

WRITE IN THE SADDLE



NOVEMBER 2009

Highlights this month:

- **Membership Meeting -
Saturday November 7th**

Jeff R's home
3322 Humbolt Avenue
North, Minneapolis

- **Dinner at Little Tijuana
following the
membership meeting.**
- **Fundraiser at Rumours,
November 28th**

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARK L

Howdy rodeo fans!

With the 2009 IGRA World Gay Rodeo Finals held in Albuquerque this past weekend, we're now looking towards the IGRA convention Silver Anniversary in a few weeks. Congratulations to all the 2009 International Champions, AND congratulations to all the competitors, for their showings throughout the past year and for having been invited to finals. That in itself demonstrates a successful season on the rodeo circuit.

Moving ahead to convention, several of us will be traveling to Toronto, Ontario, November 11-16 to represent the NSGRA in the

process of rule revisions, rodeo standards, and the 2010 IGRA Royalty Competition. I will keep you posted as the weekend progresses and will inform you of any important changes or procedures.

When we return to the Twin Cities following convention, the NSGRA board will be forging ahead to get NSGRA back on track. We are working on a number of fun activities and programs to help us pull together, mostly to have a good time, but also to aid us in the process of putting together our next rodeo, whether that be in 2010 or 2011. I encourage all of you to join

us. We'll certainly let you know when we have events coming up and look forward to seeing you. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday November 7 at 4 pm at Jeff R's home. You can email any of your board members for directions. To contact me directly, you can email NSGRA.President@gmail.com.

Be safe on Halloween and I hope to see you soon.

Yours in rodeo,
Mark Larson, NSGRA President
2009-10

HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER

Howdy all,

Hope everyone had a fun and safe Halloween and took advantage of the extra hour on November 1st.

The November membership meeting will be on the 7th at Jeff R's home (address in the upper left of page 1) with a dinner following at Little Tijuana's at 17 East 26th Street just off of "Eat Street" (Nicollet Avenue) in South Minneapolis.

There will also be a fundraiser at Rumours in St. Paul on the 28th. Come out and help support our organization.

We have also been informed that there WILL be a dance at the VFW in December (see the article on page 3). Let's all come out for this and see if we can make this a regular event again!

Also, with the time change, please note that Dancing at Lee's is back to "winter" hours. Lessons begin at **6pm** and open dancing at **7pm**

FROM THE VP DAN V (FLAGRACER)

Hello everyone!
 It's been a rough month here, I've been hit hard with the H1N1. So just a reminder to all, remember to wash your hands and cover your cough! I have been doing some research for possible NSGRA items we can use to promote ourselves and raise some funds, as well

as brainstorming ideas for any board position that I can try to help with. In the coming month I will be contacting Gosh Alice to assess the state of our royalty program and see what ideas we come up with. I don't have much more for now, it's been a rough month!

Dan

TREASURER'S REPORT RON B

<u>Operating:</u>			
Balance, 9/1/2009			182.81
<u>Income:</u>			
Membership Dues	455.00		
Barn Dance (net)	583.00	1,038.00	
<u>Expenses:</u>			
Pay Pal Fees	63.20		
Telephone	15.96	(79.16)	
Transfer to Rodeo		(100.00)	
Checkbook Balance		<u>1,041.65</u>	
<u>Outstanding checks for Operating:</u>			
Walker Crawford	11/18/2007	85.00	
Qwest	12/16/2007	28.11	
<hr/>			
<u>Rodeo:</u>			
Balance, 9/1/2009			551.11
<u>Income:</u>			
Contributions			40.08
<u>Expenses:</u>			
IGRA			(600.00)
Transfer from Operating		100.00	
Checkbook Balance		<u>91.19</u>	
<u>Outstanding checks for Rodeo:</u>			
Ronda Schaffer	7/1/2007	66.66	
William Case	7/7/2008	25.00	

NSGRA is a proud member of



We thank our IGRA Sponsors:



We thank our 2009 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!

DANZ DU JOUR

Dance Opportunities

As you can see to the right, there is a dance opportunity at the VFW in December.

Let's make this a success so that we can encourage organizers to bring back this fun time.

Also, note that with the time change on November 1, the lessons at Lee's will be moved up an hour to begin at 6pm and open dance will start at 7pm.

DANZ DU JOUR -- (loosely translated "Dance of the Day")

WHERE: Ballentine VFW 2916 Lyndale Ave S Minneapolis
 WHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009
 TIME: 9pm - 12:30am
 COST: \$10 at the door (includes one drink)

So ----- what's on the menu ----- is what needs to be on your calendar. Mark it down now, and make plans for a good old-fashioned evening with friends. Bet you remember how much fun those VFW dances were. This is a one-time-only event, (but who knows?). However, it can't be done without your support, which is demonstrated by your attendance. Provide the encouragement and maybe someone will come up with a plan for doing another one. (Wouldn't even once a month be great?)

Here's what you do -- get your DATE DU JOUR and come to the DANZ DU JOUR! Simple!
 Hope to see you at the VFW.
 Jake and Friends

NSGRA STORE

With the holiday season approaching, 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.

