

# CROSSROADS OF THE WEST

REGIONAL RODEO



15K  
ADDED PRIZE  
MONEY ACCROSS  
ALL EVENT'S



**JUNE 26TH → 28TH, 2026**

THURSDAY - KICK OFF PARTY | FRIDAY - RODEO SCHOOL

SAT & SUN | DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM RODEO STARTS AT 10:00 AM

[UTAHGAYRODEO.COM](http://UTAHGAYRODEO.COM) FOR TICKETS AND INFO

**GOLDEN SPIKE EVENT CENTER**  
1000 1200 W ST, OGDEN, UT 84404

**FREE CONTESTANT HORSE STALLS**

**RV PARKING AVAILABLE**



**COMFORT SUITES OGDEN**  
2250 S 1200 W  
OGDEN, UT 84401  
OFFICIAL HOST HOTEL



**THE OUTLAW SALOON**  
1254 W 2100 S ST  
WEST HAVEN, UT 84401  
RODEO KICK OFF PARTY  
THURSDAY AT 6PM  
MUST BE 21+ TO ATTEND

# 2026 CWRR Sponsors



Blessings,  
**The Rev Cn Jeff Stevenson, HoSM**  
Canon to the Ordinary  
Episcopal Diocese of Utah  
Cell: 801-604-7707  
Office: 801-322-4131





## **Letter from the President**

**On behalf of the Board of Trustees, our volunteers, sponsors, contestants, and supporters, I am honored to welcome you to this year's UGRA Crossroads of the West Regional Rodeo. Whether you are joining us as a competitor, spectator, vendor, or first-time guest, we are thrilled to have you here celebrating the traditions, camaraderie, and spirit that make gay rodeo so special. This event represents not only our rich western heritage but also the inclusive and supportive community that continues to make our sport thrive.**

**Our commitment is to provide a safe, welcoming, and memorable experience for everyone involved. Through the dedication of our volunteers and community partners, we continue to expand opportunities for athletes of all skill levels, support youth and amateur participation, and uphold the highest standards of livestock welfare and rodeo excellence. The Crossroads of the West Regional Rodeo is made possible through the passion and hard work of countless individuals who believe in preserving our traditions while creating opportunities for future generations.**

**Thank you for being part of this incredible weekend. Your support helps strengthen our community, celebrate diversity, and ensure that the spirit of gay rodeo remains strong for years to come. We invite you to enjoy the competition, make new friends, reconnect with old ones, and create lasting memories. Welcome to the Crossroads of the West—we're glad you're here.**

**Steve Housley  
President  
Utah Gay Rodeo Association**

# About the UGRA

The Utah Gay Rodeo Association began in 1979 and was known as the Golden Spike Gay Rodeo Association (GSGRA). It consisted of a group of local country western gays helping out the community and sharing their love of the west and of the rodeo life. Ten years later, in 1989, they were admitted to the International Gay Rodeo Association. However by that time, in California, the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association had been formed and had trademarked the GSGRA acronym, so the name was changed to the Utah Gay Rodeo Association (UGRA).

Once the dust had settled, the new UGRA got to work and for the next 11 years worked hard throughout the communities of Utah getting their name out there, growing their membership and getting Utah ready for its 1<sup>st</sup> gay rodeo. Finally, on June 2, 2000 the first Utah Gay Rodeo Association sponsored rodeo kicked off and over the next couple of years 2001, 2002, and 2004 UGRA enjoyed bringing the UGRA Rodeo and Wild West Festival to life, until interest waned and the organization dissolved in 2006.

On January 4, 2016, a group of eager cow fold got together, put things in motion and the Utah Gay Rodeo Association (UGRA) was brought back to life. The UGRA was admitted back into the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) by summer of 2016 and they worked hard once again getting themselves out there and re-lighting the rodeo fire in the communities of Utah. Finally, in June of 2023, the Utah Gay Rodeo Association brought Utah its first Gay Rodeo in 19 years "Crossroads of the West Regional Rodeo" and it was a smashing success. Now, the wheels were moving well on their way to bringing gay rodeo back to Utah on an annual basis.

Who can join the UGRA you ask.... anyone who is years of age and older who is not afraid to work to better the LGBTQ+ Communities of Utah. Someone who loves to have fun, work together, make lifelong friendships and is not afraid of a little manure on their boots. Ask any of our members, we enjoy long walks in a dusty rodeo arena, the thrill of rodeo competition and most importantly, we love to have our communities involved in the FUN! Please reach out to us with any questions and how to get involved.

