

Summer Thunder 2012

The weather was perfect. The route included the oldest tavern in the State, located in Cleveland, Wisconsin, not far from the shores of Lake Michigan. Riders from Racine and Franklin, who became aware of the run through the Free Riders Press, joined local bikers for a 130 mile fun ride for a good cause.

The ride left Suburban Motors in Thiensville and followed the Lake through Port Washington, Sheboygan, and up to Cleveland, where we stopped at the Hika Bay Tavern; the oldest privately owned bar in Wisconsin. From there, it ventured west into Glenbeulah. As is happened, the folks at Fudgienuckels were having a fund raiser for the local fire department with a brat fry. Summer Thunder sponsors the Saukville Fire Department. What more can you ask for. Reciprocal support. Good food and fast food for a good cause on a good ride. A number of riders sported shirts with the Summer Thunder logo. The committee sold them at local events and at a block party at Suburban HD Motors prior to the ride. It made for some good conversation, as well as a promotion.

Everyone ended up at Saukville's Triangle Park for food, drink, music, vendors, and fun long into the evening. A lot of thanks go out to the volunteers who plan and work on the run a whole year in advance. Phil and Sally Vincevinius, owners of Pleasant Valley Auto, and members of their family, spearhead and support this project every year. Along with help from the Fire Department and their families, the community benefits while over 130 riders contributed and made the day worth all the effort. And speaking of community, the support the Ride gets from the local government and Village staff make it all possible.

The 2013 ride is already on the map and looks to be every bit as interesting and fun, including a stop at a Union Army recruiting station used during the civil war. Don't worry. It is now a fine watering hole.



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