

The Ranger Report ***July through December, 2021***

Message from the 2022 President

By Ivan McMillen

Hello, fellow Rangers and Happy New Year! As we venture into the next year, I'd like to share with you the ideas and goals I'd like to accomplish in 2022. A big concern for me is having several members leave or step down to alumni status this past year for various reasons. We are now down to 19 full members. I would like to see us get up to 25 full



members between new additions or alumni being able to come back. I feel there are a combination of things we can do to achieve this. Social adventures for multiple reasons have dwindled down. True, we have dealt with Covid-19 the last two years, but as vaccines have become the norm, social events can start to happen. Even with the rise in cases lately, masks and social

distancing can still be implemented into social activities, especially in nicer weather when things can be done outdoors. The same can be said for our fund-raising events. Our bar nights are great, but in which ones do we show or demonstrate aspects of leather other than wearing it? Where are leather themed, fetish, fantasy presentations or performances? Even with guest drag queens who are a huge asset to us, can they not implement songs with an edgier twist at times? I honestly feel that working on these goals and implementing some of these ideas and brain storming, we can achieve these and so much more. Refreshing camaraderie among our leather brothers and sisters, showing and educating our community, and having fun while doing it are achievable goals and will make us unstoppable and show how and why we are celebrating our 33rd year as a club. Thank you all so much for all that you do. For those who live outside of Northeast Ohio, thank you for being a Ranger diplomat in your state, city, or town. Wearing the Ranger patch in your area means the world to us. No matter where you live, you're a Ranger brother/sister and share with us the spirit of true leather brother/sisterhood. Let's make our 33rd year and 2022 the best year ever!

Sanctioned Ranger Events

Puppy Daze By Christopher Reed

As we arrived Circle JJ Ranch on Friday, July 23rd, the place was swamped, and it was hard to find a parking space. However, we found one and got our cabins. That night the Rangers got together to play “Cards Against Humanity.” It was a laugh a minute, and we had so much fun.

The next day on Saturday around noon, the Rangers held their cocktail party near the pool. We served our world-renowned Kinky punch while the contestants for the Puppy contest sold raffle tickets and greeted people.



During the evening of the contest, things went wonderfully. After the contestants’ private interviews, the contest began. Gregg Lakota was our emcee, and Aazura Bowers assisted in the contest. The judges consisted of Ranger president Mitch Ludwick, Andrew Snyder, and Steve Buck. The five contestants worked hard and did their best, but there could only be one winner, and that was Pup Fenix from Lakewood. He was crowned “Rangers’ Puppy Daze Puppy 2021.”

Leatherfest By Aazura Bowers

This year’s Leatherfest was great. It was held on Saturday, November 20th, at Cocktails Akron. There were people there we hadn’t seen in a long time, and the bar was packed to the gills.



Our fund-raising events included door donations, gift baskets, 50/50 raffle, and the sale of jello shots. At the end of the evening, we were able to make a \$600 donation to CANAPI’s food pantry, including an

anonymous donor gifting \$200. We made certain that we made this donation so that needs were met for the Christmas holiday.

We were short-staffed due to Rangers who were either sick, had other obligations, or were involved in the Mr. Leather Akron contest, which was being held during Leatherfest. We were so grateful that our brother club, the Iron Eagles, stepped-up and helped us out. Our thanks go out to them.

The evening ended up being a lot of fun with so much brotherhood and sisterhood being apparent. The event officially ended at 12:30 PM, but almost everyone stayed well afterwards.

**The Mr. Leather Akron 2022 contest
By Gregg Lakota**

During this year's Leatherfest, the Mr. Leather Akron contest celebrated its 30th year, making it the oldest leather contest in the state of Ohio.

This year's contest was one of the most difficult to judge for our four judges: Jimmy Crooks (the very first Mr.

Leather Akron), James Foster (former Mr. Great Lakes Leather Sir), James Orosz (Mr. Cleveland Leather), and

Joe Kaiser (owner of Leather Naturally leather store in Cleveland). Each judge was charged with evaluating two strong contestants: James Dixon and Tim Kennedy.

