

RANGER REPORT

(The Rangers' official newsletter)

July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

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DAWG DAYS

BY CODY FEUCHT

The Rangers' takeover of Freedom Valley for their annual event called "Dawg Days" from August 19th through 21st was an absolutely amazing time of brotherhood and drunken "hooligans." On Saturday the Rangers had a phenomenal time at the pool where so many hot men were having an amazing time drinking Everclear lemonade and just soaking in the sun. After that, some of the Rangers witnessed one of our associates being married to his partner by Jim Overholser. After the wedding, the Rangers had their annual picnic with lots of delicious food and lots of fun. Full member Cody Feucht was a drunken mess and could barely remember the picnic. After the picnic, that's when the fun really began. The Rangers got to play dog catcher and go around the grounds of Freedom Valley and catch people that other people would pay to put them in the pound. What was new this year was that you got to buy a license to avoid getting put in the pound. We raised more money this year than ever. We also sold leather Teddy bears and puppies, and lots of jello shots. Furthermore, we got the privilege of sharing Freedom Valley with a great group of bikers called Hawgs Dawgs, who just loved being put into the pound and drinking toilet hooch (aka. Fireball & Jack Daniels). There was also lots of prison sex in the pound so no one wanted to leave. On Sunday as everyone was heading home from Freedom Valley, full members Cody and Chuck Skidmore went for a nice ride with the Hawgs Dawgs on their bikes. What an amazing time of fun brotherhood and lots of memories!

LEATHERFEST

BY JAMES JONES

This Leatherfest promised to be different from any other we had ever done because everything **WAS DIFFERENT**. For starters, this one was much earlier in November instead of the last Saturday before Thanksgiving as we've always done. Our venue was also new, as this was held at Cocktails 2.0 instead of Cocktails/Daddy's as in years past. This proved to work to our advantage, as there was **A LOT** more room for everyone. As opposed to an upstairs/downstairs situation, everything was all on one floor. There's an

outdoor patio and back bar for people to smoke if they like, and people definitely took advantage of the opportunity; granted, the evening started out fairly warm, but cooled off quickly as the sun started setting.

We also started earlier than normal--Rangers had to be there by 8:30 PM. This proved to come in handy, as most of the patrons of our bar night actually showed up earlier than we thought they would. Though people did trickle in throughout the night, most were already there by 9 PM. By the time I and Don Williams got ready to work the door (around) 1:00 AM, we barely had anyone come in at all. Anyone that planned on being there already was, and it was nice because they came and they STAYED. It was also a very diverse crowd; not just guys, but women, drag queens, pups, etc. This was the kind of crowd we'd been working hard to promote and make everyone feel welcome, and it WORKED!

We had a contest for Mr. Leather Akron (which Daddy Gregg will cover), and several times former titleholders were required to come to the stage. I didn't wear my vest because it no longer fits. (I've become rather domestic these past few years.) I promised myself I wouldn't drink much, but we also sold really good jello shots, and I'll admit I bought more than a few. There was also a raffle going on at some points during the night, but I missed most of that when going out for a cigar. I love leather nights at Cocktails because you can share your love of cigars with other aficionados, and there are always plenty of them.

We ended the night on a good note, and the time seemed to fly by. When you have plenty of people to cover duties, time goes a lot faster. I hope our next Leatherfest in 2017 is as successful and even better than this one, and I know we can make it happen.

THE 24TH ANNUAL MR. LEATHER AKRON CONTEST BY GREGG LAKOTA

As has been tradition, the annual Mr. Leather Akron contest was held during the Rangers' "Leatherfest." It was truly a contest to be remembered.

Four hot men competed for Mr. Leather Akron 2017: associate member Joe Schaer, Mr. Mineshaft 2017 boy drew, Carl Nash, and Abe Alburg. The judging panel consisted of four equally hot judges: Rocky McCombs (Mr. Ohio Leather 2013) Joe Dubrovich (Mr. Ohio Leather 2016), Josh Oliphant (Mr. Cleveland Leather 2017), and Antonio Styles (aka. Samantha Styles- Miss Gay Ohio 2012). Aazura Bowers (Miss Ohio Leather 2016) was the contestants' Den Mama, and Gregg Lakota, owner and producer of the contest, was the emcee for the evening.

