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## Bikers ride into the hearts of veterans Annual charity event brings cheer, and clothing, to VA hospital

By ALLISON ASKINS

Big bikers, little bikers, female bikers, male bikers, young bikers, old bikers - more than 1,200 showed up Sunday to place gifts under the tree at the W.J. Bryan Dorn Veterans Hospital on Garners Ferry Road. That's after riding across town from Carolina Honda on Buckner Drive in the brisk December air as part of the fifth annual Vets Christmas Charity Ride.

"They're bringing Christmas to the hospitalized veterans," said Priscilla Creamer, public affairs officer for the hospital. Creamer was standing on the hospital lawn greeting the hundreds of bikers, Christmas gifts wrapped and tucked under their arms.

Those taking part brought new socks, sweat suits, bathrobes and sleepwear to share with those who they said had given so much to them and their country.

"We just feel like the vets have done a lot for us," said Tommy May of Gaston. "We want to come out and do what we can." While May is not a veteran, he grew up the son of an Army soldier. He brought sweat suits and socks to place under the tree.

About 175 veterans from three wars are hospitalized at the VA center, Creamer said. Any extra gifts will be shared with Columbia's homeless, of which about a third are veterans.

Jim Wertman of Carolina Honda organized the event five years ago out of a desire to educate the community about veterans and their sacrifices. "They are a forgotten breed," Wertman said. "We owe these people something.

For many, this is the only Christmas they get." Debbie Rogers, a former nurse with the National Guard, is another supporter of the event. She rode with her husband, veteran Gene Rogers of the Honda Goldwing Roadriders Association.

Their nephew, Johnny Pelinski of Pelion, is serving in Iraq. Many other family members have served in other wars as well. "It's just been real important to us to support the veterans," Debbie Rogers said. "A lot of these people don't have family." She is humbled each year, she said, when she sees the generosity of participants. While bikers are asked to bring just one package per person, many show up with bags full of gifts.

On Sunday, at least one pick-up truck and a trailer were filled to the brim with gifts collected by bikers across South Carolina. That's in addition to gifts placed under the tree by individuals. "We're supporting them for giving their lives and energy for us," said Frank Williams of Chapin. "They deserve it."

## Friends riding for Good

The Alzheimer's Motorcycle Ride for the Mind took place on Saturday June 18, 2005. In Royalton, Minnesota.

It was a dream put together by a group of friends with direct relation to Alzheimer's disease. They called themselves "Friends Riding for Good". Anticipating 50-60 riders in the first year, all of a sudden the support became unbelievable. Donations for items came pouring in. Everyone was so supportive. The day of the ride we had 271 riders and rose \$20,405.14. We had a raffle drawing, door prizes and a live auction and sold food, motorcycle magnets and ended the event with Smok N' Guns band that was kindly donated for all to enjoy.

Proceeds benefited Horizon Health Inc. in which a van was purchased so they can bring Residents on outings all together instead of a few here and there. Horizon is a non profit group that provides family care, counseling and residency to elderly and those with dementia. It kind of fun to see an actual result of your hard work. and also the Alzheimer's Association for research.

The Next Alzheimer's Ride for the Mind will take place June 17th, 2006 at the 10 Spot Bar in Royalton, MN Sincerely, Sally Kloss

**Great job to all the Brothers and Sisters on this run. This is what it's about. Thx**



## 10th annual Toy Drive

The D. C. Eagles motorcycle club had their 10th annual Toy Drive December the 17th - for kids that are in the hospital over the Christmas holidays and as always - it was a BIG success! Thanks to all the donors - like WALMART - Doc's Harley Davidson - 'Berserker's' bar in Two Rivers - Eagle Nation Cycles in Neenah - 'Commercial Break' Bar in Neenah - 'Real Leather Shop' in Appleton - Tim's Auto and Towing in Appleton - and the 'Tailored Hide' leather shop in Neenah..

Then of course there were the clubs that sent a few of their members with their donations - The Immortals - Mixtecas - Magnetos - Satan's Outcasts -Union Riders - Hell's Lovers - Armed Forces - Viet Nam Vets -Zodiacs - and a few more clubs that came after I had a few drinks too many - and after I started PARTYING!

----- BINGO -----

## 3rd Annual Porker's U.S.A. Indoor Bike Show (News Release)

Lots of big and exciting changes are coming in 2006 for the 3rd Annual Porker's U.S.A. Indoor Bike Show. The show dates have changed to March 11th & 12th, 2006. Almost one month sooner than usual. The biggest change however comes in the venue. The show has moved from Spooner's hockey arena to the very upscale and newly remodeled Ramada Inn and Convention Center, in downtown EauClaire, Wi. As the promoters of Porker's U.S.A., both of us, Bill and Deb Holst, would like to send a huge Thank You and a fond farewell to Spooner, which was the birth place of the show. We will miss the small town atmosphere and friendly people that gave the show so much support and encouragement. To all of our past sponsors, we say "Thank You". We have simply outgrown the facility and want to see the show continue to grow. We knew last year, what we had to do, when we were forced to turn away both bike show contestants and vendors, due to lack of space. The other factor in the move is the new facility and how much better it can serve everyone. The Ramada has been newly remodeled, complete with beautiful carpeting, marble pillars and crystal chandeleurs above. Show goers can stay right there. Ramada has offered special show rates for those wishing to do so.

As promoters, we also feel like the bikes and all of the hard work that they represent deserve to be showcased in the best way possible.

2006 promises even more beautiful bikes, loads more vendors and the return of last years tattoo competition.

Porker's would also like to welcome Sport Motors Harley Davidson, of Chippewa Falls Wi. as they have come onboard as Porker's U.S.A. premier advertising show sponsor.

For more information on this years show, check us out at [www.porkersusa.com](http://www.porkersusa.com) or call 715-635-8945. We are looking forward to seeing you at the show !!!

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