



RANGER REPORT

January, 2020 through June, 2020

A Note from the Editor

By R. Mikkall Bowers

This half's newsletter is, to say the least, a bit on the thin side, courtesy of the virus that shall not be named (sorry, but I'm sick of hearing the name), so with that said, I personally am looking forward to 2021 and am officially making a motion to cancel 2020 and just move into the new year with a fresh start. I have put out a call to Doctor Who to see if the Time Lords of Gallifrey will help us on this matter, but as of yet, have not gotten a reply. I will keep you all posted.

Add to that the tumult and turmoil going on in the world right now. I for one am inclined to agree with a photo post I saw on line recently. Sadly, I could not download it, but it looked like this:

Happy New Year
2020

I personally think that pretty much sums it up.



Anniversary Dinner: Rangers Celebrate 31 Years

By Gregg Lakota

On January 5th, the Rangers celebrated their 31st anniversary. It is a tradition for the Rangers to celebrate their anniversaries with an anniversary dinner. In the past, anniversary dinners have been paid by the club (up to \$25.00 per full member) as a way of saying thank you for the hard work raising funds for various worthwhile charities during the previous year.

In the past, the Rangers have celebrated at Bricco Restaurant in downtown Akron and later at Pub Bricco in “the valley.” We were hoping to celebrate our anniversary dinner once again at Pub Bricco, especially since a number of Rangers are in love with their fried pickles. However, it was not to be. For the first time (due to new ownership), Pub Bricco decided to charge \$100.00 for the use of the party room. Needless to say, we felt that \$100.00 could be used for better purposes.

After doing some research, it was decided to hold the anniversary dinner at Papa Joe’s restaurant, famous for its Italian cuisine. Since there was no charge for the use of its party room, this restaurant seemed to be the most logical place for an anniversary dinner.

At 4:00 PM, all Rangers entered the party room for the first meeting of the year. For the first time ever, framed certificates were given to those Rangers with perfect attendance. This included the eleven meetings and the five bar nights. This year’s recipients included the following: Aazura, Scott, Christopher, Morgan, and Tink.

After a successful meeting, the anniversary dinner commenced. There were innumerable choices to select from. I chose the chicken Francaise, which had to be one of the best I’ve ever eaten. Many Rangers selected the “Taste of Italy,” which encompassed three Italian entrees on one plate. Everyone was pleased with the food they ordered.

The food was great, and the sense of brother/sisterhood was even greater, as the Rangers engaged in conversation throughout the evening. It was so nice to see Rangers chatting, discussing, and debating while enjoying the finest in Italian cuisine.

Happy 31st Anniversary, Rangers!

A Valentine's Day Celebration

By Gregg Lakota

On February 8th, the Rangers celebrated Valentine's Day by hosting its annual Hearts & Harnesses. This event has been an ongoing tradition for more than twenty-five years and is usually held the Saturday before Cupid begins shooting his arrows.

This year's celebration was held at Cocktails Akron. As bar patrons began to enter at 8:00 PM, they noticed the beautifully decorated bar, courtesy of the Rangers. This year, proceeds were going to Kent State's LGBTQ Center's Emergency Fund. In addition to the sale of reverse raffle tickets, tickets were also being sold for a 50/50 raffle. Associate member James D. donated a CLAW weekend package to be awarded in a separate raffle. For \$5.00 per ticket, folks could enter the raffle for a \$215.00 package. Another major fund raiser was the sale of leather teddy bears which our treasurer Kel put together. Those were selling like hot cakes. Hot leather men could be seen wandering throughout the bar with three or more bears stuffed in their harnesses.

All Rangers were dressed for the event, either wearing red shirts & ties or their harnesses. Our female members were adorned with head bands that had Valentine hearts dangling from them. Some members had Valentine stickers plastered all over their club vests. With the decorations and the festive Ranger attire, a real Valentine atmosphere was created.

At 9:45 PM, full member Jell introduced Ken, a representative from the LGBTQ's Emergency Fund. Ken addressed the crowd with several stories of Kent students in need of emergency services. For example, one poor student was driven to his dorm by his parents, and their final remarks to him as he stepped out of the vehicle was that they hoped he would commit suicide sometime during the semester. (While on break, he came out to his parents.) They felt it would be better to have a dead son than a gay one. How tragic!

