

Rangers



RANGER REPORT
(The official Ranger newsletter)
July through December 2015
Editors: Aazura Bowers and Tink Underwood

Letter from the New President

The year 2015 has slipped away, and I am stepping into the position of your President. I am both nervous and excited at the possibilities. I never dreamed a few short years ago when I pledged the club that I would be honored with your trust in this way. I can only hope to match the job my predecessors have done.

Many of you know that my journey to the Rangers has been a long and complicated one. As an original member of Excalibur, I found both an extended family and the best friends I have ever known. When the club was wiped out by the AIDS crisis, it was emotionally devastating for me, and I vowed I would never join another club and expose myself to that level of loss again.

It took many years of healing and several years of attending the Leather Club Forum at CLAW as a GDI before I began to consider the possibility of joining another club. Once I had made that decision it became clear to me that only one club seemed to have the same opportunity for friendship and family that I had found with Excalibur, and that was the Rangers.

I could not have been more right in my choice. The Rangers have become more than just a club to me. You are extended family, and you have welcomed me home with open arms. On a personal level, your warm embrace of TK, my partner, has also touched me deeply. You have filled a hole in my heart I didn't think was possible to fix.

So as I step into this position, I do so with a determination to honor the club's history and those who went before me. I do so with an earnest desire to earn the trust you have placed in me. And I do so confident in the knowledge that when I stumble (and I will) that my club brothers and sisters will help me up and guide me on the right path.

I look forward to what will be another dynamic year for the Rangers. That is not because of what I personally bring to the table. It is because of what we all together bring to the table. None of us alone could accomplish what we do. Together we are unbeatable.

Rick Cordaro Rangers' President

Dawg Days
James Jones

I was excited for this event to come; I missed the one last year because I had to work, so this one was going to be extra special. My partner David and I took the whole weekend off just to have some time to explore the campground and get reacquainted with it. We got there early Friday afternoon and crashed for a bit (well, I did) before our exploration. We thought we would do something different and rent a cabin all to ourselves. I was glad we did. I don't think I could have dealt with the hustle and bustle of the bunkhouse, much as I love my Ranger brothers. As it turned out, we got the cabin right next to Warren and Earl's, and it was nice to be next to someone familiar.

I had been up all night at work the night before, so I ended up crashing for a few hours. I woke up, we had our meal (Popeye's Chicken!), and then went to the pool for a while. The weather was absolutely beautiful, and all

the guys were having a great time. Clothing optional always makes for a really festive mood. The great majority of our Friday afternoon and evening was spent there until it started getting dark. We thought we'd go to the camp dance hall for a bit, but ended up having more fun at one of the campsite trailers. Someone was having a party with Jell-O shots and a game of giant Jenga. (It turns out David is really good at it.) We stayed there for a good number of hours just drinking and enjoying the company of the other campers until we headed back to the cabin to call it a night.

Saturday was a completely different experience; less about David and me and more about Rangers' activity. Any of us that hadn't shown up Friday night were here now. We spent the early part of the day passing out flyers about the dog show and the "Dawg Pound" event later that night. As there were A LOT more of us than ever before, it didn't take long for us to get them all distributed. The dog show started not too soon after and was a little different than years before. There was a tent and table set up close to the pool area instead of at the dance hall. Though there weren't many contestants, it was a most memorable show. All the dogs seemed to be distracted and had other things in mind than the contest, such as a VERY friendly male dog who was sniffing out some females, as well as another dog who decided not to wait until she'd been walked to relieve herself. There was also another dog who kept trying to escape from his owner because he wanted to play with the other dogs! Needless to say, the contest didn't last very long.

After the contest, there was some free time to kill. That was spent at the afternoon pool party with a wonderful punch provided by Warren and Earl. If you weren't in a festive mood beforehand, you definitely were after that punch! That's pretty much where everyone congregated until it was time for the Ranger picnic. Instead of the bunkhouse this year, we held it by Daddy Gregg and Boy Greg's trailer. Everyone brought something, and there was a wonderful selection of food to choose from. Shout-outs definitely go to Michael and Troy, two associates who really go all out when serving up something tasty for the group. A less enthusiastic one for Boy Cody, who thought a bag of chips constituted as a dish.

