

Rangers



RANGER REPORT

(The official Ranger newsletter)

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Editors: Aazura Bowers, Julia Underwood, & Gregg Lakota

Rangers' 27th Anniversary Dinner

By Don Williams



Pictured above: Morgan Jeffrey & Earl Nelson socializing at Café Siam

On January 23, thirty members and friends joined at Café Siam to celebrate the Rangers' 27th anniversary. It was an evening not filled with speeches about the club's history, but an evening of sharing the presence of the Rangers in our lives today. We shared great food, but more importantly we shared conversation and brotherhood.

Hearts and Harnesses Bar Night

By James Jones

I will admit that I was a little worried in the beginning; not that Hearts and Harnesses has never been a good time or successful, but that Mother Nature was going to be a bitch like she was last year in 2015. Because of horrid weather, we had to postpone the event for the following week, and even then the weather was not cooperative. Thankfully this year was pleasant and mild for February, and a lot of people were actually out and in the bar before our event even started.



Hearts and Harnesses 2015

I started my evening by selling Homorodeo Calendars and leather harnessed teddy bears. I didn't sell many calendars, but the bears were certainly popular. The table was situated in an area where I was able to view the wonderful Valentine decorations put up by Scot Baker and other various Rangers. There was also a grand Valentine's throne on the stage (thanks to associates Michael Parker and Troy Kaczorowski) where people could have their pictures taken by Julia Underwood with their sweethearts or with the Ranger Cupid. Speaking of which, Cody Feucht was our Cupid and was assisted by Eric Kugler, who was adorned in Valentine decorated boxers. I have to say that I've never seen Cupid so sexy or animated. Cody really enjoyed wearing Cupid's wings, flitting about, and shooting his arrows at unsuspecting bar patrons. Cody flitted so dynamically that I thought he would actually take off flying. Then there was his go-go dancing and lap dances, which I don't remember being a part of mythology.

Around midnight the traditional Mr. Hot Buns Akron contest was held. My partner, David Richmond, had the privilege of testing out each of those buns that was thrust through holes in a large tarp. No one can remember the face of the winner, but we sure could identify him if those hot buns strutted in the bar again. Along with door donations, calendar and teddy bear sales, photo-op sales, and jello shot sales, we held several auctions with the proceeds going to Tri-County AIDS Coalition. This turned out to be one of the best Hearts and Harnesses ever!

Conductors: A Lesson in Brotherhood & Community **By Chuck Skidmore**

After leaving Ohio's snow and freezing rain behind, Steve Boger (my Iron Eagle traveling companion) and I arrived Nashville on Thursday evening to warmer temperatures. Steve and I spent Friday afternoon socializing with the MACC delegates and the run attendees. That evening we participated in the bar crawl, but returned to the hotel a little early so that I could help Steve and the Iron Eagles set up their cocktail party which was scheduled to begin at 1:00 AM. Steve Boger, Bert Hale, Susan Locke, and her husband Michael combined costumes, cookies, and cocktails into a three-ring success (in accordance with the run theme).

On Saturday morning I attended MACC's spring meeting, which began promptly at 9:00 AM. This year I served as the delegate representing the Rangers and also GMO. A lot of progress had been made since communication was enhanced with conference call capabilities, leading to two additional meetings a year. An updated "member club" page on the web site along with new email blast tools enhanced communication among the member clubs although it was noted that communication with some of the clubs had still been a challenge. In addition, there was both good and bad news. The bad news: the Castaways were leaving the conference preferring to plan their own weekend leather run rather than continue planning a joint run with the Argonauts. Also, Windy City Boys Troop, which has possession of the two traveling trophies, is nearly impossible to reach. The good news: two newly formed leather clubs have joined MACC- Michigan Leather Lights and HOIST of Memphis.

After the meeting adjourned, I engaged in the activities of a typical leather run schedule: the enduro, lunch, People Games, the run show, the formal banquet, Saturday bar crawl, Saturday night cocktail parties, and Sunday brunch. As usual the Conductors staged a fabulous run show with Edwin (as Rosario) stealing the show with high energy performances. During the Sunday brunch, Peter Rapp was recognized as a new honorary member in recognition of his history with both the Pittsburgh Motorcycle Club and the Tennessee Raptors. I was honored to be accepted as the newest associate member of the Conductors.

From my personal experience with the resurgence of the Rangers almost ten years ago, the Conductors' big comeback this year, and the addition of two new leather clubs to MACC, the concepts of brotherhood and community are clearly long-lasting and resilient.

The Rangers' 27th Anniversary Bar Night By Morgan Jeffrey



On Saturday, March 26, the Rangers celebrated their 27th anniversary with a bar night at the Leather Stallion Saloon in Cleveland. Since it was the day before Easter, we decided upon an Easter themed bar night. Cody Feucht was our Easter bunny, dressed in a leather jockstrap, harness, leather bunny ears and mask, plus a white shower puff attached to a butt plug for a tail. Along with his sidekick Eric Kugler, he sold Easter eggs with surprises in them for \$1.00 each.