Did you know...?

NSGRA has 2 Yahoo! groups. If you're not a member of these groups, signing up is easy. These groups will keep you up to speed on upcoming events.

The group names are:
 nsgra-rodeo
 nsgramembership

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DALE C

Howdy all,
 I've been really enjoying my time as editor of Writt in the Saddle. This has given me the chance to interact with the board and feel like I'm actually contributing more than my annual dues to NSGRA.

I've also learned that I should be careful what I say in meetings at work as I became the editor of my company's first newsletter for the Bloomington facility.

I got some pretty positive feedback on the new look of the newsletter. I'm glad that you like the revamp. It was fun putting my visions to "paper" in redesigning the newsletter.

As Black Bart mentioned in his article, if you know of members who are not receiving the newsletter, please have them check their spam guard or contact Bart to make sure that they are on the membership.

You can reach me at writeinthesaddle@gmail.com
 Happy Thanksgiving you to you and yours

Your friendly newsletter editor

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BLACK BART

I am not sure if the “gales of November” will come early this year, but I certainly want to welcome renewing and new members! Thank you Mark L, Jerome H Jack R Patrick S and Lawrence E who renewed as Sheriffs and AJ as Mark’s Sidekick partner! Thank you, Bob B, who renewed as Marshals. Welcome back “cowpokes”: Trent W, Dale C, Jeff R, Dan VW, Carl S, Kyle P, David K and side kicks Janet S & Jennifer F! Welcome new member Del G, and new sidekicks Ron B & Charles P! Boy! It feels great to be able to type such a long list in the newsletter! If by any chance I missed anyone, please let me know!

After our November membership meeting on November 7, those who are interested can break bread—or is that tortillas?—at Little Tijuana’s Restaurant. This will be our membership event for November. I’d like to see if there is the

interest to have a monthly membership dinner at a different reasonably priced restaurant each month. Your ideas are most welcome!

Little Tijuana’s is located at 17 East 26th Street just off of “Eat Street” (Niccollet Avenue) in South Minneapolis. We will meet there at 6PM and all are welcome! Little Tijuana’s has been a fixture in Minneapolis since LBJ was in office. It serves “comfort food” Mexican (I recommend the Fajitas!) and it is modestly priced. It is also quite casual and all our welcome whether you can make the membership meeting or not...having said that, please attend the meeting, too!

The following is the fine print such as you will see in certain advertisements or hear on car commercials:

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 will come from our editor Dale-- writeinthesaddle@gmail.com.

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!

Let’s Rodeo!
“Black Bart”
2010 Membership chair

Board of Directors
 Mark LPresident
 Dan V.....Vice President
 Jerome.....Secretary
 Ron B.....Treasurer
 Linda M.....Rodeo Director
 Jeff R.....Contestants
 Colin S.....Membership
 Carl S.....Trustee
 Patrick S...PR/Sponsorship

Newsletter Team
 Dale CEditor
 Colin S.....Assistant Editor

2009/2010 Rodeo List
 IGRA Silver Anniversary
 Convention
 Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 11/12-11/15
 IGRA University 2010
 ACADEMY OF RODEO ARTS
 Las Vegas Campus
 January 15 - 17
**For More Rodeo Action,
 visit:**

TRUSTEE’S REPORT

CARL S.

Howdy Cowboys and Howdy Cowgirls.... Another Rodeo year has come to conclusion. Three people from NSGRA were honored to have qualified as being in the top 20: Janet, Jeff, Carl. All were not able to compete...but is it nice to know that we could have had representation. Two great events are about to be hosted by IGRA. IGRA Silver Anniversary Convention in Toronto, Canada, Nov 12-15 and IGRA Convention will be hosted in Vegas on January 15-17. I strongly recommend both events but if you can plan a summer break in Vegas in January... not a bad idea. Everyone can attend and receive certifications, recertification’s for rodeo leadership, public relations workshops, IT workshops, Rodeo Management and other fun topics. I encourage you all to check out the IGRA.com for more information.
Happy Thanksgiving...

Please Help Us By
**Sending Your Updated
 Address Info &
 Email Address To:
 membership@nsgra.org
 or call us at
 (612) 78-NSGRA**



REGISTER NOW!

To register, visit:

<http://www.ccgra.ca/IGRAConv/registration.asp>

Early Bird registration fee is \$80.00 CAD.

After the Early Bird deadline of Oct. 1st, the rate goes up to \$100.00 CAD.

Hotel Info:

Call Toronto Marriott Bloor Yorkville's reservation center at

1-800-859-7180 and reference the group code "IGRA Gay Rodeo" when making the reservation.

Room rate is \$119.00 CAD for dbl occupancy.

(The rate is available until 5:00pm October 21, 2009)

There is no additional cost for triple or quad occupancy.

DANCE NEWS

Lee's Liquor Lounge offers weekly country-dance to the GLBT community on Sunday evenings. With the warmer weather, dance lessons now begin at 6 pm with open dancing starting at 7 pm. (Note the change in time!) 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/>.



