

18TH ANNUAL RODEO MILES IOWA/ A.B.A.T.E. District 21

During a wonderful weekend of weather this past August 15-16 the A.B.A.T.E. District 21 held it's Annual Rodeo, which is the main fundraiser for them, at the Miles Thrashers Park along the southeast edge of Miles. This has been the same location since the very first one was held. The Parks 5 acres of grounds were very clean and had several buildings and structures scattered about the giving a feeling of being on a small farm and a small town. Some of the buildings had shingles hanging proclaiming their purpose, there was even an old school house styled building. Inside the large modern building on the permanent stage is where the bands performed. On Friday Night, this was the start of the rodeo now becoming a two day event, Big House Band & Stink Fist played. Saturday Night it was The Ron LaPuma Band they played all night long and by the accounts they once again rocked the house with a mix of Rock-N-Roll & Blues giving you some hard driving to moving & mellow ROCKIN' BLUES. They ended playing about 12:45ish then it was time for the 8 ladies to take the stage for the FROZEN T SHIRT contest. Yes, the shirts were FROZEN STIFF. Off to the left of the stage artist/owner Terry Doran of Maquoketa's Eviloution Tattoo & Body Piercing had just about brought everything but the kitchen sink (he didn't need to since there was a small kitchen setup already there) from tons of artwork books to a few tables of body jewelry. Outside the south overhead door and across to the next structure T & B Leather was set up. They had bout all your leather needs covered from patches to repairs to new leather goods of all kinds with a bit of this and that thrown in for good measure. Turk & Becky are at well over 30 events a year from Daytona to Sturgis.

During the day Saturday there was a ride-in Bike Show, hayrack ride, of course the Bike Rodeo and the FUN RUN. The Fun Run had stops in Towns like Goose Lake, Green Island, Preston, DeWitt and Savanna to name a few giving them a good scenic ride. The first two of the 100 or so riders to get registered, Frank & Cindy from Savanna, was also the first to get back.

One bit of info I have to share is that during the Committee Forum the issue of the recent flooding in District 5 was brought up and a small 50/50 was held. Yes I know this is just another example of how those who ride help others but it gets better. The winner Wayne Schroeder (owner of The Outpost in Fulton, IL) turned right around and donated his winnings back to Dist. 5. That is part of why this area is called "The Heartland".

Now, let's get to the reason for this event, after all it is called a RODEO for a reason. Many of you have seen or even taken part in a Bike Rodeo doing the keg push, pig toss, weenie-bite, the plank, the slow-ride and others. Many of the events in a Bike Rodeo are



just plain fun. But just like one with horses a rodeo tests the skills of the rider, giving them a mark to improve upon or a goal to reach. The time it takes to develop those skills helps not just during a rodeo but makes them better rider in real life. And so should a Bike Rodeo. With two of the events, I won't call them games, the slow-ride & weenie-bite, it is easy to tell how the skills needed to compete in them can relate to real life. The others might not be so easy. Will just being a Bike Rodeo Champ make you a safer rider? Not by its self but it can help that is for sure. But time spent on your bike doing these is time well spent. What A.B.A.T.E. does is promote safety along with trying to help protecting the rights and freedoms of all riders on all makes of bikes. And holding a Bike Rodeo is one way of promoting motorcycling skills and safety while providing a good time for all.

When I got to the event I was greeted by the friendly help at the check in building and one of them went to find Fred Donovan the District 21 Coordinator who took time out to chat with me. He even drove me around the site while giving me some more facts n figures like the ratio of members to general public is about 60/40 for members and they were excepting 500 people. Thank you Fred for your time and making me feel so welcomed. Overall this years Rodeo was a good time for all. Next years rodeo is something to put on your calendar. I will be there, that is for sure.

Ride safe N enjoy the freedoms we still have!!!

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