Thanks to the large number of donated items, we were able to have three baskets to auction off. The highlight of the auction was a battle between Parker and Chuck for the basket that included the CLAW package. After many increased bids, Chuck walked away with it with a final bid of \$280.00.

We had a three layer, gourmet anniversary cake (baked by honorary member Tom Bell) given free to all attendees. We had a big hit with the bondage bunnies & chicks made by Kel Hess. By the end of the night, they were completely gone.

The big highlight of the night was our Mr. Hot Chest Cleveland contest, emceed by Gregg Lakota. There were eight contestants altogether. Congratulations go to Miss Ohio Leather 2015, D'Lyla Rose, the first female Mr. Hot Chest Cleveland. When she bared and jiggled her breasts for all to see, there was so much whooping and hollering that you'd swear you were in a straight bar.

The Rangers would like to thank everyone that came out and helped make our anniversary such a success. It's always great to see how well our community supports one another. Happy 27th anniversary Rangers! May we have 27 more!

Mr. Mineshaft Leather Contest By Eric Kugler

On March 19, Eric Kugler, Cody Feucht and Morgan Jeffrey journeyed to Youngstown to help Keith and the rest of the Youngstown Exiles choose the next Mr. Mineshaft Leather. Our very own Cody Feucht and Morgan Jeffrey served as two of the judges. Eric Kugler served as judge's boy and tally master. After an interesting competition between two contestants, Andy Pilot (from Pittsburgh) became the new Mr. Mineshaft. Andy will be competing in Mr. Pittsburgh Leather and has begun ramping up his leather journey to prepare for it. A fun time was had by all, and the three Rangers felt honored to be a part of it.



Pictured above: President Rick Cordaro at CLAW

CLAW 16 Surpasses All Records By Gregg Lakota

CLAW 16 was held during April 28th through May 1st this year, and it was bigger and better than ever. Because of its growth in attendance, both the Holiday Inn and Embassy Suites served as the host hotels in a suburb of Cleveland. In addition, there were two satellite hotels to accommodate the overflow. At last count, over 1500 leather men and women had registered for the event, and that doesn't even count the individuals who purchased day passes and night passes. It is estimated that around 2000 members of the leather community gathered for CLAW 16, which puts it in the top three highest attended leather events in the country. This year the number of skills and education workshops had increased substantially, as well as the number of parties, special events, and vendors. By next year, CLAW 17 will be the largest leather event outside of IML.

The Rangers were a huge part of this year's CLAW. President Rick Cordaro was one of the major figures orchestrating and organizing the event. Without his direction, CLAW 16 would not have run as smoothly and flawlessly. In addition to Rick's participation, the Rangers hosted Saturday night's extravaganza starring Judy Tenuta, a legend in the world of stand-up comedians. Afterwards, the Rangers hosted the VIP party. In addition to hosting the event and party, the Rangers were also one of the major sponsors of CLAW having donated \$1000.00 to help ensure the success of the weekend.

Other members of the club also contributed to CLAW. For the ninth consecutive year, Gregg Lakota was the moderator of the Leather Club Forum. He was also in charge of the Parade of Colors. The Rangers' presence during the parade was noteworthy. Vice president Jim Overholser carried the Rangers' colors in the parade, and Steve Bianchi, Bob Ganem, Warren Stauffer, Tank Teachworth, and Jeff Bixby carried the traditional flags. . . American, Canadian, leather pride, rainbow, & bear. Cody Feucht led the parade playing the bagpipes. Many of the Rangers worked selflessly as CLAW volunteers throughout the weekend. As a result of the Rangers' involvement in CLAW, the Rangers were awarded with the "CLAW 16 Leather Club of the Year Award." The Rangers were the only club to have won this award twice, the first time being in 2009.

The climax of the weekend was the CLAW "Broadway" show, which was produced by Rick Cordaro. The talents of the many performers from the leather community were unbelievable. Many of the singers were of the caliber that could normally be found in a Broadway production. Even our own Rick Cordaro performed with his talented voice.

I could go on and on about CLAW 16. I could talk about the myriad of titleholders from throughout the country and beyond who attended the event. I could talk about the hundreds of hot men. I could talk

about the BDSM playroom and the umpteen parties. I could talk about the many men and women who conducted skills and education workshops that educated our ever growing leather population. However, there is not the space and time to really do CLAW 16 justice. In order to really know about the CLAW experience, you just have to be there.

All of the Rangers are looking forward to CLAW 17 when it moves back to downtown Cleveland at the Westin Hotel. For those Rangers who have never been to CLAW, try to make a point of attending it next year. It's an experience you'll always remember.