The categories were private interview, leather image, speech, and personality. Each contestant proved to be a "quality" contestant. Ranger Gregg Lakota, who owns

this contest, was the contest producer. He selected Don Childs (the current Mr. Leather Akron and newly crowned Mr. Ohio Leather) to be the emcee for the evening. After Don gave his step-aside speech, the

winner was announced. The scores were close with James Dixon achieving an 88% and Tim Kennedy achieving 84%.

Congratulations go to this year's Mr. Leather Akron 2022, James Dixon (who also happens to be the 2022 Ranger treasurer).



Social Ranger Events

Circle JJ Ranch Bear Contest By Aazura Bowers

The Circle JJ Bear contest was held at Circle JJ Ranch during the first Saturday in August. The turnout was great. There were three judges on hand with full member Mark Snyder-Schulte as the emcee, who did a wonderful job. The contest went smoothly, and the contestants were happy with it all. They are looking forward to next year's contest.

Akron Pride Festival By Aazura Bowers

The last Saturday in August couldn't have been any better. At 8:00 AM, we set up our canopy along with the other vendors. The location was very different from the last time we were there. It's usually held at Hardesty Park on Akron's west side, but this year it was held in downtown Akron.

After Tink, Christopher, and I set up, the parade started and directly passed our location. People began piling in.

We had a game in the Ranger canopy where everyone won a prize. It was done with lollipops, so for kids it was a double prize. People were attending our canopy all day. We answered all questions that they had about the Northeast Ohio leather community. It was great to see so many children visit our canopy accompanied with their straight and LGBTQ parents.



Twice during the day, James and Ivan (our 2022 treasurer and president) relieved us so that we could walk around and look at the booths of other vendors.

Even though the weather was unbelievably hot, the day turned out to be a huge success.

Iron Eagles' Run Show By Aazura Bowers

On Sunday, October 24, the Iron Eagles (our brother leather club) had their annual run show. A handful of Rangers attended: Ivan, Tink, Mik, Christopher, and myself.

The entertainment was great. Members of the Iron Eagles lip-synched in drag to songs from the 30's to the present. We saw some of the ones that they've done in past leather runs, but there were others that were new and extremely entertaining.

The show lasted about three hours (including the intermission), and it was very worthwhile. A great time was had by all. During the show, the new Mr. Ohio Leather was introduced. . . Don Childs, who happens to be an associate member of the Rangers.

Rangers' Annual Christmas Party By Gregg Lakota

I remember how much last year's Christmas party was so different. It was held at Papa Joe's Italian Restaurant in one of their party rooms. Attendance was fine, but not what it used to be due to Covid-19. Our temperatures were taken at the door, and we wore masks until we were seated at our socially distanced tables. It just didn't seem the same. There were no vaccines at the time, so we had to follow Covid protocols with great diligence.

This year all of those attending the Christmas party were fully vaccinated and most had their boosters, so this year's party wasn't at all somber like last year's. Omicron had not yet established itself in Ohio, so we all felt perfectly safe.

The party was held on Saturday, December 11th, at the home of Sir Kel (our 2017-2021 treasurer). It was very gracious of him to offer his home for the party. Rangers began arriving around 6:00 pm with side dishes, White Elephant gifts, and toys and/or game donations for "Santa's Angels," which is the equivalent of Toys for Tots.



Kel had arrived shortly before the party began with the entrees he had ordered from Hartville Kitchen, which is known for its wonderful food from Amish country. All attendees took their side dishes to the kitchen, placed their White Elephant gifts in the family room, and their Santa's Angels' donations at the other end of the room.

Before the party began, we held a brief Rangers' meeting in the living room to decide how much to donate to CANAPI's food cupboard for the holiday season. We decided on donating \$600.00 for this cause. We also decided to continue subscribing to "The Leather Journal," which had fallen upon hard times due to the pandemic. However, it had recently become up-and-running, so we felt that two subscriptions would be our way of showing our support.

