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Boner Again Brothers and Sisters do it again for Make-A-Wish

On May 28, 2005 the 8th annual Run for Wishes Poker Run & Benefit was a huge success with well over \$24,000.00 being raised for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Wisconsin. This was easily a record amount raised by this event. But there was a very good, and for some of us, a very emotional reason for such an amazing amount raised. Over half that amount was due to the raffle of a 1992 Dyna Glide.

The bike was donated to Make-A-Wish in memory of its owner Jim "Snake" Slusser. Snake passed away last Labor Day weekend after being in an accident on that very bike. Snake was divorced and although he loved children, he had none of his own. Because of this, his family made the generous and unselfish decision to donate his bike. Raffle tickets were sold throughout the winter right up until the drawing. Even though it was extremely tough on her, his mother agreed to pick the winning ticket. Unfortunately, the winning ticket holder wasn't present at the time, which was a very anti-climatic for all of us. I wanted to see someone come screaming out of the crowd like a contestant from The Price is Right TV game show. The lucky winner was contacted by phone right away and he was one happy camper.

The Poker Run started as usual at Boner Again, which is located south of Nekoosa. 361 registered participants covered about 75 miles with five stops before returning to Boners. The stops included Foley's Nita Brew in Nekoosa where there was food donated by Smith Lumber of Nekoosa. Other stops included Four Stools Short, Club Forest, Romano's and Ponderosa Pines.

Upon returning to Boner Again we were greeted with the aroma of fantastic food provided by Buzz and Lori Dean. When all of those bikes finally shut down, our ears were treated to the unique sound of the one and only Tuck Pence. Tuck played outside and did an awesome job as usual. Thanks Man!! After that we went inside and listened to the Jump Ship Blues Band. This was the first time I had heard the whole band together and these guys really kicked ass. There were a lot of happy feet that night!!

The following day a couple of us went to pick up some of the leftover food, most of which we donated to local Assisted Living Homes. The ladies who answered the knock on their doors were initially a little concerned at the sight of a couple of ugly, bearded guys dressed in leather. They quickly changed their tune when they realized why we were there. They welcomed us in and gratefully thanked us for thinking of them. It's always satisfying to see someone change their attitude towards bikers.

While we were at Boner Again later that day, the lucky bike winner showed up to claim his prize. We explained the background of the bike and he was very respectful of the situation. The bike deserved a good home and we think it got one. It was pretty emotional watching that bike head out for its new home in West Salem. I can guarantee there was not one dry eye in that parking lot.

On behalf of Paul and Brian I'd like to say thank you to the numerous businesses that donated items for all of the raffles and to members of the Knucklehead Company M.C. for security and traffic control on the run. Also Boner, Jerry, Peggy, Diana, Naked Bob, Cindy, Sean, Deb, Ann, Sue, Mouse, Fritz, Rosie, Sheldon, Todd, Angie and everyone else who helped make it all happen. Most of all, thanks to all of you who showed up that day and night. Without you, it couldn't happen. Ride safe and we'll see ya next year.

Jim Hansen



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