

FireFighters Ride for MDA 2011

Sometimes a guy's gotta do what a guy's gotta do, and this year I did it... What the hell am I talkin' about you may be asking yourself? Well, for many years now the Wausau Fire Fighters Ride has been advertising with us and I could never set the time aside to spend the whole weekend with this one event. Due to many other events I usually could just catch Fridays parade and music. But I took the weekend this year and I'm glad I did

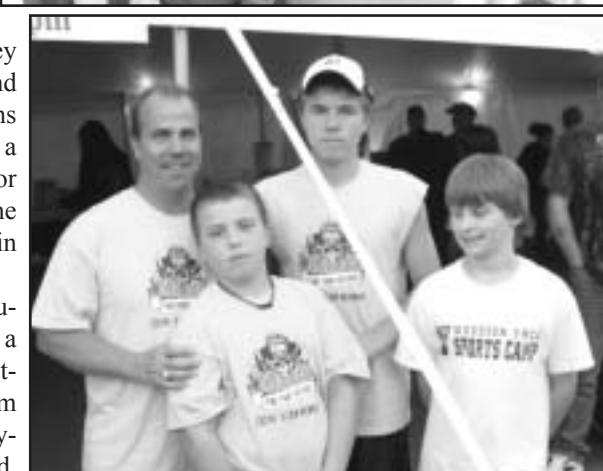
The Annual Fire Fighters Ride for MDA was started by Wausau fire fighter Andy Adrian who in the last 8 years of the ride, has been tweaking it with different ideas and thoughts to get it just right. I chatted with people from all over the state that look forward to the ride even though it does seem to be dampened (pardon the pun) by rain at some point during the weekend every year I have attended . But we all know that is part of the adventure being riders from Wisconsin. You never know what you will get for weather.

With a nice overcast but dry Friday, everyone was able to register, check out the vendors, listen to some music by Oil Can Harry, catch some of the fun run stops, or just headed inside HD of Wausau www.hdwausau.com to see what they were up to.

One of the cool things I like about runs like this is that they have a parade through town for the public to come out and cheer on. Lawn chairs spread on sidewalks and bar patrons toasting the 100's of bikes and riders as they go by is really a thrill. I consider a ride/parade like this sort of a thank you for letting us visit your town. Respect and getting along with the non riding community is in my mind essential for relations in today's biker world.

Saturday I headed back for the group ride that took a beautiful back road route over to Stratford Fire Department for a BBQ lunch. Unfortunately during the ride it was raining pretty good, but it didn't deter around 850 registered riders from participating. The line of bikes rolling through the countryside was quite impressive seeming to never come to an end. The food served up was fantastic and the other vendors selling desserts was definitely the cherry on top of a great ride.

I didn't head back for the Saturday evening festivities due to other commitments, but if it was as good a time as Friday and the Saturday ride, I missed out for sure. As far as next years event, it is up in the air at this point, but keep an eye on www.wausaufire.com for updates. This truly is one of those events that Andy and the crew definitely put their heart and soul into for our enjoyment. \$34,000 was raised this year for MDA making this a double plus of an event.



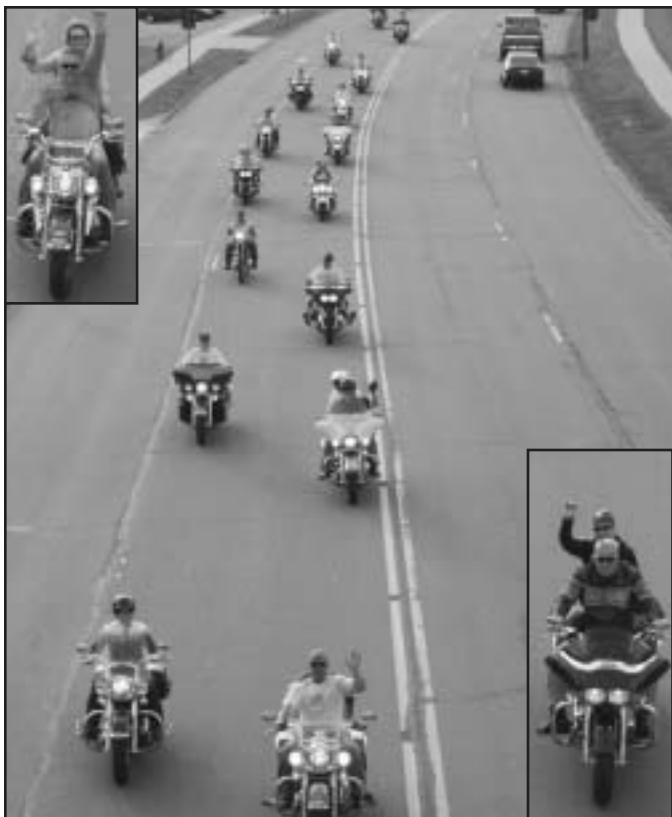
A great job done by Andy and his crew



Lined up for the Ride



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