I have a bad habit of socializing too much, so when the dinner bell sounded, I was at the end of the line, as usual. By the time I reached the area of the main entrée, almost everything was gone. I was able to get a few snippets of beef, but that was about it. Everything else on my plate ended up being side dishes, such as casseroles, veggies, and an array of potato salads. I've learned my lesson though. I don't care with whom I'm talking to, once the dinner bell sounds, I'm abruptly ending any form of conversation and heading to the kitchen. LOL



After dinner, we held our annual White Elephant gift exchange. Members bring items from home that they no longer want or need. Items are to be beautifully packaged so no one knows what to expect. In the past, some of the gifts have been either inappropriate, silly, or something that no one would want. Would you want a DVD entitled

"Milking the Mummy"? This year all of the gifts were really nice. Some of them were quite expensive. I ended up with a beautiful 12-inch nutcracker and a basket which held 10-year-old bourbon along with wonderful glassware. I don't think anyone was displeased with his or her gift this year.

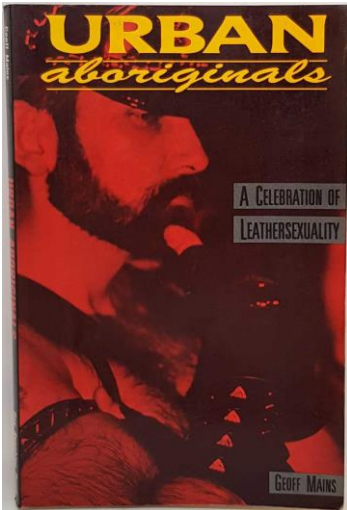
One major surprise was when Don Childs, Mr. Leather Akron 2021 & Ranger associate member, presented the Rangers with a plaque that identified almost all the Mr. Leather Akrons since its inception 30 years

ago. It was gift to the Rangers at his expense. Thank you so much, Don! It will be hung in our southern home bar, Cocktails Akron.

The Ranger Christmas party is a perfect display of true leather brotherhood and sisterhood. It's not all about fund raising for the community; it's also about the sense of camaraderie that we've established.

Ranger Leather Book Club
By Jim Schulte

The first meeting of the Leather Book Club was held on Saturday, July 17th, at my home. The doorbell rang as the first member arrived, and I was naked. It wasn't that kind of club, so I got dressed and answered the door. Soon everyone was inside, drinks in hand, snacks on the table, and Aaz on videophone. Also, there was Todd Zampa, Gregg Lakota, Doug Morrison, and my partner Mark.



Our book this month was “Urban Aboriginals: a Celebration of Leathersexuality.” Geoff Mains wrote this in 1984, and it was a groundbreaking description of the leather, fetish, and BDSM scene in San Francisco. He wrote the book in an academic style with footnotes, end notes, and references. The neurobiology, sociology, anthropology, and psychology of leather/BDSM made this book a serious analysis of our community.

Discussions expanded beyond the book as book club members Gregg Lakota, Todd Zampa, Doug Morrison, Aaz Bowers, Mark Snyder-Schulte, and myself compared their leather experiences with those described in the book. Sharing in a way that does not happen at meetings or other social events opened our eyes to a closer bond with our brothers and sisters.

Since then, we have had two more meetings. We read and discussed the book “The Killer Wore Leather” by Laura Antoniou. This fictional piece was a murder mystery that occurred during a leather contest, similar to IML.

Our meeting last month concerned the book entitled “The Leatherman’s Protocol Handbook,” written by John Weal. We were honored to have Vince Andrews with us via Zoom. Vince is a renowned author throughout the leather community who had written “The Leatherboy’s Handbook”

and “The Leatherboy’s Handbook II.” We were very much enlightened by what he had to offer during our discussion.

