

Membership Meeting
 Sunday, November 9th, 2008
 Lee's Liquor Lounge 4:00 p.m.
 --NEW LOCATION--

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Write ⁱⁿ the Saddle

November 2008

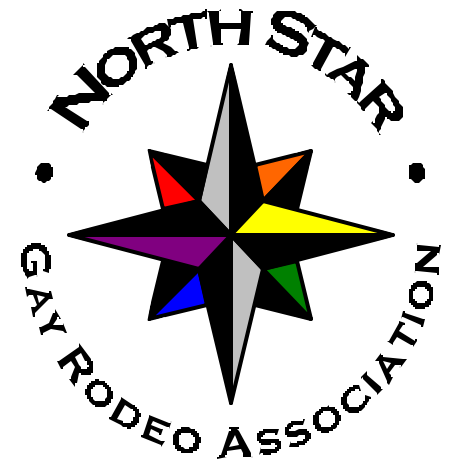
Blackberry Report from New Orleans

Finals in Denver was entirely run by IGRA this year. It was one of the best run rodeos I've attended. NSGRA was represented by Janet S, Louis R and me. I didn't have the best draws for stock in steer riding but did well despite and had decent bull rides both days though I didn't receive scores. My wild drag partners were Jeanne B and Roger P of HGRA. We had a tough steer Saturday but did pretty well Sunday. You can probably find the results online at IGRA.com. All-around were Trena M and Andy A.

Now I'm at convention in New Orleans and day 1 was the entire royalty competition--a new running order for IGRA. Also the first time royalty is at convention. There are 14 contestants representing 9 IGRA member associations. Tomorrow (Friday) the actual convention begins. I will keep you posted as to developments. I sure hope NSGRA will have royalty representation at finals competition next year.

Yours in rodeo,

Mark Larson



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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



**CONTESTANT FUEL FUND
CALENDAR**

Disclaimer

This is an independent project of HomoRodeo.com and is not directly affiliated with IGRA.

Please consider helping our traveling members by helping HomoRodeo.com. You can pre-order calendars on HomoRodeo.com

As the cost of fuel continues to rise, so does the cost of gay cowboys/cowgirls to compete in the various IGRA sanctioned gay rodeos across the country. Imagine the expense of driving your horses across the country to compete in a gay rodeo! Most rigs hauling a horse trailer use diesel and that's even MORE expensive!

**That's why YOU ARE
WANTED!**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ric F.....President
Open.....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



Calendar Continued

By purchasing one of our 2009 "Men of HomoRodeo.com" calendars you in fact will be able to help "sponsor" our gay cowboys/cowgirls who will be invited to compete in the 2009 IGRA Finals Rodeo in Albuquerque NM. YEEEEHAW

Oh, and they make great holiday presents!



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

NEWSLETTER TEAM

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



Just an FYI: The 2oad Runner Regional Rodeo on Phoenix, AZ is traditionally held over Martin Luther King Weekend in mid-January. This can be a great break from the winter blahs!



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.



Hello and greetings from your new President. I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has offered advice and guidance to me during my transition into the Presidents position. It has been greatly appreciated.



This newsletter is the first for our new Newsletter Editor Steve L. and I want to say thank you to him for taking the reigns. If his name doesn't ring a bell Steve is the guy who has been responsible at many of our Rodeo's for the wonderful food we serve. Colin will be assisting Steve with the transition but I have every confidence that Steve will do a wonderful job. I also would like to let you know that the Executive Board has asked Linda R. to hold the position of Rodeo Director for 2009, which she has graciously accepted. Likewise we have asked Patrick S. to accept responsibility of the Public Relations position along with the Sponsorship position he currently holds. We have every confidence that these two additions will make the Board a stronger more well rounded group.

Hey, did you all know that we have a NSGRA Membership Yahoo Group? This is a great way to keep up on what NSGRA has going on as well as keeping in contact with the other members through out our organization. Simply log onto yahoo and go to the Groups page and search by the group name "NSGRAmembership". It's that simple. While on the topic of the yahoo group I do want to let everyone know that this group is for NSGRA internal information. Please be respectful when using this group and make sure the info that you post to it be pertinent to NSGRA and its functions. Keeping to the topic of email, over the past year there have been several emails back and forth between people that have had a seriously negative, angry or downright rude connotation. Please think before you email, if it is during a heated discussion take a break and regroup before you send your reply, also one may want to pick up the phone and discuss it or discuss it in person if your thoughts are not being conveyed appropriately via email. We all need to be respectful to each other and I am asking to simply give the same courtesy to others that you would want in return.

