

Membership Meeting
 Sunday, October 5th, 2008
 Rumours -Innuendo 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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 Please visit:



www.igratravel.com

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Write ⁱⁿ the Saddle

October 2008

Announcing the 2009 NSGRA Board

The cast of characters that has generously accepted their "Call to serve" is:

Previous board member is now

President: Scott T.

Last year's Mr. NSGRA is our

Vice President: "Pup" Ric

The man to wield the mighty pen this year is our **NEW Secretary:**

Jerome H

To oversee our checkbook & cigar box, we have returning

Treasurer: LeAnn V.

Taking the reins again of

Sponsorship Chair: Patrick S

To help promote NSGRA more prominently, **Public Relations**

Chair: Steve H

Continuing his work from last year, our **Contestant Chair is**

Frankie S

Our Fundraising Guru is former royalty member **Steve O**

Fund Raising/Entertainment!

One of our long time NSGRA members, **Carl S** is now

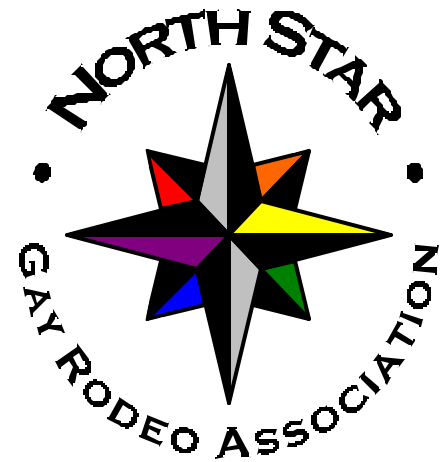
Membership Chair AND our new **Trustee Elect**

Doug W was elected as our

Rodeo Director in August

We thank our very faithful

Trustee Jack R who will step down at IGRA Convention.



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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

Scott T.....President
Ric F.....Vice President
Jerome H.....Secretary
LeAnn V.....Treasurer
Jack R.....Trustee
Carl S.....Trustee Elect
Frankie S Contestants
Steve O..Fundraising/Entertainment
Patrick S Sponsorship
Carl S.....Membership
Steve H.....Public Relations
Doug W Rodeo Director

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Black Bart.....Editor
Carl S.....assistant



2008 Rodeo List

IGRA Finals Rodeo
Denver, CO 10/10-10/12



**IGRA's Annual Convention
& Dance Competition**

is scheduled for October 30-
November 2nd in New
Orleans. What place could be
better to celebrate Halloween
than the Big Easy's French
Quarters! If you are interested
in being a delegate call the
NSGRA hotline or e- mail
info@nsgra.org

For hotel reservations, please
call the "New Orleans
Marriott" at 1-800-228-9290.
The group code is lgr or
mention "Louisiana State Gay
Rodeo Association" when
making reservations over the
phone. Room rate is \$99.00
for double occupancy;
additional 2 guests will be
another \$20.00. Each
additional guest above 4 is
another \$20.00 per guest. You
may also reserve a room at
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/msyla-new-orleans-marriott/?groupCode=lgrlgra&app=resvlink>

Convention news continued

At press time, air fares were
around \$350 RT, but carpooling
could save you money as you can
drive that distance for the same
cost divided by 4 people.

We are allotted 6 delegates and
we are allowed alternates so that
we always have 6 voting
members available in case one or
more delegates are called off the
convention floor. IGRA
Convention is a great way to
learn about IGRA rodeo and meet
new friends!



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



The 2009 schedule won't be
official until after IGRA
Convention October 30-
November 2nd.



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

WWW.IGRA.COM

You can find your personal
ranking as a contestant at this
website, the ranking of both men
and women in each of the 13
IGRA sanctioned rodeo events
and tons of other information on
IGRA and its family of
individual associations.



Howdy, all!

Don and Scott decided to pursue other ventures so I have been asked to temporarily take over as Editor of Write in the Saddle. I had been the editor for many years before Don and Scott and I'd like to thank them for their efforts and ask our membership for help. Before I go into that, I want to share a very recent experience with barn raising.



