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GOLD BUCKLE CLUB

Gold Buckle Club First Annual New Year's Eve Party

The first annual GBC New Year's Eve Party was held at the Historic Sheridan Inn on the coldest night in December! Even with -20 degree temperatures, we had 123 hardy souls get dressed up in their finery and come out to enjoy the festivities! Bonafide provided a wonderful filet mignon and "Lobster Louis" dinner and Cynthia and her crew from Little Goose proved very adept at keeping the champagne flowing. "Exit 53", once again, played great dancing music until midnight, when we had the second toast of the evening to the New Year! (We also had a toast at ten o'clock for the lightweights!) The decorations, by Sonni Williams, featured countdown clocks and gold and silver lit centerpieces which were gifts to anyone who wanted to take them home. They provided a wonderful atmosphere for everyone to enjoy their evening. The party favors of champagne flutes etched with the Gold Buckle Club logo will be a lasting reminder of a great party to all who attended.

All that being said, there were a few bumps in the road, so to speak. This was our first effort at requiring RSVP's for a plated dinner event and we had a few issues. The size of the return postcard to RSVP was too small and the postal service was not very cooperative...some folks used the email on the website to RSVP which apparently did not work...and the weather caused 42 people who had RSVP'd yes to not show up, about a third of which let us know in advance. This, unfortunately, resulted in the club having to pay for the extra meals. We as a board will do everything to make this process flow more efficiently in the future and hopefully, you as members, will realize the importance of the RSVP for this event. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

We learned a few other things this first time out, as well. Based on our members response, the board feels this is a great time to host a GBC party and would like to continue. But due to the time of year, when everyone is busier, we think we could use some assistance in the planning and execution of future New Year's Eve parties. So, we would like to create a "GBC Hospitality Committee" to help with this event, as well as help with the decorations at the Exhibit Hall for the Hospitality Room during the WYO. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please contact Vicki Jorgenson at 307-751-4215 or vickijorgenson@bighornbeverage.com.

GBC Bar Operations

Some of our members have asked questions about some of our GBC expenditures. Your board has decided to periodically inform you of the details of some of our operations. This letter will provide some information on the operation of the bars during the rodeo.

The first bar(s) in the Gold Buckle VIP room consisted of a single bar at the north end with 3 bartenders, box wine, and mid-range quality liquors. Today we have three bars with a bar manager, eight bartenders and two helpers. The bar manager position is capably filled by Kim Aaberg and all her bartenders are TIPS

alcohol certified. We believe most people would agree that we have improved and expanded our beverage selection over the years as well.

The consumption of beverages has grown as has our membership. We do not have complete records of the early years but the typical annual GBC consumption of various items over the last few years has been:

35 bottles of Gin	\$5,500 worth of Beer
45 bottles of Rum	6,000 bottles of Water
160 bottles of Vodka	1,500 cans of Soda
275 bottles of Whiskey	250 gallons of Drink Mix
50 bottles of Bourbon	7,000 pounds of Ice
25 bottles of Tequila	
175 bottles of Red Wine	
100 bottles of White Wine	

The total cost of the bar operation has naturally increased over the years. This is one reason why the cost for GBC guests has risen. The average cost for the bar operation the last couple of years has averaged around \$35,000.

Preparing for the operation of the bars typically begins in earnest about two weeks before the rodeo. An inventory of the liquor and supplies left over from the previous year is made. This is compared with the records of historic consumption to decide on what should be ordered. Cups, paper goods, and other supplies are sourced locally when possible. The liquor and wine are ordered with the help of Tye Bach the owner of the Pony and a GBC member.

The setting up of the GBC bars generally takes place on Monday and Tuesday of rodeo week, with the bulk of the work on Tuesday morning. The left-over liquor and various bar supplies, coolers, carts, etc. are stored in a rented storage unit about 3 miles from the exhibit hall. We are fortunate to have the services of the Sheridan High School football team and the use of their equipment trailer to move these supplies. The team shows up Tuesday morning and does most of the heavy lifting under the direction of some of your GBC board members and the bar manager. Your GBC club donates funds to the Sheridan High School Athletic Department in appreciation for their help. The ordered liquor and wine is delivered on Tuesday morning as well through the Wyoming Liquor Commission.

The bars inside the Exhibit Hall are provided by the local Coke distributor. The bar in the GBC grandstands has historically just been a set of 8-foot tables. We hope this year to have our own, GBC owned portable bar. This should allow faster mixed drink preparation for your convenience.

While the GBC orders our liquor and wine, the beer is supplied through the American Legion which has the concession for all beer during the rodeo. We have decided to limit the keg beer selection to no more than three brands each from the two major distributors in Sheridan, Big Horn Beverage and Metz Beverage. They decide which of the brands to provide. Due to the difficulty of hauling kegs to the grandstands bar, only cans of beer are served there.

A couple of years ago we added an electric hoist to the GBC grandstands. This has greatly simplified the transport of supplies to the grandstands bar. This year we will add an electric wine cooler at each bar for the white wines.

We continually strive to improve the experience of our GBC membership. In addition to selecting premium liquors and wines, our bartenders last year introduced different specialty drinks each night of rodeo. This seemed to go over well and we plan to continue this offering this year.

The clean-up starts after the completion of the Saturday night rodeo performance. The supplies at the grandstands bar are moved to the Exhibit Hall. We can always use help with this move!! Some of the larger items are stored in the secure cage behind the bar. The Exhibit Hall clean-up starts late Saturday night/early Sunday morning with the bartenders boxing things up and moving items to the south bar. Then around 8:00 Sunday morning GBC volunteers arrive to start loading the supplies and equipment into trailers for the trip to the storage units. Help for this as well as cleaning up the Exhibit Hall also comes from the CHAPS personnel and the ELK's club. Your GBC contributes to each of these organizations in part for these services. Finally, by about 1 PM on Sunday things are in order for the next 51 weeks!

Please recall a few conditions that will continue to be enforced this year.

- 1) Alcoholic beverages will be served only to people with a proper wristband.
- 2) Please do not give drinks to guests without wristbands. This is a violation of our policies.
- 3) We limit an individual to only two drinks per visit to the bar. This is not only to speed up service but we have also been commended on this policy by the police department.

Also please recall that the bartenders are **not** paid. They rely only on your generous tips.

Please also be aware that your GBC and WYO Rodeo boards have decided that our bars will serve WYO Rodeo Whiskey exclusively this year. No Pendleton or Crown will be available.

Be assured that your GBC board continually strives to improve your GBC experience.

Additional Note: The Fun Facts letter containing all the information about the GBC Hospitality Room at the WYO Rodeo and your parking pass will be mailed on July 1st. The letter is also posted on the WYO Rodeo Website under the Gold Buckle Club Tab, Event Details 2019, for your convenience. Thank you and we look forward to seeing all of you July 10th through the 13th!

The logo features the word "Get" in a black, casual script font positioned above the word "WYO'd". The "WYO'd" is written in a large, bold, red script font. A small "TM" trademark symbol is located at the end of the "d".