

Smoky Mountain Roundup



SMRA Quarterly Newsletter

1st Quarter March 2009

Letter from the President



Howdy Smoky's

I wanted to THANK you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as SMRA president for 2009. I am committed to helping SMRA continue to grow, and become the best it can be.

2009 we will face a lot of challenges when it comes to fundraising, with the present state of the economy. But I believe if we all pull together we can achieve our goals. With our plans to host the first ever "Music City Stampede" in July 2010, it will take each member stepping up to lend a hand and help us reach that goal. If we all work together we can bring Gay Rodeo to our area, and make it a fantastic Rodeo.

This past year we have reached out to areas such as Louisville KY, to help build our membership base there. We have gained some great new members there, and with more new members and the current members SMRA will continue to grow. We now have new members in Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and we'll continue to reach out to other places in our geographical area. Our initial goal going into 2009 will be to expand our membership base, not only to get more members but also to get more active members.

Feel free to contact me any time with questions, comments, concerns or ideas you have to help SMRA grow. Let's not ask what SMRA can do for you but instead what I can do for SMRA.

COWBOY UP AND LETS RODEO!

SMRA President 2009

Steve Bloodworth

In this Issue

Letter from the president

2009 Board of Directors

2009 Charity partners

Save the date

Music City Stampede

SMRA

Is a proud member of the

[International Gay Rodeo Association](#)

(IGRA)



Upcoming IGRA Rodeo's

April 3-5, 2009 Sunshine Stampede
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

April 17-19, 2009 Rodeo in the
Rock Little Rock, Arkansas

May 1-3, 2009 Hot Rodeo Palm
Springs, California

May 22-24, 2009 Great Plains
Rodeo Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

June 5-7, 2009 Sierra Stampede
Sacramento, California

June 25-28, 2009 Canadian Rockies
International Rodeo Calgary, Alberta
Canada

July 10-12, 2009 Rocky Mountain
Regional Rodeo Denver, Colorado

Smoky Mountain Rodeo Association

2009 Charity Partners

Angel Heart Farm, Inc. is a Middle Tennessee non-profit therapeutic program that uses equine-assisted therapy for children from 0 to 18 years of age who have chronic and life-threatening illnesses. Children and their families are welcome to visit the farm at their convenience. Children may experience the joy of riding a horse or pony best suited to their abilities. They are also invited to build relationships by grooming, feeding and petting the horses, as well as the rest of the Angel Crew.

Alive Hospice has been offering loving care to people with life-threatening illnesses, support to their families and service to the community in a spirit of enriching lives since 1975. As the oldest community-based hospice in Middle Tennessee, we understand that coping with terminal illness presents many challenges – physical and emotional – to the patient and the family. Our caring, experienced team of professionals and volunteers is prepared to meet those challenges and believes that no one, regardless of illness, age or ability to pay, should die alone or in pain.

SMRA is proud to include Angel Heart Farm and Alive Hospice among its 2009 Charity Partners.

SMRA President
Steve Bloodworth
presents a check to
The Minnie Pearl
Cancer Foundation.
One of our 2008
Charity Partners.



I relocated to Tennessee in March 2007 in order to be closer to his family. I lived in Chicago for 14 years including college and working and was friends with many of the folks in the Illinois Gay Rodeo Association there. I attended several of the Windy City Gay Rodeos and am pleased to be able to continue my linkage with gay rodeo associations here through SMRA. The road trip to the Gateway Rodeo in St. Louis was a lot of fun and I look forward to working on our rodeo in the Middle Tennessee area! I aspire to continue the detailed financial watch that was exercised by the outgoing Treasurer/Bookkeeper and also to apply myself to other areas in SMRA that will grow my skills and the reach of the organization simultaneously. 2009 will be a challenging year for all nonprofit organizations, but I accept the challenge as a way to position SMRA for even greater things once the economic environment becomes more favorable.

Brett Withers
SMRA Treasurer

2009 Board of Directors

President: Steve Bloodworth

Vice President: Michael Fierro

Treasurer: Brett Withers

Secretary: Michael Richey

Trustee: Justin James

Rodeo Director: Barry Roberts

Save the date!



**SMRA is planning a road trip to Little Rock, AR
Is plan to attend
"Rodeo in the Rock"**

**Watch our website for more details
Smra.net**

Spotlight Cowboy

Brett Withers



2009 IGRA University



The most recent was IGRA University in Las Vegas, NV, February 20-22. University is where members of local association go to learn how to put on rodeos, fund raise, seek sponsorships, etc. SMRA was a \$250 sponsor for the event which we received much thanks for it. Without our support along with other associations sponsorships, this even would be more difficult to produce.

