

*For more than a few years, there has been talk about the future of the VNVMC Summer Twister. This great party is a yearly trek for many and the following should clear up any questions about who, what and the why's you may have. See you at the Twister!..*

**TWISTER - for Free Riders Press/Triker**  
By TRIKER

WI Leathernecks  
War Eagles Chapter  
BIRNAMWOOD, WI - The Summer Twister, the largest veterans motorcycle event in Wisconsin sponsored by veterans, will be coming to you July 23-25 for the 31st annual time.

For the third year, the WI Leathernecks MC will be joining forces with the Vietnam Vets MC to bring visitors three nights of live music and entertainment on a private campsite in north central WI - approximately 20 miles east of Wausau. The location is the Wildlife Campground, Birnamwood WI. Phone 715-449-3617.

Advance tickets are \$50; or at the gate, \$75. Active duty military personnel with ID may attend free.

Along with on-site access to 10 bands, entry to the event includes free camping, free tap beer and/or root beer.

Yes, it's a biker event, but motorcycles are not mandatory. Many people show up each year in their cars and motorhomes and pitch tents and enjoy the weekend. It is not designed for children, however, it is an adult event so plan accordingly.

"The reason we started the Twister," says Jake, a Vietnam Vets MC member, "is for veterans to get together to form a common bond, to honor the fallen and remember to keep the POW/MIA issue alive until they all come home."

While most of the weekend is devoted to having fun, listening to music and spending time with friends, a patriotic ceremony at noon on Saturday highlights the very reason the event was started more than 30 years ago.

Veterans from that era still recall the harsh disrespect and condemnation they were subjected to following their service to a nation that sent them off to an unpopular war in Southeast Asia. They were often shown little or no thanks from the draft dodgers, draft-card burners and others who despised the returning veterans.

The war became increasingly unpopular with the passing of each bloody year. Eventually the U.S. death toll surpassed 50,000 and countless others were wounded physically or mentally.

So if the Vietnam veterans were going to honor the sacrifices of their fellows it was up to them to do the job. It would be a long wait if they counted on others to do the job.

"We do that (honor the veterans) to this day with the POW/MIA Ceremony that we put on," said Jake.

Special campsite awards will be presented this year for the first time, including best theme site and best T&A display.

More than 25 other trophies will be awarded for winners in various categories at a ride-in bike show and bike games.

The 10 bands featured this year are:  
Thursday - Gravity; Avarice; and Geneva.  
Friday - 2 Miles South; Kyle Henderson & The Blues Invasion; The Ditch Runners.  
Saturday - The Charmless Few; Flip City Live; Rat SASS; Black Water Gin.

"We want people to come out and have fun," says Byrdman, president of the WI Leathernecks. "But keep in mind, we are here to honor our veterans."

For more information call (715)921-4017 or visit Doc's Harley Davidson of Shawano.

For additional information on more than 20 ticket outlets visit [WWW.VNVMC-WI.ORG](http://WWW.VNVMC-WI.ORG)

**A little bit about who the Leathernecks are:**

Leathernecks MC is a motorcycle club whose membership consists entirely of veterans of the U.S Marine Corps or Navy Corpsman (combat medics) who served with the Marines of the Fleet Marine Force.

The term "Leathernecks" has long been a nickname for Marines, harking back to the 1700s when early day Marines were used to board enemy ships as the vessels were locked side-by-side in mortal combat.

In the days of musket-loading firearms it was often one-and-done for the musket and then the fight devolved into a battle of sabres, bayonets, knives and hatchets as the Marines and sailors fought their way aboard enemy warships.

Marines of that era wore a high, leather collar around their necks to better repel sword and knife cuts to the throat.

The name Leathernecks has been part of the U.S. military lexicon since the early days of the American Revolution.

The U.S. Marines were officially formed on Nov. 10, 1775 after the Continental Congress authorized the formation of two battalions of Marines to serve aboard Navy ships and facilities.

The U.S. Marines were patterned much like the British Royal Marines that had been part of Britain's powerful navy for many years.