With a few hours left before our event, David and I hung out at our cabin for a bit. When we had finally prepared, we went up to the dance hall. Our "dawg pound" was set up by a fire pit close by. I collected money for "license" sales and those that were to be put in the pound. While our Dawg Catchers did capture a few guys to put in here and there, most people actually spent more money on being licensed because they didn't want to bother with being captured. (We'll know next year to make those licenses a little more expensive). After a few hours, it became clear that no one was safe from being captured, as some of the pound participants ended up being Rangers. Those that didn't complain were eventually let go, but some kept trying to escape. Poor Jeff Bixby spent more than a few moments inside, as Daddy Gregg kept spending money to have him put back in. Boy Cody ended up being our favorite victim of the night as people kept putting him in as well. If I recall correctly, duct tape and a ball-gag came into play as "poor Cody" was stripped naked and "punished" by Warren. Everyone got a good laugh out of it, not so sure Cody enjoyed it as much.

The Sunday after was the day we headed home. Most of us met at the trailer where we had our picnic, saying our goodbyes while Jeff Bixby created beautiful "solar art" with pebbles he'd gathered. This was the perfect way to end our stay at Freedom Valley campground; it was sunny and bright when we arrived, as it was when we departed.

MACC meeting Cody Feucht

On Sept. 18-20 a couple of the Rangers, associate Jason Smarty and full member Cody Feucht, went to St. Louis where the Blue Max Leather Cycle Club hosted the fall 2015 MACC meeting. The theme of their run was "Black and Blue." It was a wonderful time with carnival games, cocktail parties, lots of acrobats, and an

amazing guy breathing fire. At the MACC meeting they discussed having four meetings a year rather than the regular two. They also discussed ways of improving the website. They also discussed the next MACC meeting, which would be in Nashville, Tennessee at the Conductors' run on March 4-6, 2016. After the MACC meeting, things became quite fun! During the run, our very own full member Boy Cody was presented with the "Pig Award." Let's just say Blue Max knows how to throw one hell of a good time!

Great Lakes Leather Alliance Weekend

Rick Cordaro

Several Rangers along with Ranger friends headed to Indianapolis, October 1-4 for GLLA. Ranger Daddy Gregg Lakota was there as the Producer of the GLLA OHIO title contests along with co-producer Ric Scardino. Ranger Jim Overholser was there also for his step-down as GLLA Leather Sir 2015. Ranger Warren Stauffer and Ranger Pledge Morgan Jeffrey were competing as current title holders for Ohio: Ohio GLLA Leather Sir and Leather boy respectively. Miss Ohio Leather, D'Lyla Rose, was also competing for a national title and was supported by her husband Knoty Rob. Also attending were Ranger Associates Greg Prater and Michael Parker. Several other familiar Ohio faces were also in attendance.

For me this was a rare occurrence to attend an event where I had no work obligations. I confess that the first day I found myself wandering around and looking for fires to put out ala CLAW, but by the second day I was able to relax and enjoy the festivities.

GLLA is a very different environment from other events as there is a more eclectic group of people. It was a lot of fun, and they had a good selection of skills classes, a huge auction, and a vendor mart along with a water park. Outside of some hotel issues, people seemed to enjoy themselves a lot. I actually managed to attend a couple of classes which has become a rare occurrence.

The highlight of the weekend was the fantasy portion of the contest. It is impossible to explain in words how great the presentations from the Ohio group were. Thanks to Warren and Morgan, I can never view fairy tales in quite the same way again.

Unfortunately our Ohioans did not come home with a sash. (Warren was 1st runner-up for GLLA Leather Sir.) However, all of us in attendance could not be more proud of their performance that weekend.

Iron Eagles Run Report on the First Night

Jeff Bixby

Rangers' President Jeff Bixby along with Aaz and Tink attended the Iron Eagles' Run Show, held at the Innerbelt Bar on Friday, October 16, 2015 at 7:00 PM. As always, it was a great show.

