

THE RANGER REPORT

July – December, 2020

**Message from the President
By Mitch L.**

Happy New Year, Rangers!

2020 was a year that brought spirits down. As a group, we still did a great job raising funds for our designated charities. Now with 2021 finally here and an effective vaccine being administered, let's all hope that we can beat this virus. Life will never be like it was before the coronavirus, but we can make it the best it can be. We, as Rangers, can still do what we always have: be there for our community. We have lots of things planned for this year that begin in May (provided that the virus is no longer a major threat). By then, I hope that all of us will be in great spirits and ready to go.



We did not let 2020 stop us, so let's not let 2021 stop us either from doing everything we want to do and accomplish. We WILL prevail this year. I am looking forward to serving as your President this year, and with your help, we will make this a great year.

One major request: I am asking you to do what many of us have been doing and continue to do. You wonder what that might be. Continue checking on one another and those in the community. I, for one, have received phone calls and messages at a time when it was most needed. It feels so uplifting just to hear from someone who cares. It can really turn that person's day or week around and give him/her the strength or boost that's so desperately needed.

So, let's have a great year. . . together!

**In leather,
Mitch L., Ranger president**

RANGERS' PUPPY DAZE A HUGE SUCCESS

By Gregg L.

During July 24th through 26th, the Rangers held their second annual Puppy Daze at Circle JJ Ranch, an all-inclusive campground south of Carrollton, Ohio. Because of being an outdoor environment, the risk of covid-19 transmission was considered low (as per the CDC). Consequently, the Rangers decided to host Puppy Daze, following CDC guidelines.



Upon arriving, the Rangers were pleased to hear that the campground had been sold-out (i.e. cabins, room accommodations, RV lots, & tent sites). Dan, camp manager & Ranger honorary, assured the club that all guidelines were in place for a safe and enjoyable event. Adding to an enjoyable weekend was the weather forecast which promised sunny skies and temperatures in the upper 80's.

Friday night was very low-key. Club members “did their own thing” while relaxing and enjoying Mother Nature. A number of Rangers spent the evening at Mik & Aaz’s RV playing Disney Against Humanity. This vulgar and perverted card game had us roaring with laughter. For example, wouldn’t you want to sit on Pinnochio’s face and make him tell lies? That might explain why Gepetto has splinters up his ass. You get the idea. No one will ever look at a Disney character the same way again.

On Saturday morning, the Rangers headed to Dan’s brand new RV for breakfast. Wow, his RV was fabulous! He went all-out on his grill making eggs cooked-to-order, sausage links, and bacon. Aaz brought her homemade sausage gravy to complement the fluffy biscuits. Associates Josh & Tony brought fresh donuts, as well. A special treat was Dan’s mimosas. It’s always nice to start the day with a bit of a buzz. All that can be said is “What a way to celebrate the start of Puppy Daze!”

The official event started at noon in the area of the dance hall, patio, & pool. Scott & Tink set up a table on the covered patio to sell Ranger t-shirts, masks,

and dog tags which would exempt people from being placed in the puppy pound. Kel was situated in the gazebo for those wishing to pay via credit card. Aaz was roaming throughout the area to make sure all was going well. At 1:00 PM, the Ranger cocktail party started with Gregg serving a concoction called Kinky pink, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone. At that time, the 50/50 raffle sales began with tickets being sold by Christopher, honorary Greg, and associates Josh & Tony. The puppy pound also opened with overseer Mik and dog catchers Scot, boyfriend Ron, James, David, Morgan, Todd, and associates Rob & Mitch. People wanting to place others in the pound paid \$2.00 per person. To get out of the pound, the cost was \$3.00.



Those wishing to adopt a puppy in the pound paid \$5.00. For the next two hours, it was a flurry of activity of people being placed in the pound. Once in the pound, it seemed like no one wanted to leave. That's because Dan was providing a free lunch and free alcohol! Those who had purchased dog tags to be exempt from being placed in the pound suddenly regretted it. Many of them removed their tags so that they could be captured and placed in it for the lunch and booze. The sale of masks went through the roof! Kathy

Klein had personally made them for her charitable organization, Garfield Human Development Corp., and asked the Rangers to sell them for her. The most popular masks were the ones featuring puppies and dogs. By 2:15 PM, five gallons of the Rangers' special punch had been served by Gregg. At 3:00 PM, the puppy pound closed; however, the sale of masks and Ranger t-shirts continued to be brisk until 4:00 PM.

At 5:00 PM, the Rangers gathered at Mik & Aaz's RV on Lot 1 for the cookout. Mik & Aaz provided the burgers, buns, condiments, and corn on the cob while everyone else brought a side dish to share. There was more than enough food for everyone. Anyone who left hungry only had him/herself to blame.

