

"19 Year of Motorcyclists Giving Back to the Community"

Dukane Chapter of ABATE of Illinois 19th Annual Toy and Food Run

by: Big Jim

Local residents and the Batavia VFW look forward each year to the parade of thousands of bikers to cross the Fox River bridge in Batavia. Santa, on a 3 wheeler, leads the group while he and many following cyclists wave and toss candy to the excited youngsters who watch and wave.

The Dukane group, a charter chapter for the State-wide ABATE organization is now celebrating its 19th year with this event. Gathering truck loads of toys and non-perishable food items, plus monetary contributions, this motorcyclist civic organization distributes to needy families and children throughout DuPage and Kane Counties. Target agencies are Norther Illinois Food Bank, Larkin Center of Elgin, plus domestic courts family services, social service agencies and local food pantries surrounding.

Not to be confused with the Marine Corps sponsored "Toys for Tots" charity event which takes place in Chicago each December, ABATE seeks to preserve their rights to a safe and unrestricted motorcycling environment through positive community and legislative actions.

Dukane chapter President, Mark Garrison commented that while having a great time at this toy run, it prompted motor-cycle awareness while giving back to the community.

Meantime, participants rode a 60 mile route through the beautiful autumn countryside of Kane County, then to the end point, parking in rows adjacent to the scenic Fox River at the Batavia VFW. Chrome glistened in the sun while a sea of black clad revelers donated toys and partied to the outstanding tunes of the band "Going South". There were raffles and auctions of merchandise as donated by supporting business', plus numerous vendors of leather, jewelry, cycle products and services.

A live taping of the motorcyclists forum, "Open Road Radio" took place. Political dignitaries were introduced by "Freak" of the radio show, who proceeded to inquire of their opinions of motorcyclists rights! How Freaky!

The many brands and styles of bikes were welcome to participate in the ride-in show. Everyone enjoyed viewing the unique entrants. This years class winners by popular vote:

- Antique: T. Labant '68 BMW R50 w/Steib Sidecar
- Custom: J. Benda '90 HD FXSTC
- Import: D. Notbusch '00 Vstar (Yamaha)
- Dresser B.Kovanis '05 HD Road King
- Trike: C. Busch '02 H-D Road Kink Trike Custom Body
- Sportster: D. Fitzgerald '01 H-D Sportster
- Cruiser: B. Camerier '01 H-D Deuce
- Touring: T. Thompson '02 Victory TC
- Rat: G. Smith '79 Honda CB "Modified"

The attendees included numerous associations, clubs, brother & sisterhoods of motorcyclists who hear "Going South" close with the emotional biker anthem Freebird, which was dedicated to downed riders.

Always the second Sunday in October, DUKANE ABATE again thanks its many new and continuing sponsors for another successful Toy and Food Run. The community and its charitable agencies offers kudos to ABATE and motorcyclists for their open hearts and endeavor.

All motorcycle enthusiasts are welcome to touch handlebars with DUKANE chapter of ABATE of Illinois Inc. At the St. Charles VFW, 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 pm or Mark 630-688-8428. The State office is found at 311 E. Main #418, Galesburg, IL 61401. www.abate-il.org



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