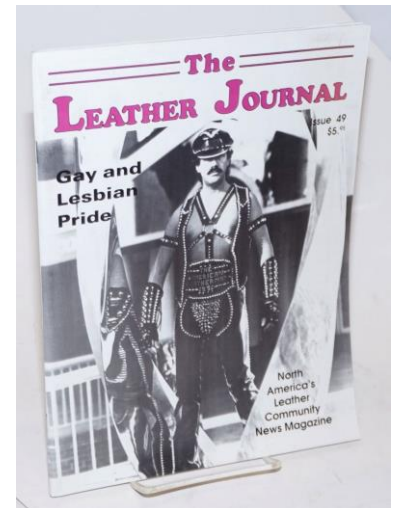
Our next book is “The Real Thing” by William Carney. It’ll be held at Aazura’s home. Anyone interested in joining our book club should contact me at jjshultemd@att.net. If you’re not local, you can join us via videophone or Zoom.

Ranger Musings

Review of the Leather Journal: Issue #317, July-August, 2021
By Jeff Bixby

After many months’ absence due to covid, the “Leather Journal” is back in publication. The Rangers get two subscription issues each time the newspaper comes out. I took the issue home after the August meeting and found it interesting, so I thought I’d report on it.

The first article entitled “In the Wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic- How the Leather Bars Fared” gave an update on leather bars all over the country and their current status. Many have closed for good, such as Atlanta Eagle, DC Eagle, JJ’s in St. Louis, Faultline in LA, & The Hole in San Diego. Others are in the process of possibly reopening, such as The Stirrup in Nashville, Ramrod in Boston, & Jackhammer in Chicago. Many bars that serve food were able to remain open during the pandemic. The article reported on 60 bars throughout the country.



The article covered news and information on leather events that have occurred all over the country. Many of the events were cancelled in 2020, but have resurged in 2021.

The article also listed just some of the many deaths due to covid in the LGBT community. Many were activists and are greatly missed, such as Garry Bowie (executive director of Begin Alive in LA), Bruce Johantgen in LA, Cecil Herrell of the Conductors of Nashville, Mr. Great Lakes Leather 2015 Michael Mactep, and Smokeout Las Vegas artist, Charles Brown.

Other items of interest:

- 1. Hooker and Boys of Baltimore are celebrating 22 years of fund raising.**
- 2. ONYX celebrated its 25th anniversary Dec. 6th.**
- 3. An exhibition of the works of Tom of Finland titled “Darkroom” will be open in NYC on May 8th in time to celebrate his 101st birthday.**
- 4. The Parliament House in Orlando, FL, met with the wrecking ball in Nov. 2020.**

The Leather Journal has been in publication for 34 years. We should remember to consider sending it news and announcements of our activities. It also needs funds to keep it going, so please either make a donation or subscribe to it.

**MACC & Blue Max Leather Run
By Scott Hutka**

Last September I helped to celebrate Blue Max Cycle Club’s 46 years of leather in St. Louis by attending their Leather Run 2021, entitled “Highland Games” held at the beautiful Dawg Woodz Camp in Marquard, Missouri. I’ve traveled and enjoyed many club anniversary runs, but I cannot tell you how much I loved the “Highland Games.” The fun, energy, and the leather vibes were intoxicating from beginning to end, and the friendship, brotherhood, and camaraderie ran deep throughout.



Highlights of the run were the “Highland Games,” which included naked lube wrestling, pool jousting, dildo toss, and the very cool axe throwing games. The suck-and-fuck machine demos were awesome. The cocktail parties by the Conductors, Atoms, Rudis, MACC and the joint Blue Max and Dawg Woodz cigar and whiskey

social were a blast. The Rangers, Iron Eagles, and Conductors jointly won first place in the cabin/tent decorating competition.

Finally, the run show of songs from each decade was incredible. Who can forget the post show improv dance number “Rain on Me” during the perfectly timed rain shower afterwards? Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande would have been very proud.

The proudest moment was when Blue Max awarded honorary membership to GK and Thomas Rushing, owners of Dawg Woodz Campground. They were great hosts throughout the weekend and made everyone's stay comfortable and memorable. Thank you, Thomas and Gerry, for your hospitality.