I have seen footage on television of Amish men working together putting up the walls and roof of a neighbor's barn. My experience was going up to the farm of my friends and NSGRA members Billy and Jonathan to replace their old barn that collapsed in a bad windstorm a few years back. Unlike the Amish, we used modern power tools, but the work still required heavy lifting. It was surprisingly fun to work together for a common goal with other NSGRA members who had joined us. In just a few days time we managed to put up all four walls, the joists, hayloft floor, rafters and gable ends. Raising a barn requires teamwork and advanced planning. Being able to have fun while doing it made this experience memorable for me.

I had to leave after lunch today (October 1st) to get this newsletter finished and ready for delivery. On the drive back to Minneapolis I pondered this experience and thought that it could be seen as a metaphor for our association. Putting on a rodeo also requires teamwork and advanced planning, and being able to have fun while doing so makes for memorable experiences. Pushing this metaphor further, perhaps we have suffered from windstorm damage in recent times and it is time to raise a new North Star barn. When my friends needed help for a major project, there was no question to me about whether to help—that's what friends do. When help was needed to revive this newsletter, I felt the same way.

I hope that other members will step up to the plate and help rebuild North Star from the inside out. Perhaps we have coasted on past success, but there is a real need to revitalize this association and make it relevant to us. Ultimately this means getting involved. I don't know if finances will allow us to host a 2009 rodeo, but we can certainly work together to host monthly membership activities and start bringing the fun back. If there is an activity or event that you think we should do, please let your board know about it. Better yet, please offer to coordinate it. I plan on offering to coordinate 2 separate events this year.

A good example of a North Star member stepping to the plate is Steve L—our rodeo chuck wagon cook for many years. Steve has busted his ass at the rodeo grounds with nary a break. Well, it just so happens that as I was preparing this newsletter Steve heard about the need for a newsletter editor and offered his services starting next month. It turns out that our farmer friend Steve has an English Major lurking in the background! I want to thank Steve in advance and hope his example will inspire others.

“Black Bart”
Temporary Editor
Write in the Saddle

**OCTOBER CHICKEN DANCE REVUE IS CANCELLED****OCT 4TH**

Due to the Grand Opening of Rumours Nightclub in Saint Paul, the October 4th Chicken Dance Revue is cancelled. We thought it best to let the owners of Rumours-Innuendo have their time in the spotlight. Our best wishes go Sean, Jim and Doug. Congratulations!! All North Star members are invited to participate in the Grand Opening. Rumours-Innuendo is located across the street from the old Union Railroad Depot in Lowertown (Downtown) Saint Paul at 213 4th Street East.

NSGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OCTOBER 5TH

Please attend the membership meeting at **4 PM** on Sunday, October 5th at Rumours- Innuendo. **The date of this meeting has been changed as not to conflict with IGRA Finals in Denver.** Participation makes our association strong so please attend! Rumours-Innuendo is located across the street from the old Union Railroad Depot in Lowertown (Downtown) Saint Paul at 213 4th Street East.

MEMBERSHIP

CARL S

Howdy! I am in the process of getting our membership list in order and I want to apologize to the members who did not receive their newsletter regularly last year and the delay this month. We were without a membership chair for a good portion of the year and keeping the membership roster current proved to be difficult for the remaining board while also preparing for our rodeo. In addition to the book keeping aspect of being the 2009 membership chair, I pledge to do my best to build our membership base by working with our board and the membership to have monthly fun activities. If there are any events you want to see us do, please let me know—your help is appreciated!

For those whose memberships are expiring there is still time to continue your affiliation with NSGRA. Please visit http://www.nsgra.org/about_nsgra_join_now.php. Just as a reminder, we are 501C(3) and if you become a Sheriff or Marshal, the portion above your membership fee is tax deductible!