Did you know that the Membership meetings have been moved? We are back at Lee's Liquor Lounge at 101 Glenwood Ave Minneapolis, MN. Lee's is the same place that hosts the Sunday night country-dances. The meetings will be held downstairs in their meeting room and seeing as how NSGRA is technically a business and we are conducting business at these meetings I am instituting a no alcohol policy at the meetings. Think of it this way, when you are at your regular daily job and they call a meeting, do they allow alcohol at these meetings? Please feel free to stay after the meeting and enjoy a cold one but during the meetings I ask that there be no alcohol.

Like I said at the beginning of this letter I want to thank everyone who has offered me guidance. It is important that when moving forward we not only look towards the future but also learn from our past. I have been offered a great deal of support from those that have been where I am now and I am truly appreciative of that.

If you ever have a concern or an idea you would like for me and/or the Board of Directors to think about I am always either an email or a phone call away. My email is mrnsgra08@yahoo.com or call 612-599-0047. I look forward to working with and for NSGRA throughout 2009. It is time for a new focus and a new attitude.

Sincerely,

Pup Ric Franklin
NSGRA President
Mr. North Star Gay Rodeo Association 2008

IMPORTANT 2009 RODEO ANNOUNCEMENT

RIC FRANKLIN

As President it is my duty to advise you that at the October 2008 meeting the membership elected to not host a 2009 IGRA sanctioned rodeo. The reason for this was very simple, with a sizable debt to retire and after looking over our finances, the membership realized that it would not be fiscally responsible for NSGRA to commit to a rodeo with a minimum \$40,000 budget. The membership did agree that at the 2008 IGRA Convention we would reserve the dates of July 3-4, 2010 for a rodeo

We should not look at this decision as a negative rather we should look at the positives. Taking a year off will give us a year to rebuild and get back on financially stable ground. We can take this opportunity to strengthen the membership and its business relationships within our geographical location of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The membership also agreed that just because we were not going to have a rodeo this did not mean that we could not host a function such as a Rodeo Play Day, Barrel Event, Dance Contest, etc. Many other Rodeo Associations host these types of events, which give their members an opportunity to hone their skills, as well as gives new contestants a chance to practice events they may have wanted to try for the first time. This also allows us to place a much-needed focus on our charities and our mission according to our bylaws.

During this time of rebuilding we need to remember that the Mission of the North Star Gay Rodeo Association is:

“...to operate as a non-profit organization assisting local communities and charities through support, education, and fundraisers while providing a friendly environment for all persons to participate in and learn about western lifestyles and skills.”

With your help and under the guidance of a very strong Board of Directors the North Star Gay Rodeo Association will head into 2009 with a very strong focus and a very new attitude.

Sincerely,
Pup Ric Franklin
NSGRA President
Mr. North Star Gay Rodeo Association 2008

NSGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NOVEMBER 9TH

Please attend the membership meeting at **4 PM** on Sunday, November 9th at Lee's Liquor Lounge. **Note change of location.** 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) Further details are in the President's report on page 3.

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.

The **Brass Rail**
Proudly Presents
A Cowboy Beer Bust
\$5.00

A Benefit for
The North Star Gay Rodeo Association

Saturday, November 1st
9pm – until the keg runs out
422 Hennepin Avenue South
Downtown Minneapolis
www.brassrailmpls.com

Howdy, all!

I want to jumpstart our monthly membership activities by hosting a pizza party at 1 PM on Saturday, November 8th at Pizza Lucé in downtown Minneapolis. Each member will be responsible for his or her own beverages. I'll be supplying the pizza for whoever shows up. I am hoping we can have a relaxed event where everyone can brainstorm and share their ideas about what we would like to accomplish in 2009. Even though we aren't in a financial position to host a rodeo next year, there are tons of activities we can do. I hope we can make next year a time for renewal and growth for NSGRA.



I'd appreciate RSVPs to make sure there are the proper numbers of chairs and tables for us. Please e-mail me at blackbart@blackbart.net by Thursday, November 6th or call the hotline by that same date at 763-78-NSGRA. Pizza Lucé is located at 119 North 4th Street in downtown Minneapolis (between 1st Avenue and 2nd Avenue near the Gay 90's) You can call them for directions at 612-333-7359 or visit their website at www.pizzaluce.com. When you get there, just tell them you are with the NSGRA party. They have **GREAT** pizza--please attend!

Let's Rodeo!