Hostess with the mostess, Joy Montiero, kept everyone laughing and dazzled with her songs along with pals Destiny Dawn, Natasshja Norielle, and Angelica Arkett. Iron Eagles' members Bert Hale and Poppy Lugo entertained, along with the live vocals of Ronnie Roberts. But, the show stopper of the evening was the performance of Iron Eagle member Rich with his rendition of "Spring Time for Hitler" from "The Producers." Great job one and all! The audience was small, but generous, raising over \$600 for families dealing with HIV/AIDS. From there the party moved to the home bar of the Iron Eagles & The Rangers, Cocktails 2.0, for some more entertainment from Joy and her buddies, plus a couple of handsome strippers from out of town. Rangers Kel, Todd (with his partner Jason), and Jeff partied on well into the night. We had a great time!

Onyx at the Leather Stallion Steve Bianchi

There were many events around the Northeast Ohio area on Saturday, October 17, 2015. Members of Onyx descended upon the Cleveland area for a weekend of brotherhood. Saturday night's festivities were at the Leather Stallion Saloon. Full members Jim Overholser, our current Vice-President, and Steve Bianchi were among those that attended the event on behalf of the Rangers. The event was attended by over 20 members of Onyx from all over the Midwest and the East Coast. The Stallion was packed with people from the Northeast Ohio community to support them. Onyx was very happy with the turnout for the evening and are looking forward to having more events in the area.



New City Titleholders Named Gregg Lakota

On October 24th, the annual Mr. Cleveland Leather contest was held. For the first time ever, contest owner & Ranger full member Gregg Lakota agreed to hold the contest in conjunction with the Miss Cleveland Leather contest, owned by Godfather Ric Scardino. The contest started promptly at 10:00 PM with the introduction of the male contestants, Rob Renshaw, Rick Cordaro, Parker Coe Murphy, & Michael Ullinger, and the female contestants, Kate Robertson & Miss Kitty. Each of the contestants was judged in four basic categories: leather image, community forum, personality, and leather expression (for Mr.) and leather fantasy (for Miss). The five judges had the difficult task of selecting the 2016 titleholders. James Orosz (Mr. Cleveland Leather 2013), Brandy Alderson (Miss Cleveland Leather 2007), Ranger full member Cody Feucht (Mr. Leather Akron 2015), James Foster (co-owner of R & J Productions), and Tina Mackay (founding member of CLAW) were the ones given this task. After listening to the step-aside speeches of the current titleholders, Ranger full member Warren Stauffer and D'Lyla Rose, the winners were announced. Kate Robertson, a full member of the Iron Eagles leather club, was awarded the title of Miss Cleveland Leather 2016. Rob Renshaw, the very first pansexual male contestant, was declared Mr. Cleveland Leather 2016. Congratulations to them both.

A New Mr. Ohio Leather Is Named Gregg Lakota

On November 6th & 7th, the Mr. Ohio Leather 2016 contest was held at Cocktails-Akron 2.0. Brian Lyons, Ranger honorary member & contest owner, had asked Ranger associate member Susan Locke to produce this year's contest. Susan did a terrific job of organizing the two-day event. Two contestants were vying for the title and had to undergo a grueling schedule. On Friday evening, the contestants were evaluated during their formal introduction on the stage and then by their social skills as they mingled with the crowd. Five judges were given the task of judging them: Ranger full member Gregg Lakota, Ranger full member Rick Cordaro, Ranger associate member Greg Massingill, Ranger full member Warren Stauffer, and Mr. Bluegrass Leather Mark Hurte. On Saturday afternoon the contestants, Daddy Joe Dubrovich & Cowboy Jason Mayfield, met individually with the judges for a private interview. That evening the contestants continued competing in the categories of formal speech, community forum, and pecs & personality. After the current titleholder Kelvin Davis delivered his step-aside speech, the winner was announced. Congratulations Daddy Joe!



Another Successful Leatherfest Gregg Lakota

The Rangers' annual Leatherfest was held on Saturday, November 21st, at Cocktails-Akron 2.0. The fun began at 9:00 PM as attendees were greeted by Rangers at the door. The first thing that attendees noticed was a large display of leather teddy bears, all harnessed and ready for sale at only \$5.00 per bear. Full member Kel Hess spent a great deal of time making and adding the leather accessories to each bear. Also evident was the sale of the 2016 Homorodeo calendars, which were donated by one of the calendar's centerfolds, Chris Brandle. At \$20.00 apiece, the calendars were a bargain.