# 2026 Board of Directors

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>President</b>             | <b>Steven Housley</b>                      |
| <b>Vice President</b>        | <b>Brandon Bays</b>                        |
| <b>Secretary</b>             | <b>Pup Mystic</b>                          |
| <b>Treasurer</b>             | <b>John Hart</b>                           |
| <b>Rodeo Director</b>        | <b>Kirk Critchlow-Speth<br/>"Jazz-men"</b> |
| <b>Trustee</b>               | <b>Steven Housley</b>                      |
| <b>Webmaster</b>             | <b>Austyn Riley from Hell</b>              |
| <b>Board Member at Large</b> | <b>Raeann Grow</b>                         |
| <b>Board Member at Large</b> | <b>Kevin Hillman</b>                       |
| <b>Board Member at Large</b> | <b>Jared Schroeder</b>                     |
| <b>Board Member at Large</b> | <b>Kristin "Nubbs" Tycksen</b>             |

# 2026 Rodeo Directors

## Rodeo Director: Kirk Critchlow-Speth



Welcome to the great state of Utah and to our 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Crossroads of the West Regional Rodeo." I am honored to serve as this years Rodeo Director and to be able to share my love of what rodeo means to me in this capacity. I grew up with my dad doing Chariot Racing on these very grounds and I can still recall the blur of his team colors that vivid brightness of the Teal and Hot Pink going down the track. So being here on these grounds is sort of a homecoming for me. As we celebrate 50 years of Gay Rodeo. We welcome ya'll into what we call our rodeo family.

## Assistant Rodeo Director: Pup Mystic



I would like to extend my heartfelt thank you to each and everyone of you who has joined us this weekend from the competitors to the venders to you our spectators. Without your support we wouldn't be here celebrating our 4th Annual Crossroads of the West. I grew up helping on my garnadparents dairy farm as well as being a rodeo competitor and loved every minute of it. When I found the UGRA back in 2023 I found my way back home to something I thought that I had lost. The rodeo fire was rekindled within me and I hope to share that passion with you as you celebrate with us all of the competitors as they share their passion with you. Again, Thank you for being here at the 2026 Crossroads of the West Regional Rodeo.

# 2026 UGRA Rodeo Team

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Rodeo Director</b>           | <b>Kirk Critchlow-Speth "Jazz-Men"</b> |
| <b>Assistant Rodeo Director</b> | <b>Pup Mystic</b>                      |
| <b>Assistant Rodeo Director</b> | <b>Dave Henzel</b>                     |
| <b>Trustee</b>                  | <b>Steven Housley</b>                  |
| <b>Advisor</b>                  | <b>Kevin Hillman</b>                   |
| <b>Advisor</b>                  | <b>Brandon Bays</b>                    |
| <b>Advisor</b>                  | <b>Jared Schroeder</b>                 |
| <b>Silent Auction</b>           | <b>Dakota Yeates</b>                   |

# 2026 CWRR Officials

|                              |                                    |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Arena Director</b>        | <b>Tim Smith<br/>"Tessy"</b>       | <b>Arena<br/>Coordinator</b> | <b>Devin Garcia</b>             |
| <b>Judge</b>                 | <b>Jack Morgan<br/>(lead)</b>      | <b>Judge</b>                 | <b>Marcus Hood<br/>"Boogie"</b> |
| <b>Judge</b>                 | <b>Candy Pratt</b>                 | <b>Judge</b>                 | <b>Chris Tobin</b>              |
| <b>Judge</b>                 | <b>Randy Edlin</b>                 | <b>Auditor</b>               | <b>David Hill</b>               |
| <b>Chute<br/>Coordinator</b> | <b>Travis James</b>                | <b>Secretary</b>             | <b>Dwayne Rennels</b>           |
| <b>Scorekeeper</b>           | <b>Guy Puglisi<br/>"Pork Chop"</b> | <b>Rodeo<br/>Announcer</b>   | <b>Tre Brewbaker</b>            |

## Letter from the UGRA Vice-President



**Dear Rodeo Fans,**

**On behalf of the Utah Gay Rodeo Association (UGRA) and our Rodeo Royalty Program, welcome to this year's rodeo! Whether you are joining us for the first time or are a longtime supporter, we are grateful that you have chosen to spend your time celebrating the spirit, tradition, and community that makes gay rodeo so special. As Vice President overseeing the Rodeo Royalty Program, I have the privilege of working with an extraordinary group of titleholders who serve as ambassadors for our organization throughout the year. Our royalty representatives embody the values of leadership, sportsmanship, community service, and inclusion. They dedicate countless hours to promoting rodeo, supporting charitable causes, and ensuring that everyone feels welcomed and valued within our community.**

**As a former Mr. IGRA 2025, I have personally experienced the profound impact that rodeo royalty can have. The program is about much more than titles and crowns, it is about creating connections, preserving our western heritage and lifestyle, and building a community where authenticity, respect, and pride are celebrated. The friendships, mentorship, and opportunities for service that emerge from this program continue to inspire me every day.**

**This weekend's rodeo is a testament to the dedication of our contestants, volunteers, sponsors, officials, and supporters. Their hard work makes it possible for us to provide a safe, competitive, and welcoming environment where everyone can participate and thrive. We encourage you to cheer loudly, support our contestants, and take time to meet the remarkable individuals who represent our royalty program.**

**Your presence here helps ensure that the traditions of gay rodeo continue to grow for future generations. Together, we honor the rich legacy of rodeo while creating a space where diversity, inclusion, and community are celebrated alongside athletic excellence. Thank you for your support of UGRA, our Rodeo Royalty Program, and the entire gay rodeo family. We hope you enjoy an exciting weekend filled with competition, camaraderie, and unforgettable memories.**

