

2015 ALS Benefit Ride Waupaca

It was about 70 degrees and no rain as we left the Waupaca Truck Stop about 11:15 a.m. and headed west on hwy 54. There where about 135 to 150 participants on the ALS Ride this year. Every year there's a new route for the ALS Ride, and I was given the route that was going to be taken this year. Our first stop was actually south of Waupaca in Wild Rose at Pioneer Pub, from there we head to our second stop at Murph's Corner in Neshkoro. Our third stop was at two places in Eureka, Starlite and Bill & Stel's, from there we headed for our fourth stop at Saw Dust City and then headed back to Waupaca for our final destination at Simpsons.

I found out that this group of volunteers raised \$15,000.00 for ALS last year and is the third (3) biggest fundraiser group for ALS in the state of Wisconsin. The ALS road captain this year was Luke Butzin and he was helped by a group of great volunteers. They blocked the roads for our safety and from what I saw there was no way any motorist could get around these volunteers. No matter what job any one of these volunteer did, they did it out of the LOVE to serve others and a great charity. When I stopped to take photos of the event, I was asked if everything was OK, and someone would check on me even after they knew I was taking photos. As a member of the Christian Motorcycle Association I have seen many volunteers doing service for other bikers. This group of ALS volunteers seems to me to be doing service, as Jesus would want us to serve others out of LOVE.

When we stopped at Wild Rose there was a breakfast items to eat for anyone who wanted to eat or need to get something to eat. There was no extra charge for this meal as it was donated to ALS Benefit Ride. There where 50/50 raffia's going on at each of the stops on the route to help raise funds for ALS. When I was in Eureka I got to talk with one of the bartenders at Bill & Stel's, about why he wanted to have the ALS Ride stop at his place. I found out that not only was the ALS Ride a worthy charity to help, but I heard a personal story of how ALS had affected his family. While in Eureka I also got time to talk with and get a photo of Carrie Imag (whose husband died of ALS), Steve Halsey, Penny Vandervoort and Dennis Halle.

When we got to Simpsons about 5 o'clock in the evening and there was another meal waiting for us, also donated to the ALS Ride. In another room there where gift items with buckets for tickets for participants who purchased tickets to take a chance to win. There was also cards being sold and a winner with the correct card would get the item that was up for prize at that time. Mean while as all of this was going on there was a silent auction going on. There was always something going on to raise funds to help reach the goal to find a cure for ALS. The bucket prizes where selected at 7:30 p.m. and the silent auction prizes where drawn at 8:00 p.m. There was a band playing most of the time after we had eaten and when I left about 8:30 p.m. they where still playing. When I left there where still plenty of participants enjoying themselves.

I have been on a few benefit rides over the years. I can understand why I know of bikers who look forward to doing the ALS Benefit Ride in Waupaca each year. If you have never done this ride you are missing a great day and helping a great cause at the same time. So I hope to see you there next year! Have a pleasant and Godly Ride.

Laurence



Luke Buyzin



Carry Imig, Steve Halsey, Penny Vandervoort, Dennis Halsey



Tammy Kotovich



Crystal Bucholtz & Kathy Ibe



Josefine Rtvass, Lynn Kammion, Kristine Wilson



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