Guests were immediately approached by Rangers selling jello shots for \$1.00 apiece. These gourmet shots were crafted by full member Warren Stauffer and were so yummy that they selling quickly. In addition, Rangers began selling tickets for their 50/50 raffle. The winning tickets would be drawn at 12:30 PM. Daddy T, the founder of the Ohio Leather Alliance and the Ohio Valley Regional contests, donated on behalf of OLA/OVR a beautiful basket worth \$353.00 to be auctioned off afterwards. When the auction was held, \$160.00 was raised from the basket. By the end of the evening, the combination of door donations, raffle tickets, jello shots, the auction, teddy bears, and calendars raised close to \$750.00. Proceeds were earmarked for the Northeast Ohio AIDS Taskforce Jon Brittain food drive.

In addition to the above festivities, the 23rd annual Mr. Leather Akron contest was held. Gregg Lakota, who owns the contest, emceed the event along with the help of full member Cody Feucht, Mr. Leather Akron 2015. Three contestants were vying for the title: Derryk Paramour, Billy Tyler, and our very own Eric Kugler. In addition to the contestants, five distinguished judges were evaluating them: Daddy T, Warren Stauffer (Ohio LeatherSir 2015), Morgan Jeffrey (Ohio Leatherboy 2015), Chrissi Brown (Ohio Bootblack 2015), and D'Lyla Rose (Miss Ohio Leather 2015). The three contestants were judged in each of the following categories: leather image, on-stage interview, personality, and leather expression. Gregg Lakota kept the contest going at a pretty good pace and within an hour and a half the winner was announced: Eric Kugler! Congratulations, Eric.

The Rangers' Leatherfest was a big success. As one of Cocktails' bartenders said, "I haven't seen the bar this crowded since it opened last August." That definitely brought a big smile to my face.

Rangers' Christmas Party

Julia Underwood

Our annual Christmas party was held at the beautiful home of Eric Kugler and his partner Patrick. It was well attended by full and associate members. As always, everyone outdid themselves with so much wonderful food. Our white elephant gift exchange produced many treasures, along with lots of laughter. Eric was given his back patch and welcomed as a full member. Steve Paris presented Daddy Gregg Lakota with a special gift for all he has done for the club over the years. It was a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship had by all. Thank you Eric and Patrick for hosting us for the night.

Scrooged

Aazura Bowers

On December 12 the Rangers met at the Bricco for a wonderful luncheon .There were at least 25 in attendance, and there was great food and wonderful conversation. The food there was as good as James said it would be and extremely filling. They had five tables set up to accommodate us. The only thing is with the large room and separate tables it was a bit hard for all of us to converse. But it was like a spring day outside and some of us met up there.

From there we went to the Weathervane Playhouse to see one of the best renditions of a Christmas Carol I have ever seen. President Jeff Bixby played the role of Scrooge, which he brought to life in a touching and beautiful performance. One of the best performances of Scrooge that I've ever seen. Afterwards, we met the cast and congratulated them for a job well done. The Rangers left filled with the Christmas spirit.



Rangers' End of the Year Yule Party

Gregg Lakota

On Sunday, December 20th, full member Aazura Bowers and associate member Mik Bowers invited the Rangers to their annual Yule Party at their home in Canton, beginning at 6:00 PM. This is a time when Aazura and Mik go all out preparing a feast to celebrate this holiday pagan tradition. Upon entering their home, guests were dazzled by the festive Christmas tree nestled next to the staircase. On the coffee table sat a Yule log with multiple candles burning while perched along the length of the log. Aazura greeted each guest with a good old Ranger hug, accompanied with a cheery smile and a warm welcome. Fourteen Rangers, primarily from the Canton and Akron areas, sat among the other guests and family relatives engaging in lively conversation. It wasn't long until we were called to the dining room to partake of the buffet-style homemade preparations, including two types of lasagna, chicken wings, finger foods, appetizers, veggies & dips, and other assorted delectable dishes. On the back patio a roaring fire was blazing in the fire pit for the convenience of the smokers or anyone who wanted to enjoy the outdoor ambience. The best part of the evening was the social aspect, enjoying each other's company, conversing, and of course having some good laughs. This was a great way of celebrating the end of 2015 while looking forward to the Rangers' 27th year as a leather club.

