

THE BRANDING IRON

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

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August 2011 Edition
Next Newsletter Deadline:
August 25th 2011

Send submissions to:
Justin@TheCreativeArcade.com

Howdy Cowboys and Cowgirls,

I hope everyone is staying cool with these hot summer temperatures. I want to welcome Rick Manucy to our AGRA contestant Liaison Committee. Rick will be the chair of this committee and I encourage anyone that is interested in getting involved more with AGRA to contact any of our board members or committee chairs. Rick has a lot of great ideas, so look forward for more information coming in the fall.

I want to congratulate all of the AGRA members that have been selected to attend the IGRA convention in San Diego in November. It will be a great learning experience for those who have never been. It's also a great time to meet new people and learn about IGRA.

I met with the George Immerso and Ron Lindblad (Rodeo Director and Asst. Rodeo Director) we have set a deadline to have concrete hotels and location for the 2012 Road Runner Regional Rodeo by August 31, 2011. Stay tuned for more information.

Stay Cool!

Respectfully,
Michael Weidmann
AGRA President



THANKS BOB!

Howdy Folks!

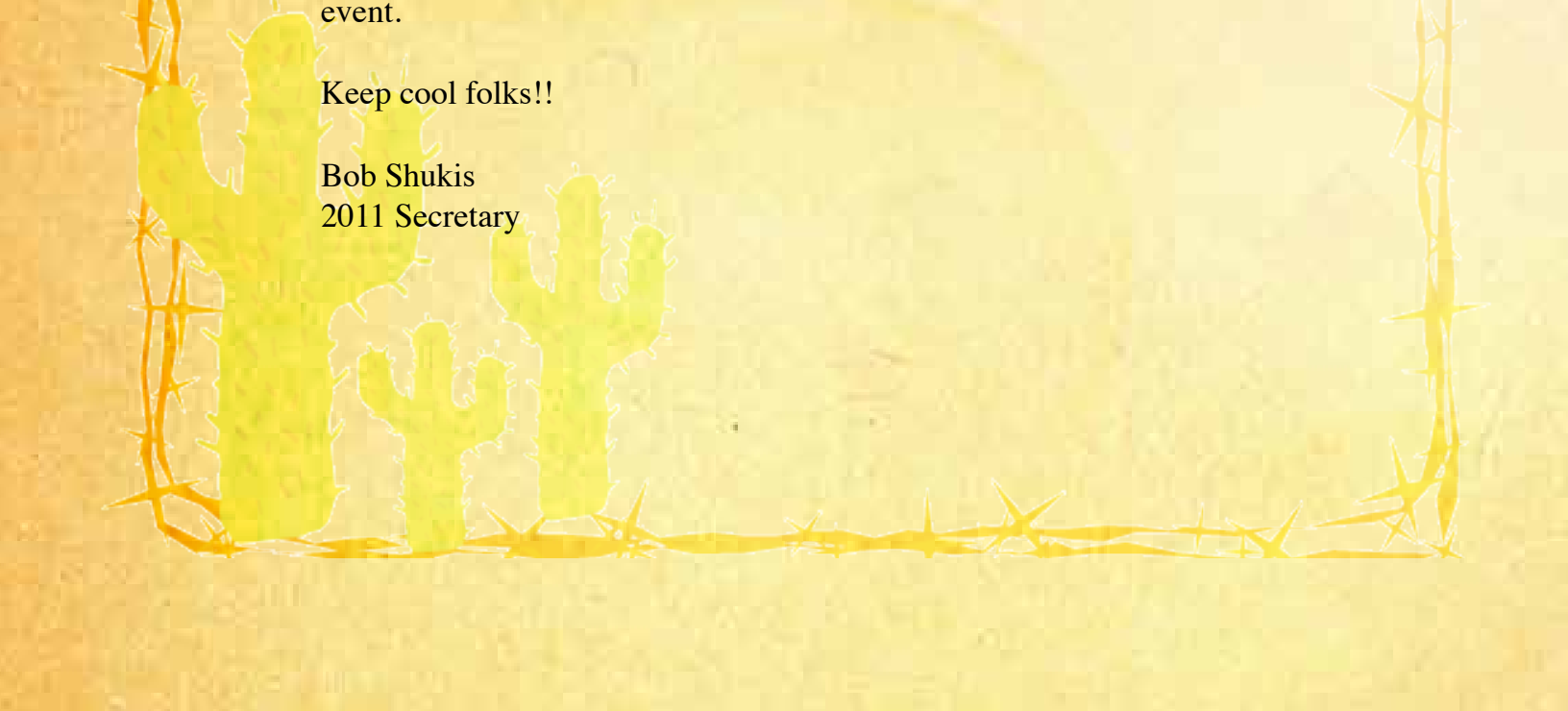
Well, it's kinda funny how birthdays seem to just show up once a year...and it happened to these folks in the month of August. These AGRA members all share the month of August as their date of entry into the world. Happy Birthday to all of you from all of us! And may you have many more!