This year's contest was restructured. For the first time in twenty-four years, private interview was added as a judged category. Leather Situations (role playing) replaced Leather Fantasies, and Community Forum was completely dropped. Leather Image and

Pecs & Personality remained the same. Gregg wasn't sure if the restructuring would hinder the contest, but he was willing to take the chance. As it turned out, the new format was a success. Leather Situations went particularly well. The contestant selected a judge who held an envelope with a specific situation requiring two roles. For example, judge Joe's envelope was a situation where a father discovers specific BDSM implements in his son's bedroom. Joe then played the role of the father and the contestant played the role of the son who had to explain to his dad what BDSM was all about and his reasons for being attracted to it. The improvisation was then carried out on stage. Although there was some reluctance among the contestants and judges, once they started, they really got into their roles and played them to the hilt.

The final category of the evening was an audience favorite: Pecs & Personality. Contestants appear on stage wearing their most revealing attire which complements their physiques. They select envelopes with questions of a light, humorous, or creative nature. Their responses to the questions are almost always hilarious.

The contest ended up being very tight. Out of 1600 possible points, the 1st runner-up was only 6 points behind the winner, and the 2nd runner-up was only 10 points behind. It doesn't get much tighter than that.

Congratulations go to associate member Joe Schaer for winning 1st runner-up, and a big congratulations go to Carl Nash, the new Mr. Leather Akron 2017.

RANGERS' TRIVIA CLEVELAND BY MICHAEL PARKER

The beginning of 2016 brought new events to the Rangers' calendar for those who live close to or are visiting the Leather Stallion Saloon in Cleveland. Social nights were designed to allow for greater interaction between club members—without having to work a door and/or sell Jell-O shots—while also increasing club presence and visibility. Social nights took the form of a trivia game, hosted and created by Michael Parker. Partnering with Team Mr. Friendly Northeast Ohio, an organization important to the Rangers, and represented by the friendly faces of Steve Bianchi and Jim Overholser, Mr. Friendly Unfriendly Trivia was born.

As the title of the event suggests, trivia is “unfriendly,” or difficult. Players are tasked with answering questions ranging from the historical origin of the word “dildo” to the title of the film in which the first openly gay character was nominated for and won an Academy Award. During trivia, our very own Great Lakes Leatherboy 2017, Troy Kaczowski, nee Ohio Leatherboy, keeps the crowd enthusiastic by lubricating their minds with shots (the Stallion prohibits him from lubricating other parts). Later iterations of trivia have focused entirely on musical clips—a Name that Tune update, if you will, hosted by Bob Ganem and

special events or dates—like the Holiday edition in December. The goal of trivia is to partner with other local groups and to facilitate greater exposure for them in the community they serve. Mr. Friendly has been present at each event, selling t-shirts, pins, and dog tags, while also sharing information about their mission with those in attendance. Other groups that have partnered with the Rangers' social nights include the Case Western Reserve University AMP study and the new Great Lakes Chapter of Onyx. In January, the Rock n' Roll City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will be joining the event.

YULE PARTY BY CODY FEUCHT

In most forms of pagan, this holiday in December is celebrated at the winter solstice as the rebirth of the great horned hunter god, who is viewed as the newborn solstice sun. This year some of the Rangers gathered at the house of full member Aazura Bowers, where they lit the Yule log as is tradition to celebrate Yule. There was so much food that you could feed a whole continent. At Yule this year, we had amazing conversations and just hung out as brothers and sisters. We talked and laughed about so many wonderful things. As the candles finally burned down to nothing, it was time for us to head home into the cold night air.

HO! HO! HO! BY GREGG LAKOTA

The Rangers celebrated their annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 10th, at the home of full member Michael Parker and associate member Troy Kaczorowski. It was certainly a Christmas atmosphere when the members arrived their home. Cleveland is notorious for lake effect snow storms which primarily affect the East Side. The majority of us had little to no snow, so you can imagine our surprise when we were greeted with over a foot of snow on the ground. Fortunately for us, the road had been plowed about ten minutes prior to the first Ranger's arrival.

It wasn't just the snow-covered ground that generated the Christmas spirit. Michael and Troy had decorated their home to make it a true winter wonderland. Gorgeous and tasteful decorations abounded throughout the first floor. It was apparent that a lot of time and effort was spent.

Each member brought a covered dish to go along with the main dish supplied by our hosts. It wasn't long before members were in the dining room filling their plates with a variety of home cooked comfort foods.

