobacco-free Lavender Communities 2009 photo contest and get published. Check out the guidelines at, www.MNTLC.org/photocontest

Have great month and let the world know you are a cowboy/cowgirl!

Patrick S
Public Relations Committee Chairman

Spring arrives March 20th!

NSGRA 2009 SHERIFFS & MARSHALS

This is the first month renewing our tradition of listing our Sheriffs and Marshals. (Individual members who donate money in addition to their regular dues) It costs \$100.00 a year to be a Sheriff or Marshal and their support helps NSGRA achieve 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.” If you don’t see your names listed and believe you should be, or if you wish to upgrade your membership, please e-mail info@nsgra.org or call our hotline.

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

Dance Hall Creek Farm
Patrick S

Our sincere thanks to these generous individuals and businesses!

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

We also thank those who have donated time and financial support in other ways!

NSGRA CALENDAR

MARCH & APRIL 2009

March 2009

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)
Sat 21 **NSGRA Chili Feed/Beer Bust** – MPLS Eagle 5-8PM (www.nsgra.org)
Sat 21 GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown (www.2stepmsp.org)

April 2009

Sat 4 GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown (www.2stepmsp.org)
Sat 14 Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM (www.mnstorm.com)
Sun 12 **NSGRA Membership Meeting—4 PM Lee’s Liquor Lounge** (www.leesliquorlounge.com)
Sat 18 GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown (www.2stepmsp.org)