RODEO DIRECTOR

LINDA M

As there has not been made a final decision as to a rodeo for next year, I really do not have any thing to report. I do see the board hard at work to bring some fun things in to play so stay tuned. Until then, I found something that may be of interest to all cowboys and cowgirls in these cold nights that will be coming here in MN. Any it may help with cabin fever.

Kiss Pudding

One quart of milk, four tablespoons of cornstarch, mixed with a little cold milk, and five eggs.

Beat the yolks of the eggs with one cup of sugar and the corn starch. Put in the milk and let it boil until it thickens, stirring all the time.

Beat the whites: add a cup of sugar, flavor and

spread over the pudding. Brown in the oven. (From an 1883 Texas Cookbook)

Rodeo Director
Linda M
Grumpy old lady

ROYALTY REPORT

GOSH ALICE JONES

Happy November one and all.

We will once again be having a fundraiser at Rumours in St. Paul. The date is November 28 and will be held from 9-11pm. We would love to see all NSGRA members there.

I was asked if Nate and I would be remaining on as Mr. and Miss NSGRA by our editor. The answer to that is that it would need to be cleared through the board and then sanctioned by IGRA. It also depends on a larger group involvement, otherwise no deal.

Happy Halloween and a happy turkey day to y'all!
Love Gosh Alice Jones

PR/SPONSORSHIP**PATRICK S**

Twenty Years Of Western Lifestyle Fun and Challenge Rodeo – The Beginning Of Extreme Sports

The North Star Gay Rodeo Association was officially recognized by the International Gay Rodeo Association as a member association in January 1990. January 2010 will be our 20 year anniversary (platinum I think). We are currently planning a January 2010 event to celebrate this achievement and more details will be provided in the next newsletter.

The history of the NSGRA on our website includes many twists and turns. If you have memories or photos from the beginnings of the NSGRA though current I encourage you to share them with us by contact me in Public Relations. Following is a list of some of the points currently included on the website history. Please expand on them and also add points not currently included in the history.

Tell Me More:

- 1991 – Boardline Country Western Line Dance Troupe
- 1991 – Attempt at a Unit Rodeo...
- 1991 – Successful campaign to secure the 1992 IGRA annual convention (Mary Tyler Moore...)
- 1992 – At IGRA convention, NSGRA is granted dates for first North Star Regional Rodeo
- 1993 – Fund-raising to reach the \$40,000 rodeo budget
- 1993 – Boardline Dance Troupe has Line Dance and Partner Dance video tapes in distribution
- 1994 – 2nd North Star Regional Rodeo
- 1995 – The Great Northern Shindig featuring the 3rd annual North Star Regional Rodeo
- 1996 – The Great Northern Shindig continues, 4th annual North Star Regional Rodeo
- 1997 – NSGRA has it first website, Great Northern Shindig continues, 5th NSRR
- 1998 – The Great Northern Shindig featuring the 5th annual NSRR – Significant debt occurs
- 1999 – 2000 – NSGRA participates on other IGRA sanctioned rodeos.
- 2001 – Discusses disbanding but opts for improvements. First Barn Dance is benefit for victims of 9-11
- 2001 – Four of the eleven NSGRA contestants competing in 2001 invited to IGRA Finals Rodeo
- 2002 – NSGRA hosts Barn Dances, Boot and Boxers Dances, Garth G. successfully retires debt.
- 2003 – After a five year pause, NSGRA again hosts the North Star Regional Rodeo
- 2004 – The North Star Regional Rodeo became a Twin Cities Pride partnered event
- 2005 – *What can you remember about this year?*
- 2006 - *What can you remember about this year?*
- 2007 - *What can you remember about this year?*

...

Let me know what you remember – I can take it...

Patrick S.

Email: publicrelations@nsgra.org



Visit:

<http://www.igra.com/University/index.htm>
for registration information

Hotel

Join us at the
Eastside Cannery, Casino,
Hotel
5255 Bolder Hwy,
Las Vegas, NV 89122-6005

Room rates:

Sunday - Thursday &
Sunday \$39
Friday and Saturday \$50
Deadline for this rate is ***

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When prompted, chose
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**North
Star
Gay
Rodeo
Association**



PO Box 11199
St. Paul, MN
55111-0199

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

NSGRA CALENDAR

November -

Membership Meeting – 11/7 (with dinner at Little Tijuana’s afterward)

25th annual IGRA convention in Toronto, Ontario. 11/12 – 11/15

Fundraiser at Rumours – 11/28

December -

Danz Du Jour – Ballentine VFW – 12/12

2009 SHERIFFS AND MARSHALLS

Sheriffs (Individual Sponsors)

Mark L	Patrick S	Curt P
Jerome H	Black Bart	Linda R
Jack R	Mark D	Lawrence E

Marshals (Business Sponsors)

Blazing Saddle	Buddy’s Corral	Dance Hall Creek Farm
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Want to be listed above? 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. 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! We also thank those who have donated time and financial support in other ways!

Happy Thanksgiving