

The 2nd and Final Fall Ride for Vets in Tomahawk

Last years Fall Ride for Vets event held at the Tomahawk Speedway during Fall Ride was a mixture of thoughts. Let me explain.

Last year I was asked if I would be interested in helping out with a benefit/fund-raiser for Dave Zien. I thought about it and decided that I would make that my Ride for Vets, considering Dave has helped numerous veterans groups and every motorcyclist out there. What a perfect fit! But what happened after talking it up for months was less than satisfactory. Fast forward to the day of the ride September 17th. Granted it was a dreary day with a hint of possible rain, the sign up began. At the time to start we had about 70 bikes lined up. Now for anyone else that would be a respectable turnout, but to me it was rather shameful considering who the ride was for.

30,000 bikes in the north woods. Many riding helmet free (thanks in part to Dave) and many veterans enjoying the Freedom of the Road (in part thanks to Dave's commitment to our veterans). In the past I can recall hundreds of times that a group/organization/cause has asked for Dave to attend their function and he altered his schedule to accommodate them. Be it an SMRO, a political function, a H.O.G Chapter or many of the other rights groups that have pursued his electric brand of support. But I guess that isn't enough.

We took off around 11:30am after a short ceremony, prayer from Preacher Clutter and a holler out from the guest of honor. The 126 mile ride took us through some beautiful north woods area and ended up back at the track around 4:30. Everyone enjoyed themselves big time. All 100+ people. Did you notice what I said? All 100+ riders. This to me is sad but it is what it is. Even with the low turnout, the folks that set it up lost money, me having egg on my face, Dave stood tall and told me, "That was a great day." How he does it I will never know but not an ill bone in his body. Gotta love the spirit.

I would like to thank everyone that attended the Fall Ride for Vets event at the Tomahawk Speedway Sept 15-18, 2011. From the vendors, campers and attendees of the "Don't Tread on Zien" ride, we all had a good time considering the weather. But as bikers, we seem to make the best of every circumstance.

- To all the vendors
- Cecelia Boos for organizing the Zien event.
- Gery "Pipes" Schemel for announcing during the ride and into the evening
- www.gmaxpro.com
- Dave Sky for filling in with his musical talent and campfire fun
- Mike Jones for stopping by doing some of his tunes from the "Live to Ride" cd and to promote his movie "Born to Ride"
- Bands- Little Cisco, Sloppy Joe (www.slopp-gras.com), Mandatory overtime
- food- Cary and Kathleen, Maxx and Randi



Sandy's Ride for Kids in Memory of Sandy Potaracke


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