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Summer Hummer 2005 a milestone in ABATE of WI History

By Matt Graettinger

Pictures by: Matt Graettinger, Andy 'D-Rail' Mathiassen, and FRP

In mid June ABATE of WI once again hosted the annual State Party, the ABATE Summer Hummer, but this year the event had very special significance. For the first time in their 31 year history the Summer Hummer was held in Greenwood, WI on property owned by the organization.

Since 1974 ABATE of WI has been working to protect the rights of all street motorcyclists and promote riders safety and riders training programs. In October 2002 the organization purchased 80 acres north of Mead Lake in central Clark Co. This land will be developed into the headquarters of ABATE of WI, which will include a riders training center with classrooms and training range, state offices and conference rooms for the operation of ABATE, and campground facilities for members to use when passing through central Wisconsin.

There was a lot to accomplish in a short period of time to make this move possible. Through the generosity of ABATE members, neighbors, local businesses, county government, and riders from around the state, donations began to arrive in the form of material, funds, equipment, volunteer labor, and expertise. With virtually no cooperation from Mother Nature the volunteers were able to finish the task on schedule and on June 17, 2005 ABATE opened the gates on the first Summer Hummer on their own property.

The weather thankfully decided to cooperate for the weekend of the event, and under perfect conditions over 1000 riders camped under the stars, listened to 5 live bands, belled up to the 60 foot bar for an ice cold one, gathered around the bonfire each night, and sampled the wares, foods, and tattoos of the 20 vendors. A terrific time was had by everyone and the Summer Hummer again proved to be the perfect event to get your Summer Humming by catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Mark your calendars for the third weekend next June, you won't want to miss next years event. The Summer Hummer Committee is already working to make the 2006 party bigger and better than the last. Plan to attend and check out the progress on the development and support the organization that fights to protect our right to continue to ride free.



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