**See you around the arena!**

**Warm regards,**

**Brandon Bays**

**Vice President, Rodeo Royalty Program**

**Utah Gay Rodeo Association (UGRA)**

# 2026 UGRA Royalty

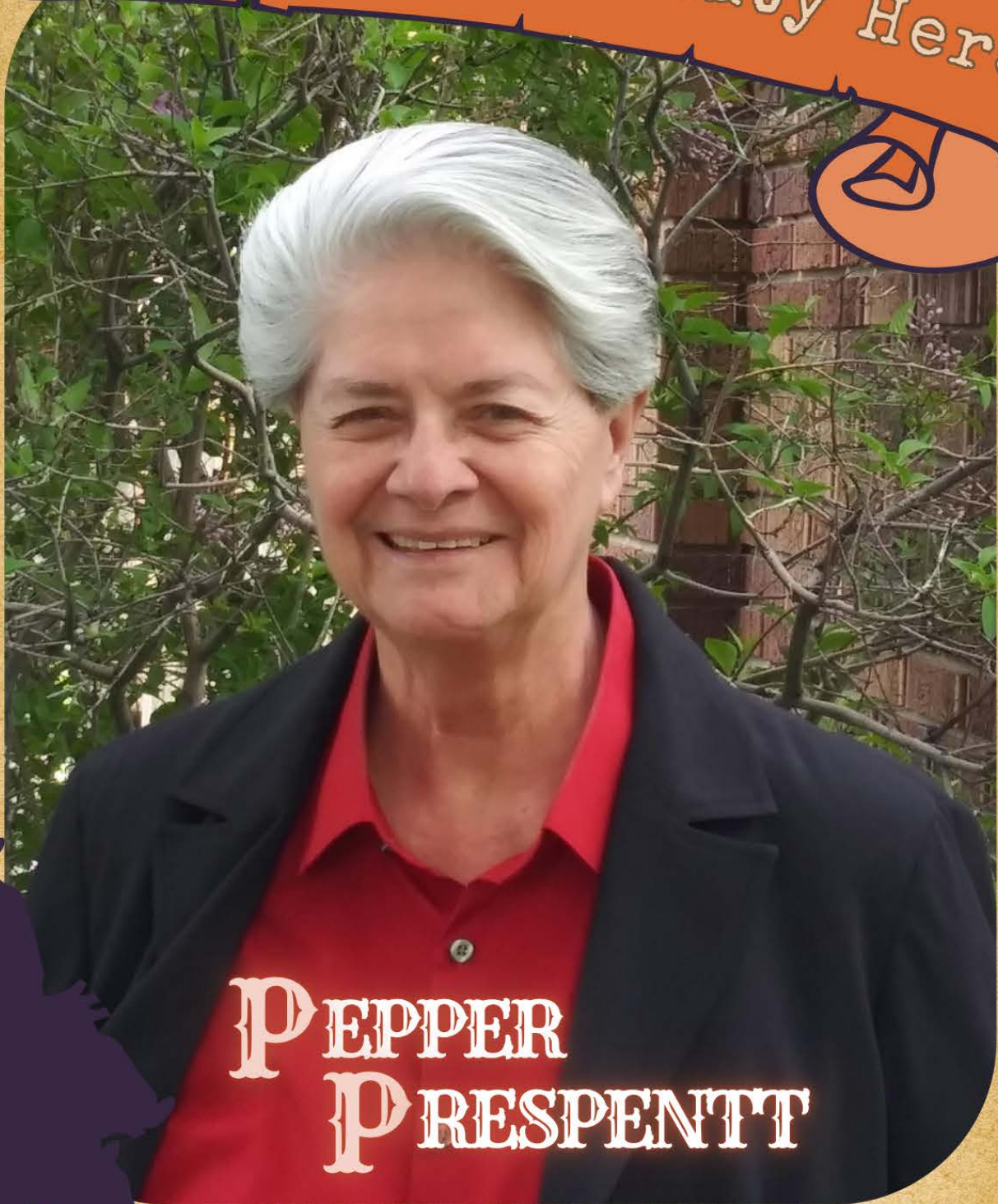


**Mr. UGRA 2026  
Robert Dior D!**



**Mr. UGRA 2026  
1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up  
Celtic**

CWRR 2026 Community Hero



PEPPER  
PRESPENNY



PEPPER PRESENTT IS A TRUE PIONEER, COMMUNITY BUILDER, AND CHAMPION FOR INCLUSION WHOSE IMPACT HAS BEEN FELT ACROSS UTAH FOR DECADES. ORIGINALLY BORN IN ARIZONA, PEPPER MADE SALT LAKE CITY HER HOME IN 1973 AND QUICKLY BECAME A DRIVING FORCE IN STRENGTHENING AND UPLIFTING THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY. AS EMPEROR I AND A FOUNDING MEMBER OF WHAT WAS ONCE KNOWN AS THE IMPERIAL COURT OF UTAH AND A FEW YEARS LATER BECAME KNOWN AS THE ROYAL COURT OF THE GOLDEN SPIKE EMPIRE, THE OLDEST LGBTQ+ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN UTAH, SHE HELPED ESTABLISH A LEGACY OF SERVICE, ADVOCACY, AND PHILANTHROPY THAT CONTINUES TO BENEFIT COUNTLESS INDIVIDUALS TODAY.