8/12	Keenan Allen
8/18	Walt Hutter
8/19	Brian Bohl
8/20	Marcellus Saunders

As of July 24th, our 2011 membership stands at 80 with 8 Champion members. Summer always seems to be slow for growth in membership. It would be nice if we could break that cycle and make this the best summer we have ever had for new members. So remember...when you're out and about, talk up AGRA and see if you can rope in a few new members. 2012 Rodeo is only six months away and it would be nice to have our membership the highest it's ever been for this event.

Keep cool folks!!

Bob Shukis
2011 Secretary





TRUSTEE

Trustee's Report

I attended the IGRA Board & Trustees' Meetings in Denver, Colorado on July 8. Some of the actions taken in the meetings include:

- Road Runner Regional Rodeo – February 17-19, 2012 was approved
- A Texas Tradition Rodeo in Fort Worth – March 2-4, 2012 was approved
- Hot Rodeo 2012 in Palm Springs – May 4-6, 2012 was approved
- Sunshine Stampede's (Ft Lauderdale) rodeo application was not approved because the association had not submitted the 2011 rodeo settlement sheet, and it is long past due.
- Ed LaBrash, GWGRA member, was certified as a Rodeo Scorekeeper.
- Clint Coil, ARGRA member, was approved as a Rodeo Student Judge.
- IGRA Appreciation Awards will now be accepted through October 1, 2011.

I would like to remind everyone that the Zia Regional Rodeo will be August 12-14, 2011, and it will be in Santa Fe, New Mexico rather than in Albuquerque. The Windy City Rodeo will be the very next weekend, August 19-21 in Chicago.

In the July 17 AGRA Membership Meeting, voting for IGRA Annual Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegates took place. Members elected are:

Delegates

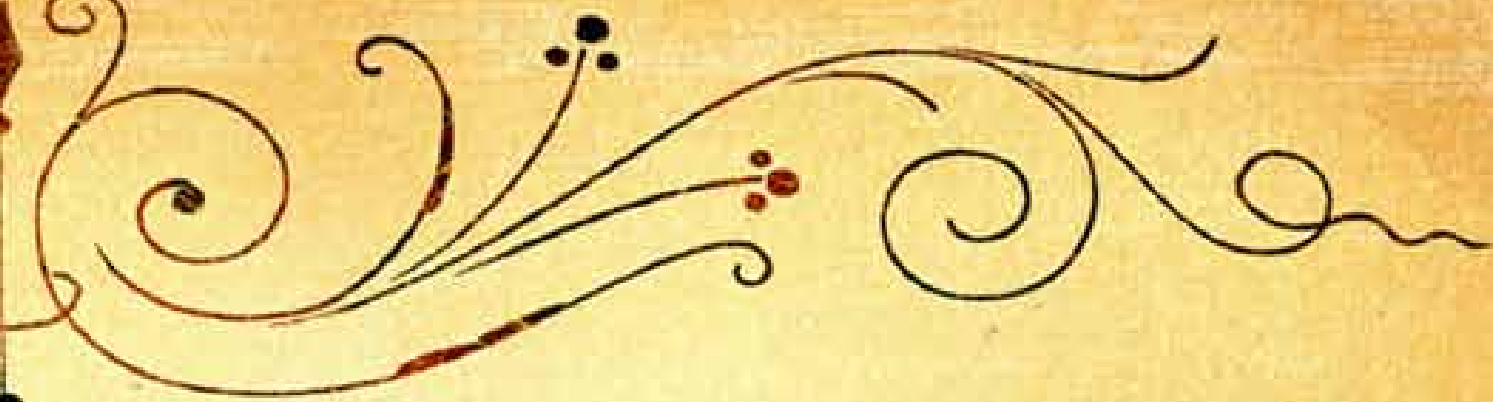
Jai Crystal
Gary Hatterman
John King
Doug Holmes

Alternate Delegates

David Holmes
Cary Leibowitz
Greg Gillum
Dan Iversen
Carlos Garcia

Also, per AGRA Bylaws, Ron Trusley, Trustee, and Michael Weidmann, President, will also be Delegates. The convention will be November 11-13, 2011 at the San Diego Mission Valley Hotel. Room rates are \$109.00 per night, and self-parking will be available at a reduced rate of \$5.00 per day. More information is available on the IGRA website (www.igra.com). I encourage all Delegates, Alternate Delegates, and anyone else planning to attend convention to make your room reservations as soon as possible. Reservation deadline is October 19.

CONTINUED...

A decorative flourish consisting of several thin, dark lines that swirl and curve across the top of the page. Some lines end in small, dark, circular shapes, resembling buds or berries. The background is a light, textured yellow.

