

### Chicago Toys for Tots

Well here I am again in Chicago for the annual Toys for Tots run.

It wasn't as cold this year as it was last year, it got up to the mid 40's maybe 50 if you were lucky. This again is held on the 1st Sunday in December every year.

The turnout was bigger than last year but remember every year it keeps getting bigger and better. I remember when this first started, there were only a dozen or so bikes that did the run and it started on 79th street off Western. Now it's moved to the Dan Ryan Woods Forest Preserve and if you were there you would know why.

The park was so crowded I don't know how they were getting everybody inside it. They had bikes from 83rd to 87th, from Western to Leavitt on the east. You couldn't even have a car on any of the surrounding streets for all of the people & bikes. There were bro's and sisters from all over the Midwest and then some. You could see any kind of bike you wanted to from a manufacturers, to a home built, it was better than going to some bike shows. And everyone was real friendly to one another, knowing you or not.

The start time was just before 10 am. The last bike went by us about 2 miles from there around 2:45 pm. There was 8 waves of bikes, approximately 4-5 thousand per wave (that's right, thousand) at a time. The reason was so they didn't block cross traffic for so long.

They had volunteers, fire and police departments from all around the Chicago suburbs bringing toys. They were loading them in semi-trucks brought in from the Teamsters Union, fire departments using there equipment, and volunteers using there own personal vehicles.

There was plenty of pit stops on the way for just about anything you needed or wanted. The different businesses of all kinds treated everybody great. If you weren't there, try to be there next year.

The Marine Corps was pretty short handed this year due to the shit in Iraq and other places, but the did one hell of a job as well as all of the volunteers. Let's take our hats off to them. Even the Chicago P.D. did a fine job for traffic control (unbelievable).

After making this there were plenty of party places to go all day & night. Hope to see you there next year. Til then, ride safe. See you down the road somewhere, sometime.

Scruffy



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 YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
**2nd Annual**  
**PORKER'S U.S.A.**  
**Indoor Bike Show**

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 1st - 2nd - 3rd PLACE PRIZES AWARDED IN 12 CLASSES  
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