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). Please note our changed mailing address on the previous page. 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

TWIN CITIES COUNTRY DANCE NEWS

Monthly VFW Dances return to the Ballentine VFW at LynLake in South Minneapolis on Saturday, October 4th from 9PM – 12:30AM. The cost is \$10 and that includes one drink ticket. It is located at 2916 Lyndale Avenue South.

Come to Friendly Fridley on October 18th! The North Air Banquet Hall is located at 6831 Hwy 65 (Central Avenue) in Fridley. From I-694 go north 1.5 miles on Highway 65 to Mississippi Street. Turn right (east) then the first left (north) onto Lucia Lane. The end of the block is the entrance to the parking lot. The cost for entry is \$10 per person. There are free 2 step lessons at 7:30pm, and open dancing from 8 pm – midnight. Additional dance information is at <http://www.2stepmsp.org/>.

Lee's Liquor Lounge offers weekly country-dance to the GLBT community on Sunday evenings. Lessons begin at 7 pm with open dancing starting at 8 pm. Lee's is located 4 blocks from downtown Minneapolis at 12th Street and Glenwood Ave. (101 N. Glenwood Avenue)



Meetup Reminder

North Star Gay Rodeo Association Meetings & Events

NSGRA Meetings and Events – Cowboys and Cowgirls are Getting Notified!

If you have a PC, an Internet connection, and email, you can help us keep you notified of upcoming meetings and events by registering at our "meetup" website. This service is fairly simple and surprisingly useful for keeping members in the loop for upcoming meetings and events. Following are some of the details. *By the way, if you don't have a PC, internet connection, or email account we need to notify you via regular mail or with a phone call and as a group we are going to work to make that happen consistently as well.*

- 1) **WHAT:** In an effort to make sure meeting notices are getting announced in a timely manner and to allow you to RSVP for meetings, a web service has been arranged.
- 2) **WHY:** With the price of gas the way it is, it's painful to drive to a membership meeting and learn once you arrive there are not enough members present to actually have the meeting. This new web service not only automates the sending of meeting notices but it allows users to RSVP for the meeting. If everyone does their part to RSVP we will know in advance if there is a risk of not having enough people in attendance and we can try to resolve that problem before the meeting.
- 3) **GETTING CONNECTED:** To get NSGRA membership meeting notices, please register at <http://rodeo.meetup.com/4/> You can check it out before hand but until you register, you will not receive the meeting announcements.

During the registration it will prompt you for your "Name:" This name is displayed on this website and if you want to keep your identity secret, don't use your name or one that might reveal your true identity. If you need to change the "Name" later, you can do that by clicking on the "ACCOUNT" option at the top of most of its web pages.

- 4) **CALENDAR:** The site includes a "calendar" and in addition to the NSGRA meetings other events have been included as notes. Notes don't get announced via email but will be available when you view the calendar.
- 5) **OTHER FEATURES:** The site has other group networking features you may want to use.

Remember to sign up at

<http://rodeo.meetup.com/4/>

to get automated meeting notices and to RSVP.

Let's Rodeo!

Patrick S

Sponsorship Chair

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT — ROYALTY CONTEST NOVEMBER 22TH

The 2009 NSGRA Royalty Contest is coming up on Saturday, November 22nd from 6-9PM at Rumours-Innuendo. Our illustrious 2008 royalty team will host this event: Miss Augusta Wind and “Pup” Ric. Please mark this on your calendar and join in the fun next month. Rumours-Innuendo. is located across the street from the old Union Railroad Depot in Lowertown (Downtown) Saint Paul at 213 4th Street East.

ALUMINUM FUNDRAISER

Of all the common metals, it requires a huge amount of energy to convert ore to Aluminum. That is why recycling is so important. Our former Vice President, Linda Rhuby, is doing her part to financially support our association by challenging us all to separate our aluminum cans and saving them. If you work at a place with soda vending machines, please ask if you can collect the recycled cans to benefit our rodeo. Linda will take these to be recycled and the proceeds will go to NSGRA. Linda has raised thousands of dollars this way over the last few years and she wants to increase that this year. Please do your part and bring them to any NSGRA event or contact her for a pickup.