Again, I want to remind everyone that the 2011 World Gay Rodeo Finals will be in Fort Worth October 7-9. The host hotel is the Crowne Plaza Fort Worth South. Room rates are \$85.00 per night, and the reservation deadline is September 8, 2011. Joel Burns from Fort Worth has been selected as the Community Hero, and David Hill has been selected as the IGRA Grand Marshal. More information is available on the IGRA website.

Summer is definitely upon us, and I surely hope everyone is staying as cool as possible. When the weather is so very hot, it seems many people become agitated much quicker, become more temperamental, and sometimes “speak or act too quickly”. I think these are normal actions, but things are still accomplished and in the right way.

Each AGRA member is entitled to a “voice” in all membership meetings, and I strongly encourage each member to “speak up” and let your opinion be known. None of us will agree with all actions all of the time, but we can still work together “for the good of the association. “Be part of the solution; don’t be part of the problem.”

**Ron Trusley
AGRA Trustee
Phone: (602) 510-9671
E-Mail: rtrusley@cox.net**



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Hello All -

As many of you have heard, one of our A.G.R.A. members passed away recently, Tam Keltner. He also served as IGRA Trustee to the PNWGRA (Pacific Northwest association) and was a member of Men of Charlie's. Dozens of Tam's friends gathered at Charlie's-Phoenix a couple nights after his death to share their feelings of shock and loss.

Bob Hitchcock of Men of Charlie's has organized a Celebration of Life for Tam. You are invited to come to Charlie's on Saturday, 6 August at 5pm. We will be having memories, drinks, and appetizers - with a moment of silence at 6pm.

- In Other News -

Our Fundraising Director, Claudia B (the "B" is for Beautiful) will be helping host a Trailer Trash patio show. She and some of your favorite entertainers will be showing us their -- best/worst -- for a hilarious show on Saturday, 6 August at 9pm. I look forward to being there - ending the evening with laughter and raising big money for Rodeo.

***** ROYALTY COMPETITION REMINDER *****

For those of you entering the 2011 A.G.R.A. Royalty Competition, your entry applications and fees are due Thursday, 1 September.

Keep cool - and see you in August!

Greg Gillum

A.G.R.A. Public Relations



RODEO NEWS

Well Its that time a year again. We are working on contracts for the venue. This will be settled by August 31, 2011. Once again we need everyone's help. If you feel you can dedicate the time or you may know someone who has a specific talent then we need you or them. You do not have to be a member of AGRA to be part of the rodeo planning team. Keep in mind our rodeo is the first rodeo of the year, it is important as we set the tone for the year.

The rodeo is Presidents Day weekend starting Friday night February 24, 2012 with registration. Country Idol and the 2012 Road Runner Regional Rodeo February 25 - 26 2012. Ticket prices were discussed in our preliminary kick off meeting. It was decided we would not raise our prices. Sat rodeo ticket will be \$15.00, Sunday ticket will be \$15.00 and Weekend Pass, as well as VIP, will be \$25.00. I'm looking foward to having a banner year after the weather disaster of last year. Please take notice, We are having rodeo 2012. My thanks to everyone that helped to raise the funds to pay all of our bills from last year which in turn allows us to do rodeo this year.

I look foward to talking to you!

George Immerso
Rodeo Director





MEETING SCHEDULE

AGRA Board Meeting
Schedule 2011 - 2012
(Charlie's Office)

May 11
June 8
July 13
August 3
September 14
October 12
November 16
December 7
January 4
February 8

AGRA Membership Meeting
Schedule 2011 - 2012
(Charlie's Dance Floor)

May 15
June 12
July 17
August 7
September 18
October 16
November 20
December 11
January 8
February 12





CONTACT INFO

Board of Directors

Michael Weidmann
President
(602) 885-9565
m.weidmann@hotmail.com

Jai Crystal
Treasurer
(602) 463-0972
jaredcrystal@aplustaxservice.com

Cary Leibowitz
Vice President
(480) 628-5959
cary.leibowitz@yahoo.com

Claudia B / Joshua Sipe
Fundraising
(480)217-7892
claudiasbboys@yahoo.com

Bob Shukis
Secretary
(480) 414-1041
cwbybob@mchsi.com

Greg Gillum
Public Relations
(623) 203-9305
3destiny@msn.com

Ron Trusley
Trustee
(602) 510-9671
rtursley@cox.net

Justin Gonzalez
Editor
(480)220-8087
justin@thecreativearcade.com

Mr IGRA 2011
Michael Butts
(602) 768-8469
mjbutts@msn.com

Ms IGRA 2011
Sharon Starks
(602) 402-0076



ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

A.G.R.A.

P.O. BOX 40465

PHOENIX · AZ 85067-0465



LAYOUT & DESIGN BY
CREATIVE ARCADE LLC
www.TheCreativeArcade.com
info@TheCreativeArcade.com