The Rangers First Field Trip: A Weekend to Remember

Gregg Lakota

During Halloween weekend, fourteen Rangers headed to Chicago for their first field trip. As a Supporting Member of the Leather Archives & Museum, the club was invited by Rick Storer, museum curator, for a private guided tour of LA&M. Everything had been arranged for Saturday at noon.

Rangers car-pooled to Chicago, some arriving on Friday afternoon and others in the early evening. After getting settled in our hotel rooms in Evanston (a northern Chicago suburb), we headed across the street for dinner. It was a great way for all of us to begin our weekend, filled with brotherhood and camaraderie. Once all of us were fully satiated, we decided to head to Touche, Chicago's premier leather bar. While deciding on whether to take the train or a cab to the bar, associate Jason Smarty reminded us of Uber, a much better and inexpensive way of traveling throughout the city. This was my first experience with Uber, and it proved to be extremely convenient.

Full members Jim Overholser and Steve Bianchi had told us that ONYX would be hosting a bar night at Touche, and this would be a great way of showing our support. It wasn't long before ONYX arrived, excited to see the Rangers there. Within an hour the bar was packed. Rangers not only spent time at Touche, but periodically walked next door to peruse the leather goods at the local leather shop. Next door to the leather shop was another leather-friendly bar, Jackhammer. Throughout the evening, Rangers patronized both bars, spending time with old friends and even making some new ones.

The next morning the Rangers headed downstairs for the hotel's free breakfast buffet. Some of the Rangers were perky and full of enthusiasm while others looked like something the cat dragged in. Guess some can hold their liquor better than others. Afterwards, the club arranged for Uber transportation to LA&M.

Upon arriving, we were greeted by Rick Storer. We first browsed through the gift shop with most of us purchasing items in support of the museum. When all of us gathered in the foyer, Rick started our tour. As we walked through room after room filled with leather history, we were awed at the collection that the museum had procured. Historical artifacts dating back to the leather community's origin in the 1950's were displayed. Each room had a theme, whether it be leather club colors, the influence of leather women, the origin of the leather

pride flag, the murals from the original Gold Coast leather bar, a display depicting a typical leather bar back in the day, hundreds of leather titleholder vests, leather toys and gear. . . . and so on. This article cannot even begin to describe everything that the museum held. The curator even pulled the Rangers’ file so that we could see artifacts from the club’s early days.

Of particular interest to boy greg, boy cody, and I was the leather library. Even after our club brothers had left the museum, the three of us sat in the library until closing reading various articles and books which were steeped in leather history. Boy cody was particularly enthralled with the complete collection of Drummer magazine. Then with a shriek he yelled, “There’s you, Daddy Gregg,” showing me a half-naked centerfold of myself as Mr. Midwest Drummer 1989. He located more of my pictures, which I looked at with bittersweet amusement. Damn, I was young back then. Where did the time go?!

The Rangers had Saturday dinner on their own, but they convened on Halloween night at Touche. This is one evening which I won’t explain in print. Let’s just say some of the Rangers found the back room. And let’s just say that some of the Rangers found each other. ‘Nuff said.

The next morning the majority of the Rangers looked like hell. It just wasn’t pretty. In fact, one Ranger showed up at breakfast still drunk! However, all of this meant only one thing. . . . that they had the time of their lives! By the time we headed back to Ohio, we knew that we were even closer than ever as true club brothers.

2016 Ranger Officers

President	Rick Cordaro
Vice President	Jim Overholser
Secretary	Gregg Lakota
Treasurer	Don Williams
Road Captain	Warren Stauffer

Ranger Events (January – June)

January 21	Ranger social bar night	LSS	9:00 PM
February 12	“Hearts & Harnesses”	Cocktails-Akron	9:00 PM
March 26	“27th Anniversary Bar Night”	LSS	9:00 PM
June 5	“Sash Bash”	LSS	4:00 to 9:00 PM

The Rangers would like to thank Jeff Bixby for his year of service as President in 2015. We appreciate **everything** you have done for us!

For up-to-date info and pictures, visit www.rangersinc.org. All visit us on Facebook.