LONG BEFORE OPENING HER OWN ESTABLISHMENT, PEPPER WORKED THE DOOR AT THE ORIGINAL SUN, WHERE SHE BECAME A FAMILIAR AND WELCOMING PRESENCE TO MANY IN THE COMMUNITY. IN 1983, ALONG WITH LYNNE MCKENNA, SHE OPENED MS. TRAX, A WOMEN'S BAR THAT WELCOMED EVERYONE, IN THE SPACE THAT LATER BECAME THE SECOND LOCATION OF THE SUN TAVERN. THROUGH THESE EFFORTS, SHE HELPED TO PROVIDE SAFE SPACES WHERE PEOPLE COULD CONNECT, CELEBRATE, AND FIND A SENSE OF BELONGING DURING A TIME WHEN SUCH OPPORTUNITIES WERE OFTEN LIMITED. THROUGHOUT HER LIFE, SHE HAS REMAINED COMMITTED TO BUILDING BRIDGES, FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING, AND BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER ACROSS DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCES.

IN RECOGNITION OF HER EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE, PEPPER RECEIVED THE PRESTIGIOUS DR. KRISTEN RIES COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD IN 2019 AND WAS APPOINTED KING FATHER I OF THE STATE OF UTAH, FOR HER UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO THE COMMUNITY, THE ROYAL COURT OF THE GOLDEN SPIKE EMPIRE AND THE IMPERIAL RAINBOW COURT OF NORTHERN UTAH. SHE IS ALSO THE CREATOR OF THE BELOVED CHAMPAGNE TOAST TRADITION, WHICH HONORS THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST YEAR WHILE INSPIRING AND CELEBRATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS. PEPPER'S LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO SERVICE, UNITY, AND INCLUSION HAS LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON UTAH AND THIS IS ONLY A SMALL PART AS TO WHY THE UTAH GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION HAS DECIDED TO MAKE HER OUR 2026 CROSSROADS OF THE WEST REGIONAL RODEO'S COMMUNITY HERO.

CWRR 2026 Grand Marshall



ROBBIE  
HARRISON-GARCIA



**Robbie Harrison-Garcia grew up in Ogden, Utah, where he learned the value of hard work at an early age. Some of his fondest childhood memories were spent working alongside his father on a dairy farm, experiences that instilled a strong work ethic, a love of animals, and a deep appreciation for the cowboy lifestyle that continues to shape who he is today.**

**Robbie's path to rodeo began unexpectedly while watching the documentary *Queens & Cowboys* with his husband, Kurt. The film, which followed LGBTQ+ cowboys and cowgirls competing through the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA), introduced him to a welcoming community that immediately resonated with him. Inspired by the story of cowboy Wade Earp, Robbie began researching opportunities closer to home and soon discovered the Utah Gay Rodeo Association (UGRA). What started as curiosity quickly turned into active involvement as he attended meetings, volunteered at events, and worked to help grow membership and awareness for the organization.**

**With encouragement from mentors Kevin Hillman and Reann, Robbie attended his first IGRA World Finals in Phoenix in 2019. Witnessing the competition firsthand confirmed that rodeo was where he belonged. Soon after, he attended rodeo school, learning calf roping on foot, goat dressing, and chute dogging. As his skills and confidence grew, so did his commitment to the organization. Serving in leadership roles within UGRA, Robbie became deeply involved in fundraising, outreach, and efforts to rebuild Utah's rodeo presence within the IGRA community. After years of competing, volunteering, and building relationships across the circuit, Robbie helped lead one of UGRA's most significant accomplishments: the return of the Crossroads of the West Regional Rodeo after more than 20 years. Through a partnership with the Golden Spike Event Center, the rodeo found a home in one of the premier indoor venues in the region, helping reestablish Utah as a destination for competitors and spectators alike. The event's revival sparked renewed excitement, increased membership, and created opportunities for a new generation of contestants.**

**Robbie's original goal when joining IGRA was simply to qualify for World Finals. He achieved that dream and earned three medals during his first appearance. Since then, he has competed in events including Calf Roping on Foot, Chute Dogging, Goat Dressing, Steer Decorating, and Wild Drag, earning championship buckles in all but calf roping. Along the way, he has built lasting friendships and partnerships that have enriched both his rodeo career and personal life.**

**Together, Robbie and Kurt have traveled throughout the country pursuing rodeo opportunities, from bull riding school in New Jersey to competitions across California and beyond. Through every challenge and triumph, Robbie's dedication to the rodeo community has remained steadfast. His leadership, passion, and commitment to inclusion have helped strengthen the Utah Gay Rodeo Association and ensure that the spirit of rodeo continues to thrive in Utah for years to come.**

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026**

**CWRR WELCOME PARTY**

**8:00 PM  
TO  
10:00 PM**

**The Outlaw  
Saloon**

**1254 W 2100 S  
OGDEN, UT 84401**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026**

**CWRR RODEO SCHOOL**

**10:00 AM  
TO  
5:00 PM**

**AT RODEO  
GROUNDS**

**GOLDEN SPIKE EVENT  
CENTER**

**JACKPOT FRIDAY**

**TIME ONLY**  
  
**3D OPEN POLES**

**15 / 40**  
**AFTER POLES**

**5D OPEN BARRELS**  
**FOLLOWING 15 / 40**  
**NON CARRYOVERS**

**RODEO REGISTRATION**

**7:00 PM  
TO  
10:00 PM**

**AT RODEO  
GROUND**

**GOLDEN SPIKE EVENT  
CENTER**

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026**

**GATES OPEN**

**9:00 AM**

**RODEO RUNS**

**10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM**

**RUNNING ORDER  
(MEN STARTING)**

1. Grand Entry
2. Calf Roping on Foot
3. Ranch Saddle Bronc (Heat#1)
4. Team Roping
5. Break-Away Roping
6. Steer Decorating