“Black Bart”

The North Star Gay Rodeo Association

2009 Royalty Contest Weekend

Friday November 21st, 2008

\$5.00 Beer Bust Fundraiser

6pm – until the keg runs dry

Royalty-in-Review Show

8pm – 10pm

Saturday November 22, 2008

NSGRA Royalty Contest

7pm

Emcee:

Gosh Alice Jones

Weekend Hosts:

Mr. And Miss NSGRA 2008

Pup Ric and Agusta Wind

The Brass Rail

422 Hennepin Avenue South

Downtown Minneapolis

www.brassrailmpls.com

TWIN CITIES COUNTRY DANCE NEWS

Come to Friendly Fridley on November 15th! 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/>.

On Thanksgiving Eve, get ready to pre-burn those holiday calories at the Ballentine VFW at LynLake in South Minneapolis on **Wednesday**, November 26th 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. Lee's is located 4 blocks from downtown Minneapolis at 12th Street and Glenwood Ave. (101 N. Glenwood Avenue)

BYLAW PROPOSAL

Editor's note: the following proposal was made and seconded at the October membership meeting. This will be placed in the November and December newsletter and voted upon by the membership at the December membership meeting as per our byaw structure. The rationale of this proposed bylaw is to impress upon the Board of Directors the importance of fulfilling their commitment to the membership. The board already has a policy allowing officers to take time off for personal reasons and this bylaw includes due process to insure fairness.

BYLAW PROPOSAL (in bold):

ARTICLE VI -- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The goal of this organization is to have equal or nearly equal representation of both men and women on its Board of Directors.

Section I. Qualification. Those qualified to serve on the Board of Directors shall be members in good standing of the organization. **Any member serving on the Board of Directors, whether by election or appointment, who does not complete his or her term, is ineligible to be on the Board of Directors the following year, unless the majority of the current Board of Directors rules at the time the resignation is submitted, that the resignation was for good cause.**

MEMBERSHIP

CARL S

Howdy! Take note of some fresh membership activities this month: a beer bust in a new location, our royalty contest and a pizza party! I hope to see you out at some of these events.

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. Our new editor, Steve L, had a power surge at his house just before this issue was ready to be sent out, so good ol' Bart is taking care of the newsletter one more month.

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

RODEO DIRECTOR'S REPORT

LINDA R

Hi All!

I'm **Back!!!** Just a little humor as I have accepted the position of Rodeo Director 2009. I accepted, as it will be easy, stress free and fun. Alas, no rodeo in 2009--BUT--Here we go--We are going to plan a Game Show Event! Frankie and I have been chatting and we do have work to do. We will be putting together Horse events, including fun events that you may have never seen such as spoon and egg. Oh, don't know what that is? Guess you will have to come and see. Also have you heard of the "Rescue"? Gee, that's another one you will have to come and see. If someone has a goat that they would donate for a day, we could do goat dressing. You all could come and practice! We have a lot of details to figure out but you know we will!

We don't have a date or place just yet, but beware: we will find a place and it should be a Hoot. As we move forward on this we will certainly let you know. We will have more fun this year and prepare for the 2010 rodeo! If I should call you and ask for your help, would you help me in making this a fun and great time for all? I hope so and if you have caller ID do answer if you see my name!!

I think this year's board will step up to the plate do what needs to be done. A major focus will be rebuilding our association and we will need the memberships' help and participation. I really hope to see you not only at some of our fundraisers, but also at our just for fun, plain 'ol membership events! Be sure to read about our pizza event for November as an example.

I do have another project that I will be working on. Can you say "scrap book"? Sure, I knew you could! If you would like to share some of your rodeo pictures with me I would sure appreciate it. You can email them to me at purplruby1@aol.com or leave me a message the hotline at 763-78-NSGRA and I will give you an address to send them.

Oh yes, by the way, I am still gathering aluminum cans. NSGRA needs money to retire debts and prepare for next year. Saving your aluminum cans and encouraging your friends to do so is easy and it all adds up. Let me know where and when and I will be there to pick them up.

Until we meet again,

Linda
2009 NSGRA Rodeo Director

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 new and returning Rodeo Director, 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. NSGRA is in need of money to close our books on 2008 and get ready for 2010. Please do your part and bring them to any NSGRA event or contact her for a pickup.

2008 ROYALTY STEP DOWN THOUGHTS

Dear Fellow Members-

Wow, what a difference a year makes! Last year at this time I was living in Sioux City, IA and preparing to compete for the title of Mr. North Star Gay Rodeo Association 2008, and now a year later I am living in St Paul and writing my step down letter.

