

A BLOOD RUN

They said they were going on a blood run. Now, I've been riding for many years, and I've heard about all kinds of rides, but I'd never heard of a blood run. You can imagine what went through my mind when I was told this, can't you?

My friends are riding to the big city to take part in a gang war.

My friends are riding to the gulf states and ride through swarms of mosquitos.

My friends are riding to an "eat it raw" steak buffet.

My friends are riding through a gauntlet of knives and swords.

OK! I know that none of these things are true, but I still wondered about a blood run. It really didn't sound like something you would do for fun on a Saturday morning. I always thought there was something "chilling" about blood, even though I wasn't one to faint at the mere sight of it. I also am aware that there are groups of people around the world who use blood in ceremonies and religious rituals, and this sometimes gives you an eerie feeling about blood. I always tend to shy away from blood, especially if it is my own.

I know that the Bible says that "the life of the flesh is in the blood," and science has also discovered that death and disease may be carried by the blood. So, I treat blood as a very sacred and dangerous substance. This "blood run" better be a very serious matter.

As a matter of fact, my friends were riding TO a blood drive! They, along with many others, were going to donate their blood to a blood bank. This blood drive was sponsored by a motorcycle club, to ensure that when blood is needed due to disease or injury, there would be an adequate supply. There are many opportunities for giving blood through the riding season, but this one was on the first Saturday of May, in Neenah, Wisconsin, put on at the Eagle Nation Motorcycle Shop. This is an annual event that has collected much life-giving blood through the years.

Sometimes we take our blood for granted, and only realize its importance when we - or someone we know - run short. Through the years I have been short of blood on a couple of occasions, and would have died if there had not been my type of blood available. I owe my life to people like you who are willing to donate their blood for the sake of others. This is just one of the many charitable activities that bikers get involved



in, and they are all responsible for saving lives and easing pain for those who are less fortunate than we are. We are able to help others by giving a small part of ourselves. A little blood gift we can do without, given to those who are unable to survive without it.

As a matter of fact, giving blood is a very serious and sacred matter. From a spiritual perspective, the Bible tells us that we are saved through the blood of Christ.

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God." Romans 5:8,9

When we were helpless in our sins, plummeting toward hell, and desperately grasping for help from anywhere, God sent His Son to die on the cross in our place. He died OUR death, that with His Blood, He might give Life to us. Even though God's wrath is to be poured out on all of His enemies, His love for us caused Him to sacrifice His Son in our place. Jesus Christ went on a "blood run" to Calvary just for you. WOW!

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Ironhorse Roundup on track for Waukegan

March 17, 2009
By DAN MORAN DMORAN@SCN1.COM
WAUKEGAN -- Last year's controversial decision by Grayslake officials to cancel the Ironhorse Roundup Bike Show due to a reported threat isn't deterring Waukegan city officials from pressing forward with plans to welcome the event to the Sundance Saloon on May 3.

Mayor Richard Hyde said Monday that a permit for the event should come before the City Council next month, adding "I hope it will pass."

The Ironhorse attracts motorcycle enthusiasts for a day of live music, food and drink, industry vendors and a six-category bike show.

Last May, Grayslake officials said they pulled a permit for the Ironhorse after both a regional gang task force and officials with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security advised that two rival motorcycle gangs planned to attend.

Hyde pointed out that the event, expected to attract between 10,000 and 12,000 motorcyclists, was held in previous years at Austin's Saloon & Eatery in Libertyville without incident.

"We checked it out with Libertyville and they had no problems whatsoever," Hyde said. "You know, these groups, they're cops, they're firemen, they're doctors, lawyers, they're real-estate people. They're not a gang."

Hyde added that when the Sundance Saloon originally filed a permit to host the event in and around their location adjacent to Fountain Square of Waukegan, "I took it straight to our police chief, and he had no problem with it."

Police Chief William Biang said last year's cancellation of the would-be event at the Lake County Fairgrounds stemmed from "a specific, documented threat (reported) by a reliable informant," adding that it has no bearing on current events.

"We will do everything in our power to make sure it is a safe event," Biang said.

Also on Monday, the City Council gave conditional approval to a sesquicentennial carnival being eyed for Aug. 7-9 at Fountain Square in Waukegan.

Special-events director Kelly Link said the exact site will be "where the casino would have gone," between SpringHill Suites and Buffalo Wild Wings. The event, featuring up to 20 rides, will be staged by St. Charles-based Windy City Amusements Inc., which will give 50 percent of all revenues up to \$50,000 to the city, and 25 percent beyond that total.

The city's centennial celebration featured a downtown carnival, but Link said the Fountain Square site was chosen due to its controlled access and parking lots. Final approval is expected after review of public safety requirements and the contract with Windy City.