7. Pole Bending
8. Mutton Busting
9. Chute Dogging
10. Steer Riding
11. Goat Dressing
12. Community Goat Dressing

13. Ranch Saddle Bronc (Heat #2 if needed)
14. Bull Riding
15. Wild Drag Race
16. Barrel Racing
17. Flag Racing
18. Ranch Saddle Bronc (Heat #3 If needed)

**RODEO WEDDING  
(Steve & Scott)**

**7:00 PM**

**AT RODEO GROUNDS**


**GOLDEN SPIKE EVENT CENTER**

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026**

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b><u>GATES OPEN</u></b><br/>9:00 AM</p> <p><b><u>RODEO RUNS</u></b><br/>10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM</p>  | <p><b>RUNNING ORDER<br/>(WOMEN STARTING)</b></p>   |   |
| <p>1. Grand Entry<br/>2. Calf Roping on Foot<br/>3. Ranch Saddle Bronc (Heat #1)<br/>4. Team Roping<br/>5. Break-Away Roping<br/>6. Steer Decorating</p> | <p>7. Pole Bending<br/>8. Mutton Busting<br/>9. Chute Dogging<br/>10. Steer Riding<br/>11. Goat Dressing<br/>12. Community Goat Dressing</p> | <p>13. Ranch Saddle Bronc (Heat #2 if needed)<br/>14. Bull Riding<br/>15. Wild Drag Race<br/>16. Barrel Racing<br/>17. Flag Racing<br/>18. Ranch Saddle Bronc (Heat #3 If needed)</p> |
| <p><b>ROYALTY SHOW, AWARDS AND DINNER</b></p>  |  |   |
| <p>7:00 PM</p>   | <p>AUCTION HALL</p>  | <p>GOLDEN SPIKE EVENT CENTER</p>  |

## OTHER EVENT INFORMATION

|                                 |                                      |  |   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM</p> | <p>CANADIAN NATION ANTHEM</p>        | <p>RIDERLESS HORSE</p>                 | <p>INVOCATION</p>   |
|                                 | <p>BOTH DAYS<br/><br/>ESERA MOSE</p> | <p>BOTH DAYS<br/><br/>AUSTYN RILEY</p> |  <p>Blessings,<br/>The Rev Cn Jeff Stevenson, HoSM<br/>Canon to the Ordinary<br/>Episcopal Diocese of Utah<br/>Cell: 801-604-7707<br/>Office: 801-322-4131</p> |

# THE RIDERLESS HORSE

Originally a military ceremony dating back to the days of when the cavalry relied on equestrian transportation instead of motor vehicles, the ceremony of the riderless horse has come to symbolize the end of a unique relationship between the horse and its rider. A special bond between horse and rider exists that can never be replaced by modern-day mechanical vehicles. Each



learned the other's cues, body movements, dispositions and numerous other unspoken signals and when that bond is broken, the horse must learn to adjust to the life minus its familiar partner. The ceremony today not only immortalizes this philosophy, but also honors the many members of the Utah Gay Rodeo Association and all International Gay Rodeo Association sanctioned Rodeo Associations members who have been taken from us well before their time. During this ceremony, we encourage you to remember these fine people for their contributions to Gay Rodeo.

This year UGRA has chosen to honor Joe Panek

# IGRA MISSION STATEMENT

## MISSION

Supporting Rodeo Associations that support the communities. The IGRA achieves this mission by:

1. Providing Associations with the tools to produce quality events
2. Promoting, in a positive way, the LGBTQ+ country western lifestyle
3. Supporting amateur sportsmanship through participation, competition and recognition

The International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) is an organization comprised of numerous regional Gay Rodeo Associations from across the United States and Canada. IGRA, in a collaboration with member Associations, assist in raising and donating thousands of dollars to charity in their communities each year. The Gay and Lesbian communities of the United States and Canada have been enriched by the educational efforts of IGRA through its sanctioning and sponsorship of the various events and activities which are a part of what we call "Gay Rodeo."

## HISTORY & PURPOSE

Gay Rodeo had its beginnings in 1976 at the National Reno Gay Rodeo in Nevada. Over the next eight years local rodeo associations were formed in Colorado, Texas, California, and Arizona. In 1985, these four Gay Rodeo Associations along with Oklahoma founded the IGRA. From these beginnings, the IGRA has spread the rodeo spirit across the United States and Canada. Through a convention of its Member Associations, the IGRA has evolved a code of fellowship and good sportsmanship including the provision of standardized rules and resources for the production of rodeo events. IGRA-sanctioned rodeos are hosted by local Associations each year and culminate in the World Gay Rodeo Finals where the top 20 contestants in each event compete for the title of International Champion. The IGRA has expanded its enrichment activities to include social Country & Western activities. Throughout the year, the regional Associations sponsor dance competitions in preparation for the IGRA's annual International Dance Competition featuring the best men and women dancers from across the country.

