

**“Free Riders Press is proud of it’s Brothers and Sisters that give Bikers a positive image.”
Teddy Bear’s 10th Annual Beach Run**

by Wally Wersching

For the past nine years, Teddy Bear and a group of bikers have escorted the graduating class of North Shelby School to Myrtle Beach for the weekend. North Shelby School has only special students who are physically or mentally challenged.

Teddy Bear has a great big heart to do this trip every year. Teddy Bear was a charter member of the Windjammers MC forty-two years ago. He and the Windjammers have done a lot over the years for the children of Cleveland County. Teddy Bear has been involved with the Special Olympics for over twenty years with Eaton Corp. providing the food for the athletes after the events.

This year fourteen graduates were treated to a weekend at Myrtle Beach. Many of their parents went along for support. Quite a few bikers escorted them to and from the beach. They also participated in the festivities at the beach. This year they were treated to a show along with all the traditional beach fun.



I had always heard about the beach trip after it happened. I saw pictures of the youngsters having fun in the pool and on the beach. I wanted to be a part of the trip. This year, I learned about the trip before they left, and I had time to go, and send them off. I rode to Bojangles on Rt 74 to meet the other riders at about 8:00AM last Friday. Most stopped in the restaurant to have some of those famous Bojangles breakfast biscuits.

At about 8:30AM, we all left to go to North Shelby School to pick up the graduates. It was a relatively short ride where we rode as a group. Road guards were set to stop oncoming traffic so we could safely cross intersections. One road guard had a very harrowing experience when he had to stop a van. It didn't look like the van



was going to stop, but it stopped just in time - that was close! Once at the school, one of the bikers got the yellow police tape caught in his front wheel. It was there to block off the parking spaces for the bikes. I didn't see how it happened because I was near the back of the line. He easily removed it with no harm to his Harley.



The whole school came out to see the graduates off on their journey. Many of the students came over to the motorcycles to see them up close. Some were given the opportunity to sit on the bikes to get their picture taken. Everybody was smiling and happy.

In a few minutes, the police came to escort the whole group out of Shelby. Even the policemen were smiling. Most people don't see a policeman smile. The only time we encounter the police is when we do something wrong, and then they are serious.



After a few more minutes, the sound of roaring motorcycles filled the air, and the 10th Annual Teddy Bear Beach Trip was officially started. The motorcycles pulled out of the lot behind the police car followed by a group of vans and SUV's as the rest of the school waved.

I hope that the Teddy Bear Beach Run goes on for a long, long time. It's a great way to show the graduates of North Shelby School that they are not forgotten. Most of the graduates from the other schools in Cleveland County go on trips and such to celebrate their

graduation. North Shelby graduates should be able to go too. I was glad to be part of it this year. Maybe next year, I'll ride all the way to the beach.

To get more info about the trip, contact Teddy Bear at: teddybearshd@yahoo.com,

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