At 6:30 PM, the judges met in the dance hall to begin interviewing contestants for the Rangers' first puppy contest. The judges were Ranger Gregg, Miss Gay Ohio America Valarie Valentino, and former Mr. Ohio Leather Rocky. There were three contestants. . . two from the Columbus area and one from Louisville near the Canton area. All interviews were completed by 8:00 PM.

At 11:00 PM, the puppy contest began. In addition to interview, the categories were fantasy, speech, question, and puppy attire. Dan did an excellent job keeping the contest safe. The judges were spaced six feet apart and the dance hall was limited to 20 people. Everyone else could watch the contest outside on one of the two big screens. After all was said and done, the winner was announced. "Rangers' Puppy Daze Puppy" went to Dustin from Louisville, otherwise known as "Lazy Pup." Prior to the announcement of the winner, the 50/50 raffle was held. The winner was Dan, who graciously donated his winnings back to the club. Thank you, Dan! Although the contest ended at 1:00 AM, the DJ hiked-up the music and everyone danced until the last note was played. What a great time was had by all!



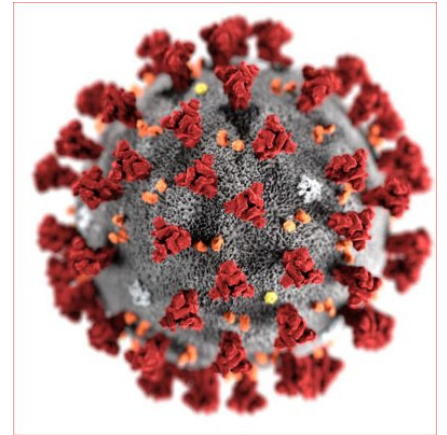
Sunday morning was very low-key. Some Rangers were wiped out from lack of sleep, some were just exhausted, and others (but not many) were nursing hangovers. By noon, most of the Rangers headed home knowing that the event was a great success.

As a result of everyone's hard work at Puppy Daze, the Rangers were able to make a \$500.00 donation to the Akron Humane Society and a \$500.00 donation to the Garfield Human Development Corp. Great job, Rangers!

LEATHERFEST & THE MR. LEATHER AKRON CONTEST

By Gregg L.

The Rangers' annual Leatherfest and contest were scheduled for Saturday, November 14th, at Cocktails Akron. However, at the Rangers' August meeting, the full members unanimously voted to cancel it due to covid-19. Unlike Puppy Daze which had an outdoor venue (low risk), Leatherfest was scheduled to be held indoors (high risk). With health and safety in mind, the club felt holding the event would not be a responsible decision.



BEAR WEEKEND

By Aazura B.

In July we went down for a weekend at Circle JJ Ranch to celebrate bears.



There were a couple of other Rangers that joined us. Josh and Tony were there, and we spent as much time together as we could. The weekend was genuinely nice. We had Dan, Circle JJ's manager & Ranger honorary member, dressed as a bear in a tutu riding up and down throughout the park just having a great time. There was a lot of leather brotherhood happening, as well as bears from all over the state.

The weekend was not planned as some are, so it was a cocktail party that night with a lot of pictures and conversations. Getting to know everyone better was the best part. I was immensely proud to be representing the Rangers at this event. A good time was had by all.

A Pandemic Christmas By Gregg Lakota

At the October meeting, the Rangers began discussing plans for our annual Christmas party. At the time, COVID-19 numbers were down, and it looked like things might be getting better. However, we decided that it might be best to celebrate in a different venue. Normally, our Christmas parties are held at a member's home. This year it would be difficult to do so if we wanted to follow safety protocol, such as social distancing. Attempting to social distance in someone's home would be nearly impossible due to limited space. Therefore, the club decided to rent a party room at Papa Joe's Restaurant, known for its fine Italian cuisine. Reservations were made for Saturday, December 12th, starting at 5:15 PM. We were assured that tables would be set up to comply with social distancing protocol and that safety measures would be in full compliance. Eighteen Rangers and one guest decided to attend the party. Not all Rangers attended, especially those who were in the high-risk category.

As Rangers began arriving, our road captain Tink took their temperatures prior to entering the party room, which was nicely decorated for the holiday season. Rangers brought their White Elephant gift exchange items, which were placed under the Christmas tree, and toys, which would be donated to Santa's Angels for distribution to underprivileged children. Tables were scattered throughout the room with at least six feet or more between them. Each table had only four place-settings to further assist with social distancing.