## EDUCATION & ANIMAL WELFARE

Encouragement of honesty, good sportsmanship, and fair play has been the hallmark of the IGRA as it has sought to enrich and educate the Gay and Lesbian Community. The sometimes rough and rugged sport of rodeo offers an appeal to the thousands of members of IGRA's regional Associations. Through structured regional education programs and competition, our men and women have improved their skills and have learned good sportsmanship. The men and women of the IGRA have encouraged others to have and maintain a healthy respect for the well treatment of our animals that also participate in rodeo activities and are a critical part of this heritage.

## COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

The preparation and physical training for each rodeo that our men and women are involved in help to heighten our awareness of Gay Rodeo's responsibilities to the Gay and Lesbian community. The IGRA and its regional Associations have committed themselves to the raising of funds from their activities to distribute back into the community for charitable use. Over 2 million dollars, as reported by our Member Associations, has been raised and distributed who care for and seek cures for those with the HIV disease, as well as other emerging LGBT health and social welfare needs.

## WHERE ARE WE

You will find our members come from the concrete canyons and mountains of our major cities, to the open plains, deserts, and natural mountains of our western regions, and from all careers and walks of life. Without regard to race, ethnic group, or sexual orientation, the men and women from within IGRA's Member Associations share and teach each other not only the skills and competitive fun of rodeo, but also those of human fellowship and teamwork to accomplish whatever we set before ourselves as a goal.

## BE A PART OF IGRA

Across the United States and Canada, the International Gay Rodeo Association brings to society as a whole, and the Gay and Lesbian community in particular, the opportunity to experience rodeo in many ways. Check the listing of Member Associations on our website, [www.igra.com](http://www.igra.com) and we are sure you will find one near you. Join a regional Rodeo Association and experience rodeo first hand. Become a member in preserving the heritage of the American Spirit in the Gay and Lesbian community.

## LET'S RODEO!

# INTERNATIONAL GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD



**PRESIDENT**  
Brian Helander



**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
Kami Boles



**SECRETARY**  
Gene Fraikes



**TREASURER**  
David Hill



**BOARD MEMBER**  
Robert Thurtell



**CHAIR OF TRUSTEES**  
Candy Pratt



**BOARD MEMBER**  
Chris Tobin

# RODEO EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

## ROUGH STOCK EVENTS

Mounted on top or standing beside an animal many times their size and weight; it's contestant against beast. In these events, the contestant attempts to out balance or out maneuver the animals natural instinct to rid itself of an unusual weight on its back or to escape from the clutches of the contestant. These events require a great deal of skill and experiance before a contestant can become a champion. Many IGRA sanctioned rodeos will hold rodeo schools before a rodeo or during the year, where experianced competitors can give the new contestants good instruction and suggestions as to how to improve.

### BULL RIDING

The ultimate event of the rodeo, Bull Riding, is an advanced version of Steer Riding, but with one-half ton more beef to content with and the added danger that many bulls turn back on the rider and attempt to get even for having their routine disrupted. Guaranteed, once you are on the bull and the gate opens, few riders ever leave this event without being slammed to the ground and scurrying for cover as the Bull Fighter moves in to save the cowboy / girl / folk.

### STEER RIDING

This is a beginner's event, but it's not as easy as it looks. Steers are male cattle which have been castrated. The rider has a "bull rope" wound around the animal just behind the front legs and then around the rider's hand; no knots are allowed. This hand hold and the rider's legs wrapped around the animal, are all the rider has to count on to stay on top. A rider who is able to spur, or move their legs back and forth on the animal's sides, will recieve a higher score.

### CHUTE DOGGING

This event is designed to give even the novice a chance to compete in rough stock events. The steer and the contestant both start in the bucking chute and face a 60-second time limit. When the chute gate opens, the contestant must bring the steer out to a 10-foot line in front of the chute, and then attempt to wrestle, or "dog" the steer to the ground. The contestant will turn the steer's head up and towards the steer's shoulder, hoping the steer will fall over on its other shoulder, causing all four hooves to point in the same direction as the head that was turned. If the steer is contrary and falls the other way, it is termed a "dog fail" and the contestant can either attempt to turn the head the same direction or let the steer up and start over. In this event either the contestant "dogs" or gets "dogged."

### RANCH SADDLE BRONC RIDING

Beggining with the 2017 rodeo season, Raenh Saddle Bronc Riding (sometimes abbreviated to Ranch Bronc Riding) was added to the list of optional events. In this event the horse is fitted with a full saddle. The rider holds onto a soft rope which is fastened to the horse's head with a special halter. The rider can use their free hand to hold onto the saddle, unlike the regular saddle bronc in most traditional rodeos, where the rider must not touch the horse or any part of the saddle with their free hand.

# RODEO EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

## ROPING EVENTS

Gay rodeo presents three roping events with one designed for beginners. The other two can be costly, because your success depends on a very good horse. Many roping horses sell for \$10,000 and up. These events always begin with the contestant in a "roping box." An imaginary start line runs across the front of the roping box and the chute where the calf or steer is held. Should the contestant cross this line, called the "barrier," before the calf or steerer clears the chute, a 10-second penalty shall be assessed and added on to the time.