GLLA OHIO By Julia Underwood



Wow, what a weekend we had at the GLLA OHIO contests. The three day event is organized and produced by Ranger Gregg Lakota with the help of Godfather Ric. There was an amazing turn out to watch all the contestants compete. It is interesting to listen to all the questions and answers that are asked throughout the weekend. We in our community have such different ideas on ways to achieve common goals, such as knowledge, love, respect, awareness and unity to name a few. As always the fantasies were thrilling to watch. This year the Rangers had three club members win titles. Full members Kel Hess won Ohio Leather Sir and Aazura Bowers won Miss Ohio Leather. Associate member Troy Kaczorowski won Ohio Leather Boy. Many of us were at the LSS to show our support for the Ranger contestants, as well as the others. To top it off, our own Jeff Bixby won the "2016 GLLA OHIO Community Service Award." Congratulations to all the GLLA OHIO 2016 winners!



A 2016 Sash Bash By Todd Zampa

The Rangers held their annual Sash Bash at the Leather Stallion on Sunday, June 5th. While the weather at first threatened with some heavy downpours, that quickly was replaced with warm temps, sunny skies, and fun times.

The event was rocking to the DJ efforts of the Ranger's own Bob Ganem. The headline entertainment was provided by the consistently funny and always entertaining performances of Denise Russell and by the wonderful singing of Bobby Simon. Denise and Bobby even did a wonderful tribute to Sonny and Cher that got the crowd going.



Associate member Troy Kaczorowski (Ohio Leatherboy 2016) also helped to entertain the crowd by volunteering to be “the boy” in the “Pin the Part on the Boy” game. The game offered blindfolded contestants a chance to win raffle tickets for a basket of prizes if they were able to correctly pin the right body parts to the right places on Troy. Troy, we thank you for all the facial and chest hair you sacrificed in the name of raising funds for the GLBT Center of Greater Cleveland.

The highlight of the night, however, was the fun that Jim Overholser was able to have interacting with the audience and the larger number of contestants vying for the Miss Sash Bash 2016 title. The Rangers enjoyed learning more about each and every one of the participants and strongly agree that Sash Bash is definitely one of the best ways to bring everyone together. Congratulations to Traeonna, partner of Ohio Bootblack 2016 Kiltgrrl, for winning the coveted Miss Sash Bash 2016 title.



Pictured above: Troy as the “pin the part” boy with his partner Michael (in the center)



Pictured above: Full member David Richmond wearing the sash that best describes him



Pictured above: Traeonna, Miss Sash Bash 2016



“Spamalot” By Aazura Bowers

On June 19th, eleven Rangers went to a matinee performance of *Spamalot*, which featured Rangers Jeff Bixby and Cody Feucht. I have to admit that it was one of the funniest plays that I’ve ever seen. As you may know, it’s a musical farce based on the movie *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. All of us met at the Weathervane Playhouse at 2:00 PM to get the tickets that Gregg Lakota had purchased for us. Within a half hour, we were seated, and the non-stop laughter began. Both Cody and Jeff did an excellent job with their performances.

After the play we went to Pub Bricco for an early dinner. Of course, I just had to order the fried pickles, which I had been daydreaming about for the past week. That tempted Gregg to try them and he loved them as well. The food was great and the company even better. It was a wonderful way to end a great weekend

Pictured above: Eleven of the Rangers at Pub Bricco after the performance.

Big Gay Picnic and Columbus Pride By Aazura Bowers

On June 17 when Kel and I arrived Columbus, we were invited to a picnic hosted by OLA. There were about forty-five people there and a ton of food. There were all kinds of games, but Kel got particular enjoyment from playing with a snake. (Don't ask!) The party was to last long into the night, but we decided to leave about 10:30 PM because we knew we had to get up early in the morning to get assembled for the Columbus Pride Parade.

On June 18th at 7:30 AM, we started setting up and getting lined up for a huge parade. We stepped off at about 12:30 PM to a huge crowd. It was estimated that approximately a half million people were there, either in the parade or as spectators. Filling the street, there were a large number of floats and many walking in groups. Plenty of police presence and security was clearly evident. In fact, there were no problems whatsoever. The parade was worth the trip, and many Rangers were either in it or attended it. With great pride, Kel Hess, Ohio Leather Sir 2016, and I, Miss Ohio Leather 2016, marched the long stretch down High Street as representatives of the Ohio's leather community. Never before had such pride in our community consumed us as when we marched along with our fellow brothers and sisters.





Pictured above: Associate member Joe Schear and full members Aazura Bowers (Miss Ohio Leather 2016), Kel Hess (Ohio Leather Sir 2016), Morgan Jeffrey (Ohio Leatherboy 2015), and Cody Feucht (Mr. Leather Akron 2015)