After Ken's address, it was time for the annual Mr. Hot Buns Akron contest. This year, five contestants vied for this coveted award. Each of them had to drop his drawers and then stick his naked hot buns through one of the holes in a tarp. The audience was unable to see the faces or bodies of the contestants. . . just the buns. Carleton Nash, Mr. Ohio Leather 2020, then felt-up each bun and described its "ass. . .ets." By audience applause, it was narrowed down to the finalists. Each finalist had a pail placed under his hot buns. The audience then voted for its favorite contestant by throwing money into one of the pails. The contestant whose pail received the most money would be declared the winner. Congratulations go to Ranger associate member Tony A. for winning the title of Mr. Hot Buns Akron 2020!

At 11:00 PM, tickets were drawn for the raffles and the CLAW weekend package. The Rangers were very grateful to the winner of the 50/50 for having donated his winnings back to the club. It meant more money for the emergency fund. By the time our four-hour fund raiser came to an end, over \$600.00 had been raised. Not bad at all!

I don't know if Cupid's arrow had pierced anyone's heart that evening, but judging from all of the smiles throughout the crowd, it was evident that everyone had a good time.



Note: Above is associate member Tony A., winner of Mr. Hot Buns Akron with his medallion.

Due to covid-19, the following events were cancelled because social distancing was not feasible:

March Rangers' 31st Anniversary Bar Night at LSS
June Rangers' bar night at LSS

Upcoming Ranger meetings:

Sunday, September 13th general meeting at 4:00 PM

Sunday, October 4th general meeting at 4:00 PM

Sunday, November 1st general meeting at 4:00 PM

As per the bylaws, a general meeting is never scheduled for the month of December (with the exception of emergency meetings).

Locations of all meetings will be announced at least one week prior to the meeting via email from the club secretary.

All-Clubs Leather Weekend



By Aazura Bowers

The All-Club Leather Weekend was a wonderful experience. On Friday, June 26th, there was a meet and greet at the club house where the people were friendly and all-welcoming.

On Saturday afternoon, Aaz and Scott sold masks in the gazebo that Dan set up for the Rangers. Tink, James, and Ivan served hot dogs, pasta salad, and chips to all who were there while Gregg served cocktails at the Rangers' cocktail party. There was an enjoyable time had by all.

At three o'clock, the Three Rivers Leather Club had a cocktail party. They made a tropical punch which was great. Even though a rainstorm had hit, it did not dampen anyone's spirits.

By 5:00 PM, the Rangers gathered for dinner at Aaz and Mik's RV. Mik had prepared some awesome ribs. There was great food brought by everyone. Before we all sat down to eat, Ivan was surprised by James with a marriage proposal, which he accepted. Ivan, James, and the rest

of us were in tears as James got down on one knee and offered Ivan an engagement ring. It was so heartwarming and sentimental. After dinner, we enjoyed a game entitled Cards Against Humanity, which associate Rob won.

At 10:00 PM was the official Parade of Colors, which was held near the pool. The clubs represented in the parade included the Rangers, the Iron Eagles, Trident-Columbus, OLA (Ohio Leather Alliance) from Columbus, and Three Rivers Leathermen from Pittsburgh. We also featured three current titleholders: Mr. Classic Leather (Steve Boger), Mr. Ohio Leather (Carleton Nash), and Mr. Cleveland Bear (Mike Dukles). The parade went very nicely.

During both mornings, the Rangers met at Aaz and Mik's RV for a big breakfast of sausage gravy and biscuits, eggs, bacon, brie cheese on croissants, and a wonderful fruit plate.

The entire weekend was a wonderful bonding of all leather brothers and sisters. It was a great experience, and I'm already looking forward to doing it again.

At the general meeting on August 2nd, the full members voted to cancel Leatherfest and the Mr. Leather Akron contest due to covid-19. Both were to be held on Saturday, November 14th.

During this difficult time, please make every effort to remain safe and healthy.