After everyone had their fill, a special ceremony was held at the request of associate member Joe Schaer. He had contacted Gregg Lakota a few weeks earlier asking him to conduct a covering ceremony for his partner, full member Kel Hess. All of the Rangers gathered in a circle around Kel while Gregg conducted the ceremony. During the ceremony, each member was asked to give a positive attribute or achievement or to state how Kel had affected their lives. At the end of the ceremony, a cover was placed on his head, and he was formally recognized as Sir Kel. It was a very touching moment for all.

The climax of the evening was the annual White Elephant gift exchange. Each member brought an item from home that he/she no longer wanted or needed and then beautifully wrapped it. Members then went to the Christmas tree and selected one package. Half of the fun was seeing who got what. In the past, there have been some absolutely awful gifts, such as the infamous DVD, "Milking the Mummy." None of us could forget that one. However, this year was different. The gifts were actually pretty nice. After each gift was unwrapped, members then rolled a pair of dice. If someone rolled a seven, eleven, or doubles, a gift could be exchanged for another. Cody was the only one who was really disappointed when Sir Kel exchanged gifts with him, which was a lighted "Guinness" beer sign that could be hung behind a bar. Cody offered Sir Kel \$100.00 to give it back to him, which Kel kindly refused. 'Nuf said about that.

Five hours later the Rangers left en masse to attend full member Tink Underwood's fund raiser at the Leather Stallion. Both Tink (Miss Cleveland Leather) and Josh (Mr. Cleveland Leather) were raising money and collecting toys for a Christmas toy drive. Although our Christmas party was over, the partying certainly wasn't over as we headed downtown for more socializing and Christmas cheer.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER BY GREGG LAKOTA

On Friday, September 30th, full member Kel Hess held a party for the Rangers at his home in Mogadore, an eastern Akron suburb. This was the first time that most of us had seen Kel's house. His home was nestled among trees on a gorgeous property just a short distance from a lake. Upon entering, boy greg and I were greeted by Kel and his partner Joe. The family room was already crowded with Rangers, but after greeting everyone, Kel whisked us away to give us a tour of his home. And it was a very nice home indeed! Kel, an aspiring magician, had devoted one of his bedrooms to his magical props and tricks. But it was the basement that particularly enthralled me. It was a full functioning dungeon, which had just about every imaginable prop, device, and toy that a Sir could ask for. The St. Andrew's cross, stockade, and leather sling were particularly impressive. From there we headed outside where we saw a covered hot tub, several decks, an enclosed patio area, and a foot bridge crossing over a lazy creek. Most of us spent time outside next to the bonfire until dinner was summoned.

After dinner, the evening really took off. Papa Jeff and boy cody headed straight to the hot tub where Cody complained (when Papa Jeff leaned against him) that Papa's bony ass was stabbing him. Needless to say, the remark was not taken kindly by Jeff. Then Aazura decided to enter the hot tub sans top. Although I knew that Aaz was well-endowed, I didn't realize to what extent. Those damn things could be floatation devices! They floated on the water almost obscuring her face. I told her that if I were ever in a sinking ship that I wanted to be sinking next to her.

I then decided to head down to the dungeon. I've never regarded the Rangers as a sex club, and when George Roscoe and I co-founded the club in '89, that certainly wasn't our intention, but you could have fooled me! I'm not going to mention names (to protect the guilty), but one Ranger could be seen on his knees in front of another Ranger. Another Ranger was in the stockade while a club brother was using an inflatable device in his "you know where." And still another Ranger was being flogged while on the cross. Knowing my club brothers, none of this was due to sexual gratification. They just wanted to try out Kel's dungeon to see if it was adequate. Yeah, right!

This was certainly an evening to remember. (And I mean that in the very best way.)

THE SECRET OF THE OLD QUEEN BY GREGG LAKOTA

On Monday, August 29th, nine Rangers headed to "the Valley" for an evening full of fun and laughter. Gregg, Kel, Cody, Aazura, Tink, Don, Tom, Eric, and Christopher first headed to Pub Bricco for dinner. Aazura is highly addicted to their fried pickles, so I don't think we had much choice in the matter. I have to admit that the fried pickles are to die for, especially with the restaurant's special dipping sauce. The nine of us spent about an hour and a half there, chatting, laughing, and, of course, enduring Cody's monologues about his sexual escapades.