SMRA had 4 students in this years University: Steve B., Brett W., Leroy R. and myself. I'm ecstatic in saying that Brett W. and Leroy R. both received Certificates of Appreciation and if that wasn't cool enough, Steve B., Leroy R. and I all received out Associate in Rodeo Arts degree! I think this is a great step in educating out membership about how to put on a rodeo among other things. There were many social events but I have to report SMRA folks were pretty subdued. Of course we all showed our southern hospitality of which we are most famous for. We also caught up with old friends and made new ones. Overall we had a great time learning and relaxing with a drink or two in our rooms over the weekend which was accompanied by a frenzy of conversations mostly about our first rodeo...hopefully!

Justin James
SMRA Trustee

SAVE THE DATES

April 10th and 11th IGRA Chuck Wagon Tour

April 17th-19th Rodeo in the Rock

April 25th SMRA "Get On The Bus" Pub Crawl

May – SMRA Trail Ride
Exact date to be determined

June 20 – Nashville and Kentuckiana Pride

For information on these and other events

Visit our website smra.net

SMRA Royalty Candidates Wanted

Members of Smoky Mountain Rodeo Association's Royalty Team are representatives for SMRA and IGRA, advocates for rodeo, ambassadors to the community and spokespeople for keeping the western heritage alive. Throughout the years, SMRA's Royalty Team has participated in countless fundraising activities at both the local and international levels. Royalty Team members work diligently to attain pre-set requirements outlined by the Royalty Guidelines to maintain their title and sash. Royalty Team members take their responsibilities very seriously. Each fall, under the supervision of the Royalty Committee and the current Royalty Team, a competition is held (pending contestants) to select a representative in each of the following categories:

- Mr. SMRA (a man)
- Miss SMRA (a female impersonator)
- Ms. SMRA (a woman)
- MsTer SMRA (a male impersonator)

If you have question or would like more information on becoming a royalty candidate contact

[Kitty Kincaid](#) or [Steve Bloodworth](#)

Team Roping



Team Roping

Hours of hard work go into the training for this event. This event is loaded with hazards, such as collisions, entanglements, and worst of all, possible loss of fingers. The team consists of two ropers and two well-trained horses. One roper is called the "header" and his or her responsibility is to catch the steer by the horns while the teammate, called the "heeler," has the responsibility of catching the steer's back legs, or heels. When the header makes the catch, he or she must wind the rope around the saddle horn, called "dallying off," and turning the steer away from himself causes the steer's heels to fly in the air for the heeler's loop to catch. When both ropers have been successful in their tasks, they must turn their horses to face the steer and pull their ropes taut.

Message from the Membership Chair



Hello Everyone,
My name is [Ron Yearian](#)
and I am the new
Membership Committee
Chair for 2009
I'm here in Louisville, KY
but don't think that limits me
on membership recruitment
for all of Tennessee and Kentucky. I'm new to SMRA but
am familiar with gay rodeo. I am very excited to give it
my best shot and look forward to meeting each and
every one of you. I hope I am able to really increase the
active member base all over our geographical region,
especially in Louisville and Knoxville where SMRA
has good roots already started. Our new members this
year so far are:

- Bill Ockerman, Bloomfield, KY
- James Allen Clark, Nashville, TN
- Travis Rasmussen, Nashville, TN
- Patrick Raines, Knoxville, TN
- Daniel Brison, Iron, TN
- Delo Griggs, Iron, TN
- Daniel Kirby, Nashville, TN
- Phil Chandler, Nashville, TN
- Jere Bary, Louisville, KY

And a big THANK YOU to all the members who renewed
so far this year.

I would also like to put some emphasis on membership
events outside of the bar atmosphere. A time for us to
hang out and get to know each other without fund raising
distractions. Be watching the website and emails for
such events.

I can't do this alone of course and am always looking for
committee members to help. Please contact me at
kyman2@aol.com if you would like to help. I am also
here for any question you may have regarding
membership. There are some exciting things over the
horizon!

Also a big THANK YOU to Justin Waldner for making
this transition to membership chair so easy!

Sincerely,
Ron Yearian
Membership Chair 2009

MUSIC CITY STAMPEDE



Counting the days until Music City Stampede

At the IGRA convention this past November in
New Orleans, member organizations were
asked to submit dates for the IGRA 2009, 2010
and 2011 Rodeo Calendar. The delegates
from SMRA attending the conference selected
the weekend of July 23-25, 2010 for our first
rodeo, called the Music City Stampede. This
date is for planning purposes and gets the ball
rolling for us to start organizing the details for
our rodeo. Current activities include organizing
our Rodeo Planning Committee and beginning
our search for a venue to host the rodeo. If
you would like to volunteer to help plan and
organize the rodeo, please let us know what
area you may be able to contribute. Go to our
SMRA homepage, and click on the Rodeo Tab.
On the Rodeo page you will find an outline of
the Rodeo Planning Committee, a summary of
the activities the committee will be involved
with, and a link that you can contact our Rodeo
Director, [Barry Roberts](#). The Rodeo Planning
Committee will meet monthly beginning this
summer.

We are now a little less than 500 days from the
Music City Stampede. So let's get ready to
rodeo!

To keep up with
upcoming events and
meetings visit our
website.

www.smra.net

stevebloodworth@bellsouth.net