### CALF ROPING ON FOOT

This is the second step in a roper's career. Most beginning ropers practice on fence posts or other stationary objects and then move in to the arena with a live animal. The contestant stands in the roping box and when the calf is released, attempts to throw the loop over the calf's head. Once the loop passes over the calf's head, the contestant must pull up the slack in the rope.

### MOUNTED BREAK AWAY ROPING

The roper is mounted on horseback with one end of his or her rope tied to the saddle horn by a piece of string. When the calf is released from the chute, the roper will be in hot pursuit with the lasso swirling above his / her / their head. When the loop is thrown, it must pass completely over the calf's head. As the calf pulls away from the rider and horse, the rope grows taut and will break away from the saddle horn.

### 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 their responsibility is to catch the steer by the horns while their teammate, called the "heeler," has the responsibility of catching the steer's back legs, or heels. When the header makes the catch, they 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.

## SPEED EVENTS

Speed and agility are two highly prized qualities in these contestant's horse's. These three speed events pit the horse, under the skillful hand of its rider, against the clock. Negotiating the prescribed pattern is a test of the rider's skill and the horse's speed and agility. A running start is permitted in these events and the fastest time wins.

### BARREL RACE

Contestants vie for the fastest time in running a 3-point, cloverleaf pattern around three barrels. The horse and rider are allowed a running start and time begins and ends upon crossing a visible starting line. A 5-second penalty is assessed for knocking over a barrel. The pattern can be started either from the left or right, but contestants that go off of the prescribed course are disqualified.

# RODEO EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

## POLE BENDING

In this event, horse and rider compete for the fastest time working a linear pattern through six equally spaced poles. The poles must be at least 6 feet in height and spaced 21 feet apart. A running start is allowed and a 5-second penalty will be assessed for knocking a pole down, and disqualification will take place if the team goes off course.

## FLAG RACE

A pattern similar to that of barrels is used, with the substitution of a pole in place of barrel number three. The two other barrels will have a bucket that is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of play sand placed on top of it, and a flag in one of these buckets. The rider may choose to run to the right or left and as they pass the first barrel, they pick up the flag, race past the pole, back to the second barrel, and attempt to place the flag in the second bucket. If the rider knocks over the first bucket or the pole, a 5-second penalty will be assessed. If the rider does not pick up the flag or misses the second bucket, no time will be given. If the second bucket or barrel are knocked over, the rider is disqualified. Sounds easy, but try this at 30 miles per hour!

## CAMP EVENTS

Whenever a group of cowhands get together for a good time, hell is gonna be raised! Cowhands generally have their own definition of fun and challenge. After a few beers and some serious ego pumping, it is amazing what a group of hands can come up with! Pre-requisites for participation are a willingness to eat dirt and the ability to hold your own with an ornery steer or goat. Sixty percent of our rodeo contestants get their start in these three events and the old-timers stay in because of the payoffs (or winnings) are the best of all the events.

## GOAT DRESSING

This two-person event was created specially for gay rodeo. The team stands 50 feet from the point where the goat is tethered. One of the team members has a pair of jockey-style underwear worn over their forearms. When the whistle sounds, the team runs to the goat, the team member without the underwear picks up the goat's rear hooves, grabs the underwear from around the other member's arms, and pulls it up the legs of the goat. Both team members must then race back to the start / finish line and cross the finish line to stop the time. The underwear must stay over the goat's tail bone until the timer is tagged by both members.

## STEER DECORATING

This event requires a two-person team. One member stands ten feet from the chute gate holding the end of a 25 foot rope, which is looped around the steer's horns. The other team member stands 40 feet from the chute and has a 24-inch long ribbon. When the chute gate opens, the team must bring the steer out and across the ten-foot line. One team member tries to tie the ribbon on the steer's tail while the other team member tries to remove the rope from the steer's horns. When the ribbon is on the tail and the loop off the horns, the ribbon-tyer must tag the timer located back in the chutes.

# RODEO EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

## WILD DRAG RACE

The Wild Drag Race is an audience favorite all across the IGRA rodeo circuit. Even though the competition is serious and the payoff sizable, a large number of competitors also believe this to be a very entertaining event for the audience. The drag costumes come from "Goodwill" stores, second-hand stores, and many from raiding mom's closet. A team is made up of one identifying cowboy, one identifying cowgirl, one "drag" (any gender), and one wild steer. The steer, with a halter and a 25-foot lead rope, is in a bucking chute at the beginning of the event. The identifying cowgirl holds the rope stands at a 10-foot line from the chute, the identifying cowboy stands at a 40-foot line from the chute, and the drag at a 70-foot line from the chute. They must get the steer across the 70-foot line, mount the "drag," and then ride back across the 70-foot line, the drag must stay on the steer until all four feet of the steer have crossed the line. Sounds easy, but the "drag" may get bucked off several times before the event is ever completed!

## SPECIALITY EVENTS

The UGRA is proud to bring a well-known Utah rodeo family favorite to the IGRA rodeo circuit. Since its introduction by the UGRA back in 2023, many other Associations across the IGRA has decided to introduce this fan and family favorite into their own rodeos!