**For Immediate Release -Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program (50th Anniversary)**

The Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program (50th Anniversary) has immense potential for motorcycle, Veteran and patriotic groups to appreciate Vietnam Veterans and their loved ones. Lots of incentives are included in this free program, including a Vietnam flag, pins and memorabilia.

The commitment is to help out with two or three events for each of the next couple years. **\*\*Just google for online information and application.**

Perhaps you have a number of interesting relationships with Vietnam Veterans that might make this Commemorative program very appropriate. More than just for you - it might be very valuable experience for Vietnam Veterans, their loved ones and the general public!!

Don't forget those who have walked on from this life - in premature death, before they should have. Sometimes survivor's guilt, PTSD or loneliness can be as deadly as the bullet. Attention giving can be a lifesaver!

Wheels of Liberty are a (501.c3) organization dedicated to getting Veterans on motorcycles. Helping the disabled, elderly and new riders to drive three wheelers, inspires Veterans. "Anyone who can operate a car can drive a trike".

As a partner, we are contacting the 5 major Motorcycle Museums and recommending they will hold specific Vietnam commemorative events with appropriate exhibits. Time and expenses permitting, we will go anywhere to help Veterans! A packet is being sent to each Museum recommending that Gary Wetzel, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient (CMH) be recognized with a special exhibit. Gary has led Rolling Thunder, the largest one-day Veterans event and one-day motorcycle rally in the world for 26 years! Gary is also the only CMH that is a biker in the USA.

Vicki Sanfelipo, Accident Scene Management, Inc. is also being recommended. Training others to save lives is her passion. Every single biker should be taking the course. After all, it may be us or our loved ones who may next need to be saved!

Perhaps other revolving or temporary exhibits could be about the Freedom Fighter movement, the Christian motorcycle phenomenon or the Iron Butt Association. Yes, each of us may have ideas to help the Motorcycle Museums fulfill their destiny.

More than help out by inspiring, we help coordinate a Reconnaissance Tour to each Motorcycle Museum this riding season. Another Reconnaissance tour is planned for the 11 prominent Vietnam Veterans sites in Wisconsin. Let's have fun! Being considered by Wheels of Liberty is an Iron Butt Association (IBA) ultimate coast-to-coast ride. It goes from the furthest Southern Road, Key West, Florida to the furthest Northern Road at Prudhoe, Alaska and return to Key West. (My 2009 and 2010 rides documented and verified by the IBA).

But we add to that ride - verifiable stops at the other four corners of the Continental USA and the Crazy Horse Monument in the Black Hills. (My 2010 ride verified and documented by IBA).

This more challenging adventure is tentatively to be called -"Better way, USA Vision Quest!". Approximate departure is second week in June. This is in the constructive feedback stage.

If this tour is to occur, we will put GPS tracking units on our bikes. This would allow others to cheer us on, or relay ride with us a few miles. A fuel cell will help guarantee 200 mile gas stops.

If anyone wants to join us or has prominent sites that might be seen along the way, please let us know. Perhaps it could be an individual or a relay team effort!

Dave Zien

**Veterans:**

By: Stephen J.J. McKenzie

Remember... We are Veterans, and deserve a voice! Let me... be your voice. "United, we stand..." and I stand for you. Veterans do not get the respect they are entitled to, because too many take our service for granted! They think we owe them, the protection and security - we provide! This is not the case.

Civilians have freedoms and liberties, that soldiers paid for in live's , limb's and blood! Never forget that! America is Free - because we lay down our live's to keep it that way! You can say: "Obama Sucks!" - and not have a death squad show up at your house... because your right's are protected - by service members!

So if you want to know more about Vets - or Veteran affairs - give me a ring! "Bless all son's of MotherGreen!"

Sincerely: Stephen J.J. McKenzie - U.S. Army  
*If there is a subject, that you wish addressed - re: The VA, or Military Service - Please call me, and I will do my best to research, and provide answers or clarification. I can be reached at: (815)527-2403.*