CONTESTANTS

FRANKIE S

In less than two weeks, NSGRA members will be heading towards Denver for the 22nd annual IGRA Finals. Please keep in mind that the top 20 in each event are invited to Finals. In Camp Events, any of the top 20 can pick a teammate not in the top 20 so potentially other NSGRA members will be competing at Finals. Also, in the case that people in the top twenty decline their invitations, the list moves down in the order they placed. NSGRA has contestants who are very close to the top 20 and I suspect that they will be asked to compete. For example, I heard Linda R is invited in flags. Looking through the IGRA database, here are the NSGRA members that are qualified:

Women’s Chute Dogging- Janet S ranked 16th,
Women’s Calf Roping on Foot- Janet S ranked 12th
Men’s Bull Riding- Mark L ranked 4th
Men’s Steer Riding- Mark L ranked 8th

Good luck to all contestants! Watch for results next month!

I plan on working with Linda R and Bob B to have more training sessions once the weather gets warmer in the spring. There are rodeos within driving distance of the Twin Cities and by sharing rooms and carpooling, rodeo can be much more affordable—and you can get to know your fellow North Star members much better!

Another hat I wear as Contestant Chair is the coordinator of the North Star Saddle Club. All NSGRA members with an interest in horses are welcome. I am looking to create a confidential 2009 database of:

- Members who wish to learn how to ride horses or to trail ride
- Members who own a horse
- Members with riding skills

Please e-mail me or call the NSGRA hotline at 763-78-NSGRA or call me directly at 612-298-7982 and let me know if you have an interest in making the Saddle Club an active part of our association.

Frankie frankieschatz1@yahoo.com

Howdy fellow NSGRA members.

I just wanted to send out a reminder that the October Membership Meeting has been moved to this Sunday October 5th at 4pm at Innuendo. This meeting has been moved from the second Saturday to the first due to IGRA finals being held in Denver, CO over the second weekend of October. Also the October Chicken Ranch Review has been cancelled due to Rumours Grand Opening weekend in St. Paul. Speaking of the Grand Opening, I hope all of you take a moment to stop by and wish Sean, Jim, Doug and all the staff at Rumours & Innuendo a Happy Grand Opening this weekend. Also remember that 2StepMSP has once again added a second night of Country Dancing during the month and now it's back at the VFW in Minneapolis. It will be Saturday Oct 4th. So check it out.

I hope to see many of you around at the various events in town this weekend and I hope to see you all at the Membership Meeting this Sunday October 5th at 4pm at Innuendo.

Sincerely,

Ric F

NSGRA Vice President 2009

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 your friendly neighborhood library to get online, or call our hotline at 763-78-NSGRA and we can mail you an order sheet.

NSGRA CALENDAR

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Oct 2008

- | | | |
|------------|----------|--|
| Sat | 4 | GLBT Country Dance – VFW Dance (www.2stepmsp.org) |
| Sun | 5 | NSGRA Membership Meeting—4 PM Rumours-Innuendo (www.rumours-stpaul.com) |
| Fri-S | 10 | IGRA Finals in Denver (www.igra.com) |
| Sat | 12 | Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM (www.mnstorm.com) |
| Sat | 18 | GLBT Country Dance – North Air Banquet Hall in Fridley (www.2stepmsp.org) |
| Thu-S | 30 | IGRA Convention in New Orleans (www.igra.com) |

Nov 2008

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Sat | 1 | GLBT Country Dance – VFW (www.2stepmsp.org) |
| Sun | 9 | NSGRA Membership Meeting—4 PM Rumours-Innuendo (www.rumours-stpaul.com) |
| Sat | 9 | Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM (www.mnstorm.com) |
| Thu | 15 | GLBT Country Dance – North Air Banquet Hall in Fridley (www.2stepmsp.org) |
| Sat | 22 | 2009 NSGRA Royalty Contest—4 PM Rumours-Innuendo (www.rumours-stpaul.com) |