## MUTTON BUSTING

Mutton Bustin' is an event available to our youngest fans that attend the kids. Since we do strive to make our rodeo's all inclusive and family friendly. Those picked for the event come out of a chute into the arena riding on a sheep. The sheep will then run in an attempt to shake off the kid. So, you might be wondering, what are the rules for this event? The rules are anything goes just as long as the contestants hold on for as long as they can. Once they fall off the sheep, their ride is over. Mutton bustin' is just like bull riding, except for the smaller western enthusiasts. And yes, the kids are required to wear a helmet.

# 2026 BUCKLE & RIBBON SPONSORS

| EVENT NAME              |         | BUCKLE SPONSOR             | RIBBON SPONSOR             |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| BULL RIDING             | COWBOY  | Steven Artalejo            | Friend's of the UGRA       |
|                         | COWGIRL | Jess Couser                | Friend's of the UGRA       |
| STEER RIDING            | COWBOY  | Teton Valley Rodeo Company | Teton Valley Rodeo Company |
|                         | COWGIRL | Teton Valley Rodeo Company | Teton Valley Rodeo Company |
| CHUTE DOGGING           | Cowboy  | Friend's of the UGRA       | Friend's of the UGRA       |
|                         | COWGIRL | Friend's of the UGRA       | Friend's of the UGRA       |
| RANCH SADDLE BRONG      | COWBOY  | R. Adler & K. Hillman      | R. Adler & K. Hillman      |
|                         | COWGIRL | R. Adler & K. Hillman      | R. Adler & K. Hillman      |
| CALF ROPING ON FOOT     | COWBOY  | F.G.R.A.                   | Friend's of the UGRA       |
|                         | COWGIRL | F.G.R.A.                   | Friend's of the UGRA       |
| BREAK AWAY ROPING       | COWBOY  | Friend's of the UGRA       | Friend's of the UGRA       |
|                         | COWGIRL | Friend's of the UGRA       | Friend's of the UGRA       |
| TEAM ROPING             | HEADER  | Friend's of the UGRA       | Friend's of the UGRA       |
|                         | HEELER  | Friend's of the UGRA       | Friend's of the UGRA       |
| GOAT DRESSING           | #1      | IRCONU                     | FGRA                       |
|                         | #2      | IRCONU                     | FGRA                       |
| COMMUNITY GOAT DRESSING | #1      | Friend's of the UGRA       | Friend's of the UGRA       |
|                         | #2      | Friend's of the UGRA       | Friend's of the UGRA       |
| POLE BENDING            | COWBOY  | Friend's of the UGRA       | Friend's of the UGRA       |
|                         | COWGIRL | Friend's of the UGRA       | Friend's of the UGRA       |

# 2026 BUCKLE & RIBBON SPONSORS

| EVENT NAME                  |          | BUCKLE SPONSOR                         | RIBBON SPONSOR       |
|-----------------------------|----------|--|----------------------|
| BARREL RACING               | COWBOY   | Priority Pet Care                      | Priority Pet Care    |
|                             | COWGIRL  | Priority Pet Care                      | Priority Pet Care    |
| FLAG RACE                   | COWBOY   | Friend's of the UGRA                   | Friend's of the UGRA |
|                             | COWGIRL  | Friend's of the UGRA                   | Friend's of the UGRA |
| WILD DRAG RACE              | COWBOY   | Episcopal Diocese of Utah              | Friend's of the UGRA |
|                             | COWGIRL  | Episcopal Diocese of Utah              | Friend's of the UGRA |
|                             | DRAG     | Jess Couser                            | Friend's of the UGRA |
| STEER DECORATING            | HEADER   | QSalt Lake                             | QSalt Lake           |
|                             | HEELER   | QSalt Lake                             | QSalt Lake           |
| MUTTON BUSTING              | SATURDAY | Friend's of the UGRA                   | Friend's of the UGRA |
|                             | SUNDAY   | Friend's of the UGRA                   | Friend's of the UGRA |
| ALL AROUND                  | COWBOY   | Jared Schroder                         | Friend's of the UGRA |
|                             | COWGIRL  | Jess Couser                            | Friend's of the UGRA |
| GRAND MARSHALL              |          | UTAH GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION             |                      |
| COMMUNITY HERO              |          | ROYAL COURT OF THE GOLDEN SPIKE EMPIRE |                      |
| RODEO DIRECTOR              |          | UTAH GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION             |                      |
| ASSISTANT RODEO DIRECTOR #1 |          | UTAH GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION             |                      |
| ASSISTANT RODEO DIRECTOR #2 |          | UTAH GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION             |                      |

# 2026 RODEO SCHEDULE

| LOCATION  | NAME              | DATE                          |                       |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
|    | Denver, CO        | Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo | July 10-12, 2026      |
|    | Hugo, MN          | North Star Regional Rodeo     | July 24-26, 2026      |
|    | Oklahoma City, OK | Great Plains Rodeo            | August 7-9, 2026      |
|  | Santa Fe, NM      | Zia Regional Rodeo            | August 21-23, 2026    |
|  | Duncan Mills, CA  | Best Buck in the Bay          | September 11-13, 2026 |
|  | El Reno, OK       | World Gay Rodeo Finals        | October 22-25, 2026   |