Once all Rangers were seated, President Aazura B. held a brief meeting. Full member Chuck H. had suggested that the club donate funds to food banks which would provide meals during the holidays. The E-board recommended three organizations. Rather than selecting just one, members decided to donate to two organizations: Akron/Canton Regional Foodbank and CANAPI's food pantry. (The former serves the general population while the latter serves the gay population.) At first, the members decided to donate \$250.00 to each organization, but being in the holiday spirit of giving, they decided to double that amount. The members unanimously voted to donate \$500.00 to each.

After the meeting, dinner was served. Members had a choice of eggplant parmesan, lasagna, or smothered chicken. All silverware, glasses, etc. had been sanitized for safety purposes. I have to say that my smothered chicken was absolutely delicious. By smothered, I mean smothered in various cheeses and spices. Those who had ordered one of the other two also commented on how delicious their meals were. Afterwards, the server brought out the dessert tray, filled with assorted holiday cookies and cannoli. Perfect!

After everyone had their fill, a covering ceremony was held. As an elder of the leather community, Daddy Gregg was in charge of the ceremony. The recipient was full member Mitch. Mitch was dressed in his formal leather gear looking as handsome as ever. Close by were his two boys: boy morgan and boy will. The ceremony lasted about twenty minutes. The highlight of the ceremony was when each Ranger was asked to state why Mitch was deserving the title of Sir by citing a personal quality of his that a true Sir normally exhibited. Mitch's boys then showed their devotion to him by doing the same. As Mitch was on his knees, Daddy Gregg officially covered him. Mitch was now Sir Mitch. Applause and congratulations resonated throughout the party room.

Tink had assembled a Christmas gift basket to be auctioned. She had done such a terrific job with the basket that a bidding war ensued. President-elect Sir Mitch outbided the others with his \$75.00 bid and was awarded the basket.

Now for more fun. . . . the White Elephant gift exchange. Each Ranger was to bring a nicely wrapped gift, the contents of which was something that the Ranger no longer wanted or needed. It could be serious, fun, or just plain outrageous. Surprisingly, this year's gifts were extremely nice. In fact, mine was an expensive circulation booster for the feet, something that would really do me some good. One member was a little disappointed when he discovered that his present was a pack of Depends underwear AND for women, no less. President Aaz felt sorry for the poor soul and exchanged his gift for hers. Due to COVID-19, we decided not to roll dice to steal gifts like we've done in past years. It wouldn't have followed protocol for members to be touching each other's gifts. Still, everyone seemed to have a good time opening their treasures.

By 9:00 PM, the party ended. Everyone headed home with full bellies and festive gifts. Knowing that we had followed all safety protocol during our Christmas celebration made the event even more satisfying.

2020 Ranger Donations

Kent State LGBTQ Emergency Fund	\$350.00
Garfield Human Development Corp.	\$1100.00
Akron Humane Society	\$600.00
CANAPI's Food Pantry	\$500.00
Akron/Canton Regional Foodbank	\$500.00
Total	\$3050.00

2021 Ranger Calendar

May 2, 4:00 - 9:00 PM	Leather Stallion	32 nd Anniversary	sanctioned
June 6, 4:00 - 9:00 PM	Leather Stallion	Theme- TBD	sanctioned
June 25 – 27	Circle JJ's Ranch	All-Club Leather Weekend	social
July 23 – 25	Circle JJ's Ranch	Puppy Daze	sanctioned
Aug. 2 (all day)	Circle JJ's Ranch	Ohio Bear Pride contest	social
Aug. 28 (all day)	Hardesty Park	Akron Pride Festival	social
Nov. 28, 8:00 - 1:00 AM	Cocktails Akron	Leatherfest	sanctioned

2021 Ranger Board of Trustees

Active Charter Members (permanent)- George R., Gregg L., Steve P.
Elected Full Members (one-year term)- Aazura B., Todd Z.

2021 Executive Board

President- Mitch L.
Vice President- James J.
Secretary- Gregg L.
Treasurer- Kel H.
Road Captain- Julia U.

2021 Committee Chairs

Archives & Galleries- Christopher R.

Membership/Pledgemaster- Morgan J. & Gregg L.

Editor- Gregg L.

Social- Aazura B. & Julia U.

Webmaster & Publicity- Kel H.

Mid-America Conference of Clubs- Scott H.

Leather Archives & Museum- Mark S.

Postmaster- James J.

Baskets- Julia U.

Statutory Agent

George R.

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are normally held the first Sunday of each month (unless determined to be otherwise). The Executive Board meets at 3:00 PM, and the General Meeting is held at 4:00 PM. Locations may vary month-to-month; members will be notified of specific locations via emails from the secretary.

Membership Applications

Those interested in applying for membership at either full membership level or associate membership level may acquire applications through our web site: www.rangersinc.org.