First off I want to say a huge THANK YOU to the entire North Star family. From the moment I joined this organization I have felt very welcomed. I never have felt like an outsider and have always known that I had friends that I could count on. Thank you to each and everyone who came out to any fundraiser this past year and helped Agusta and I towards our goal of helping North Star. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. To those that I may have bumped heads with throughout this year, I do hope that when we look beyond our differences we all know that it was only for the betterment of an Association we believed in so much. It has definitely been an experience and one that I wouldn't trade for anything in this world.

Now I'd like to say a few words to some very important people. First off I want to say a huge thank you to Linda Rhuby. I remember meeting you at Royalty contest last year and not quite knowing how to take you. You seemed so serious and a bit stand offish, but later on I realized that you have such a connection to Gay Rodeo and North Star that you are an extremely driven person who only wants it to succeed. You have made me laugh over the past year and look outside of the box to the bigger picture. You are truly one of a few people that I look up to. You are a friend and a mentor and I thank you for that. To Happy Jack, I met you in St Louis for the first time and you made me want to get involved with North Star. If anyone is to blame for me it would be you! Ha! You have taught me how to keep a smile on my face no matter what life throws at you. To Jarred H. a year ago I would have never thought that you and I would be such close friends. It must be the brotherhood of the title. Thanks for offering an ear. To Kimberly Greer, Nate Vanwey and April Maye thanks for offering me your friendship in a city that I knew no one, it has helped make Minnesota a much warmer place. To Jerome, I didn't know you before I won the title of Mr. North Star but met you several months into my reign. You have been a guiding light; a warm hug, a kind smile and a comforting shoulder to cry on. I truly don't know how I would have gotten thru this year if you didn't love me. Thanks for sticking it out. You make me want to be a better man. Thanks for spending that dollar and I love you.

And finally, to my counter part throughout this year, Agusta Wind. What else can I say but, thank you for pushing me to work harder and be a better titleholder. We bumped heads, cried on each other's shoulders, and laughed when no one else was laughing. It has been a long hard year but we made it through. If I have learned anything from my involvement with you this past year it is to have fun in life no matter what it throws your way.

To the new incoming titleholders, whoever they may be, stay strong and hold tight to your love of Gay Rodeo, it will get you through anything. And finally, to the rest of the North Star Gay Rodeo Association it has been my honor and privilege to represent you this past year. I only hope I did you all proud.

Sincerely,

Pup Ric
Mr. North Star Gay Rodeo Association 2008

2008 ROYALTY STEP DOWN THOUGHTS-CONTINUED

Hi folks,

Wow, I can't believe it is November already. This is my favorite time of the year. Aren't the colors great!

This last year has been a good opportunity for me. I have been doing drag for many years and the Miss NSGRA contest is the first competition I have ever done. I am not a pageant queen and it has never been my desire. With that being said, I am really glad that I decided to run. It has been a great experience and I have met a lot of wonderful people.

I would like to thank those who have supported the 2008 Royalty team, without YOU it would have been a very tough year. I would especially like to thank Linda. As vice president she was in charge of Royalty and did a great job. She was there to support and help us out. I had some great times with her.

We were able to have a Rodeo this past year that I am very happy about. It has put some strain on the organization, but I am confident that this strain will be resolved.

I would like to wish the 2009 Royalty team the best of luck in the coming year.

Thanks again for you support!

Agusta Wind
Miss North Star Gay Rodeo Association 2008

NSGRA CALENDAR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Nov 2008

- Sat 1** NSGRA Beer Bust – Brass Rail (www.brassrailmpls.com)
Sat 8 NSGRA Pizza Party – Pizza Lucé 1 PM (www.pizzaluce.com)
Sun 9 NSGRA Membership Meeting—4 PM Lee's Liquor Lounge (www.leesliquorlounge.com)
Sat 8 Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM (www.mnstorm.com)
Sat 15 GLBT Country Dance – North Air Banquet Hall in Fridley (www.2stepmsp.org)
Sat 21 2009 NSGRA Beer Bust/Royalty Revue— 8-10 PM Brass Rail (www.brassrailmpls.com)
Sat 22 2009 NSGRA Royalty Contest— 7 PM Brass Rail (www.brassrailmpls.com)
Wed 26 GLBT Country Dance – VFW in uptown (www.2stepmsp.org)

Dec 2008

- Sat 13** Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM (www.mnstorm.com)
Sun 14 NSGRA Membership Meeting—4 PM Lee's Liquor Lounge (www.leesliquorlounge.com)