

FGRA History

- January 2005 Bryan Hodges and Todd Garrett have a conversation over the hood of Todd's truck at Todd's property in Myakka Head, Florida in regard why there was no gay rodeo in Florida.
- February 2005 Todd Garrett begins researching and making contacts in Florida and with IGRA.
- March 2005 A packet containing research from Carl Davis, Cowboy Luke and Cowboy Dan is received containing research from the 1998 formation attempt.
- April 8, 2005 A decision is made to do an informal survey of persons in attendance at Country Western weekend at Sawmill Campground later in the month and get their thoughts on a gay rodeo association for Florida.
- April 13, 2005 Original email address for FGRA is formed
- April 18, 2005 Cowboy Dan creates first poster to be posted at C/W Weekend
- April 23, 2005 Todd Garrett, Bryan Hodges and Clint Hummon travel to Dade City and meet Cowboy Luke in person. Informal survey along with sign up sheet for persons interested in assisting is obtained. Out pouring of support is overwhelming and to somewhat unexpected.
- April 24, 2005 Decision is made to move forward with the formation of a rodeo association.
- April 25, 2005 Cowboy Dan submits four logo designs for consideration
- April 26, 2005 Steering committee consisting of Todd Garrett, Bryan Hodges, Cowboy Luke, Cowboy Dan, Carl Davis, Scott Kelly, and Jack Early put in place.
- April 29, 2005 Sunshine Stampede is chosen for the name of the rodeo. Other names that were suggested were Sea 2 Sea Rodeo, Hurricane Roundup, and Cracker Rodeo.
- May1, 2005 Cowboy Dan secures domain name and begins work on website.

May3, 2005 FGRA By-Laws and Guidelines finalized and approved by steering committee.
FGRA mission statement drafted.
Original FGRA Logo approved.

May4, 2005 Membership Application completed

May 5, 2005 www.fgra.org is launched

May 6, 2005 FGRA Founding Officers Seated:
President: Todd Garrett
Vice President: Bryan Hodges
Secretary: Carl Davis
Treasurer: Jack Early
Trustee: Cowboy Luke

May 12, 2005 First press release announcing FGRA is sent out

May 20, 2005 FGRA, Inc incorporated in the State of Florida
Paperwork submitted to IGRA

May 27, 2005 Carl Davis appears on behalf of FGRA at the IGRA Board Meeting at the Oklahoma City Rodeo requesting IGRA recognition of FGRA.

IGRA recognizes FGRA as the 23rd Member of IGRA
Sunshine Stampede is placed on IGRA schedule for Spring of 2006.

June 2, 2005 Todd Garrett, Bryan Hodges, Cowboy Luke, and Carl Davis meet with IGRA President Brian Helander and IGRA Secretary Larry Lindstrom in Orlando at Gay Days.

June 3, 2005 First Official Board meeting takes place at Courtyard Marriott in Orlando.

Mike M appointed as Membership Chair,
Mike W appointed as Publications/Newsletter Chair
Jim M and Nikol H are appointed as Co-Rodeo Directors for the 2006 Rodeo.

June 30, 2005 First issue of *The Corral* published

July 17, 2005 FGRA membership reaches 50

July 24, 2005 Randy A and Tom S “Stacked Wranglers” are place at GGRA’s Southern Spurs Rodeo and become first FGRA members to place at an IGRA sanctioned Rodeo.

September 20, 2005 FGRA Membership Reaches 100

October 2005 Sunshine Stampede Rodeo Round Table Formed

April 7-9, 2006 Inaugural Sunshine Stampede Rodeo held at Bergeron Arena, Davie Florida
Attendees: 4000 estimate (exact number not available)
Competitors: 110
Grand Marshall: George Kessinger
Charities: Camp Boggy Creek, EASE, Poverello

April 9, 2006 FGRA Membership Reaches 200

June 17, 2006 FGRA Annual Meeting held in Orlando, Florida
First elections held: Bryan Hodges, President; Carl Davis, Vice President; Steve Fischbacher, Secretary; Jack Early, Treasurer; Barry Luke (Cowboy Luke) Trustee;
FGRA By-Laws Amended adding Member-At-Large position on the Board. Nikol Hillman elected to that position.

April 6-8, 2007 Second Sunshine Stampede Rodeo is held at Bergeron Arena in Davie, FL
Attendees: 4000 estimate (exact number not available)
Competitors: 129
Grand Marshall: Father Bill Collins
Charities: EASE, Poverello
*Note - Sever weather on Sunday reduced attendance.

June 2007 FGRA Annual Meeting held in Tampa, Florida.
Bryan Hodges, President; Carl Davis, Vice President; Jack Early, Treasurer; Steve Fischbacher, Secretary; Barry Luke, Trustee; Carlos Figueroa, Member at Large are elected.

November 2007 FGRA member Linda Lee receives IGRA Woman Rookie of the year

April 4-6, 2008 Third Sunshine Stamped Rodeo is held at Bergeron Arena in Davie, Florida
Attendees: 4000 estimate (exact number not

available)

Competitors: 99
Grand Marshalls: Dean and Lee
Lisa LeAnn Dalton
Charities: EASE, GLBCC of Orlando,
SunServe

May 25, 2008 Wolf Keller wins All Around Cowboy Buckle, FGRA's first at Liberty States Rodeo in Philadelphia

June 21, 2008 FGRA Annual Meeting held in Davie, Florida
Carl Davis, President; Keith Huber, Secretary; Jim Mitchell, Trustee; Darrell Brown, elected Vice President to fill remainder of VP Term due to election of Carl Davis as President.

FGRA members approve the addition of a Royalty Program to the FGRA By-laws.

FGRA receives association platinum sponsorship from Scandals Saloon, Wilton Manors, FL

November 2008 FGRA handles registration at IGRA Finals Rodeo
FGRA member "Little Hoss" receives IGRA Rookie of the year.

February 2009 Jim Mitchell resigns as Trustee in order to remain Rodeo Director, Keith Huber resigns as Secretary and is temporarily appointed as Trustee, Dan Kellerher is temporarily appointed as Secretary; Jack Early resigns as Treasurer, Jim Powers is appointed as Treasurer.

GGRA (Georgia Gay Rodeo) disbands. FGRA places GGRA members on FGRA membership list in order to allow them to compete for the remainder of the year. These memberships have no voting rights.

March 30- April 4 FGRA host Gay Country Western Cruise

April 3-5, 2009 Sunshine Stampede Rodeo is held in Davie, FL
Competitors: 108
Attendance: 4200
Grand Marshall: Bryan Hodges

Charities: Foundation of Dreams
Broward House/M Project
E.A.S.E. Foundation

June 28, 2009

FGRA Annual Meeting held in St. Pete Beach, FL
Member at Large changed to Director at Large-Membership.
Board expanded by the addition of Director at Large-
Sponsorship and Director at Large-Communications and
Marketing.

Carl Davis President; Mitch Gill, Vice President; Gaither
Pennington, Secretary; Jim Powers, Treasurer; Linda Lee
Lynch, Trustee; Bobby Fender, Director at Large-
Membership; Jim Lipsky, Director at Large-
Communications/Marketing; Director at Large- Sponsorship
vacant.

Membership is 398 (includes honorary members from
GGRA)