After dinner we headed down the street to the Weathervane Playhouse to see the performance of "The Secret of the Old Queen." It was being performed one night only with proceeds going to Community AIDS Network/Akron Pride Initiative (CANAPI). Although we were fully expecting a significant gay attendance at the theater, we were surprised to see just as many, if not more, senior citizens in attendance, and from what I could tell, they were primarily straight senior couples. All of us wondered if these people knew what they were about to see on stage.

The play was based on the Hardy boys' mystery novels. Sure enough, there were the two Hardy boys with their father, the detective. However, it wasn't long before the sexual innuendos began pouring from the characters' mouths. This was not a typical Hardy boys mystery. At one point, the older Hardy boy professed his love to his younger brother

(although the brother couldn't hear him). Incest, too?! It didn't matter; all of us laughed hysterically for over an hour and a half. Even the straight seniors were enjoying it. (Either they were highly liberal or their hearing aids weren't turned up enough.)

After the performance, we hung out at the theater for a while discussing the plot of the play. What a great way to spend time with my club brothers and sisters while further developing the bond among us!

A BANNER YEAR FOR RANGER TITLEHOLDERS BY GREGG LAKOTA

What a year this has been for the Rangers! Last May at GLLA OHIO, Kel won Ohio Leather Sir; Aazura won Miss Ohio Leather; and Troy won Ohio Leatherboy. All three of them then competed for the regional titles at GLLA (Great Lakes Leather Alliance) during October 13-16 in Indianapolis. As their producer, I was extremely proud of their showing. All three of them had put their hearts and souls into preparing for the regionals, and it was readily apparent when the competition began. In my opinion, all three deserved to win the regionals, but by the end of the competition, it was Troy (boy kaz) who took the title of Great Lakes Leatherboy 2017. He now has the responsibility of representing the Great Lakes region and to begin preparing for International Leatherboy in Dallas over Labor Day weekend. Our Ranger best wishes go out to Troy as he prepares to compete for the international title!

On October 1st, Julia Underwood (Tink) competed for the title of Miss Cleveland Leather 2017. She was up against some stiff competition, but by the end of the evening she was given this prestigious city title. It was a close win too. The 1st runner-up was only seven points behind Tink. Congratulations, Tink!

The Rangers are very proud of all their titleholders!!

AN AKRON SOCIAL OUTING BY TODD ZAMPA

On July 2nd, the Rangers held their "Leather, White and Blue" social event at Cocktails 2.0. This was the first Akron based social event for 2016. No one working the door. No 50/50 raffles were sold, but rather just a group of over a dozen Rangers getting together for drinks, jokes and conversation on the outside deck. The weather was perfect, allowing everyone to build Ranger brotherhood and fellowship. While a second Akron social event later in 2016 got rained out, the Rangers are committed to having more Cleveland and Akron social events in 2017.

*****To see photos of all our events during 2016, go to www.rangersinc.org or to our Facebook page, “rangersinc.”**

2017 RANGER OFFICERS

**President- Warren Stauffer
Vice President- Aazura Bowers
Secretary- Gregg Lakota
Treasurer- Kel Hess
Road Captain- Earl Nelson**

2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Permanent Members:

**George Roscoe
Gregg Lakota
Steve Paris**

Elected Members:

**Jeff Bixby
James Jones**

2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Membership- Gregg Lakota
Archives/Galleries- Scot Baker & Aazura Bowers
Pledgemaster- Jeff Bixby
Editor- Chuck Skidmore
Social- Todd Zampa (Akron) & Michael Parker (Cleveland)
Webmaster- Kel Hess
MACC representative- Cody Feucht**

2017 RANGER FUND RAISING EVENTS

**Saturday, February 11 “Hearts & Harnesses” Cocktails 2.0 9:00 PM
Saturday, March 11 “28th Anniversary Bar Night” Leather Stallion 9:00 PM
Sunday, June 4 “Sash Bash” Leather Stallion 4:00 PM
Saturday, August 26 “Dawg Days” Freedom Valley Campground all day
Saturday, November 18 “Leatherfest,” featuring the Mr. Leather Akron contest
Cocktails 2.0 9:00 PM**

The Rangers would love to see our associates, alumni, and honorary members at one or more of our exciting, fun-filled fund raiser events.

A friendly reminder that the deadline for membership renewal dues is February 14th.