The other highlight included the MACC Fall Conference. I enjoy being the Rangers' MACC representative. Attending the MACC meetings has helped the Rangers to stay informed, as well as keeping other clubs informed. As Daddy Gregg would always say, "Scott is the Rangers' goodwill ambassador for all of the clubs in the Mid-American Conference of Clubs. Additionally, everyone knows, loves, & respects 'Ranger Scott.'"

Finally, I had an awesome time the entire weekend and love seeing old friends and meeting new ones. With the lingering pandemic postponing and canceling leather events left and right, this was the leather run we all needed.

**Rangers Support Our Brother Club, the Iron Eagles
By Ivan McMillen**

On December 4th, James Dixon, Scott Hutka, and myself ventured out to Tear-eez to support our brother club, the Iron Eagles. It was the second night of their traditional toy drive. What a fun night we had! The crowd was festive and the entertainment was fantastic. If you didn't get a chance to see Iron Eagle full member & Ranger associate member Rich Gunning's rendition of "I Saw Daddy Kissing Santa Claus," you really missed out on an awesome number. He recorded himself playing piano and changed the words to the song. Hilarious! Bravo to all those who performed!

The toy drive that night was over the top, and there's a story behind it. Last year when James Dixon and I became associates of the Iron Eagles, we knew our time with them wouldn't be as frequent as it would be with our dedicated club, so James set a goal of wanting to fill the bed of my truck with toys to present to the Iron Eagles at one of the bar nights. For almost a year, I and more so James bought toys that were on sale or clearance. At that time, we were both working for a major retailer, and with each seasonal change, we bought more toys. We brought all of the toys we had purchased to Tear-eez where the Iron Eagles were holding one of their three toy drives.

Our support didn't end there. On December 18th, James Dixon, Aazura Bowers, Julia Underwood, and I went to support another one of the Iron Eagles' toy drives, this time being held at WERC in Canton. It was a joy laughing and being silly with the Iron Eagles and again seeing Bert, Ivy, and Rich do their performances on a much bigger stage.

It's a great feeling when we can gather to support another club. It really shows the community what we're all about and one the great aspects of being a Ranger!

Rangers' Official Information

This year's donations:

Leather Archives and Museum- \$250.00

Equality Ohio- \$500.00

Humane Society of Summit County- \$300.00

CANAPI's food cupboard- \$600.00

***It must be kept in mind that we were unable to raise more due to covid. Some of our events were canceled as a result.**

2022 Ranger Executive Board

President- Ivan McMillen

Vice President- Aazura Bowers

Secretary- Todd Zampa

Treasurer- James Dixon

Road Captain- Julia (Tink) Underwood

2022 Ranger Board of Trustees

George Roscoe, Gregg Lakota, Steve Paris, James Jones, Scott Hutka

2022 Ranger Committee Chairs

Archives/MACC- Ranger Scott

Membership/Pledge master- Gregg Lakota

Publicity/Webmaster/Facebook/Editor- Sir Kel

Postmaster- James J.

Social/Baskets/Book club – Scot B.

LA&M- Jim & Mark

2022 Sanctioned Ranger Events

Hearts & Harnesses- February 12, Cocktails Akron

33rd Anniversary Bar Night- March 12, Leather Stallion Saloon

Mr. Ohio Bear 2022 contest- April 9, Cocktails Akron

Puppy Daze & contest- July 31, Leather Stallion Saloon

Leatherfest & Mr. Leather Akron contest- November 19, Cocktails Akron

2022 Ranger Social Events (dates to be determined)

June- Rangers' road trip to Columbus for Ohio's Pride Festival

June- Annual All-Club Leather Weekend at Circle JJ's Ranch

August- Akron Pride Festival

December- Ranger Holiday party

Editors:

Gregg Lakota- typing articles, editing, proofreading

Sir Kel- selecting & inserting photos, proofreading