



RANGER REPORT
(The official Ranger newsletter)
January 2015 through June 2015
Edited by Jim Overholser

Hearts and Harnesses
James Jones

To say this past winter was harsh would be an understatement. It was downright brutal and not cutting us any breaks. We've had hard winters before here in Ohio, but this was the first time we've ever had to cancel an event...sort of. The official date this year was February 14, but the weather was so bad that we didn't think our Cleveland brothers would make it, so we decided at the last minute to postpone our event. Imagine our surprise when some of them actually did show up. Though not enough people to go ahead and have our event, it did make for a very nice social night. Kel Hess even managed to sell a few of his leather teddy bears, the ones that would be given away as prizes the following

weekend. We thought we'd try again February 21, the weekend after. Once again, the same thing-- Mother Nature on PMS, and this time only two of our Cleveland brothers made it down. We decided to go ahead and have our bar night; anything beyond that weekend just wouldn't be worth it, Hearts & Harnesses being Valentine's themed and all. We held our Hot Buns contest, and a super-hot, out-of-town guy from Nevada ended up as the winner with Pup V being the runner up. Despite the weather, all who could make it had a terrific time.



Rangers' Anniversary Bar Night

Steve Bianchi

On March 7, 2015, the Rangers' held their 26th anniversary bar night at the Leather Stallion Saloon in Cleveland. The event was well supported by the local community and by 10 PM the bar was overflowing to the patio. The evening was celebrated with a variety of activities including a 50/50 raffle, raffle for a DVD player, Jello shots, and a Mr. Hot Chest Cleveland contest. Attendees were also treated to cupcakes and naughty chocolates provided by full member Kel Hess.

The new owner of the Leather Stallion, Ken Myers, was made an honorary member and was presented the Rangers' colors by Ranger Jim Overholser (Great Lakes LeatherSir 2015).



The evening events culminated with the Mr. Hot Chest Cleveland contest and the two raffles. The contest had five



contestants and started with them lined up on stage. All bets were off when they removed their shirts and full member Cody Feucht (Mr. Leather Akron 2015) took over trying to get each of their nipples hard. Full member Warren (Mr. Cleveland Leather 2015) emceed the contest, and the winner was picked by audience applause. A great time was had by all!



At the end of the evening, full member and past president Scot got on stage and had the winner of the contest pull raffle tickets for the DVD player and 50/50. Both winners of the raffles donated their prizes back to the Rangers. This was the best attended anniversary bar night that the Rangers ever had. We would like to thank all who attended for coming out and supporting the Rangers and look forward to many more anniversary bar nights at the Leather Stallion.

CLAW 15 Jim Overholser



Cleveland Leather Awareness Weekend (CLAW) took place at the end of April this year. It had quickly become one of the largest national leather events outside of IML. As such, there are always many Rangers in attendance. This year Jeff, Scot, Steve, Jim, Rick, Warren, Earl, Cody, Gregg and pledges Morgan and Eric were in attendance. Many of our associates were also in attendance at CLAW including Greg, Bob, Jason, and others.

Many fun and informative sessions were held along with an amazing vendor mart, dungeon, and several spectacular bar nights. This was a great opportunity for the Rangers to spend some quality time with members of the national and international leather community on our home turf. If you have never been to CLAW, you owe it



to yourself to attend at least once. It's a very good time indeed!

For the eighth consecutive year, Gregg Lakota was in charge of the Leather Club Forum and the Parade of Colors. Ranger Rick Cordaro was recognized as CLAW 15 volunteer of the year. Congratulations Rick! In addition to this Rangers Jim Overholser and Steve Bianchi were pinned into Mama's Family at CLAW as Mama's #PrEPWarrior and Mama's Fifth Element, respectively. Congratulations to them as well!



GLLA Ohio Rick Cordaro

A capacity crowd, including a full contingent of Rangers, associates and pledges packed the Leather Stallion Saloon May 15-17 for the GLLA Ohio contests. Contest owners Ranger Gregg Lakota and Ric Scardino presented an entertaining two



day search for five new titleholders; Ohio Leather Sir, Ohio Leatherboy, Miss Ohio Leather, Ohio Bootblack and Ohio Master and slave. Ms Brenda and slave arcane retained their Master and slave titles. Ranger Warren Stauffer was selected as Ohio Leather Sir, while Ranger pledge Morgan Jeffrey took the title of Ohio Leatherboy. D'Lyla Rose added being the first Miss Ohio Leather to her list of

accomplishments, and Columbus native Chrissi Brown took the title of Ohio Bootblack. It was great to see such a large crowd supporting the contest weekend and the contestants as Cleveland continues to enjoy a renaissance of its leather community.



Candlelight Vigil

Aazura Bowers

The candlelight vigil that was held on May 18th was very moving. It was attended by the following Rangers: Cody Feucht, Julia Underwood, Don Williams, Jeff Bixby, and Aazura Bowers. It was very well attended. After the prayer and the explanation of why we hold the vigil, there was a doctor who spoke of the work being done to find the cure for HIV.

The things she explained happening since she started working on AIDS patients 20 years earlier was amazing. She talked about PrEP and its ability to prevent new HIV infections. She was well spoken and highly moving.

As the list of names was read of those who have passed on, you could see the emotion in the room. Cody lit the main candle as Mr. Leather Akron 2015. After that the other Rangers followed until all the candles were lit.

Afterwards there were desserts, punch, and coffee. We had a chance to reconnect with many people we haven't seen in a while. There was an intense feeling of love in the air. Overall it was a very nice experience!



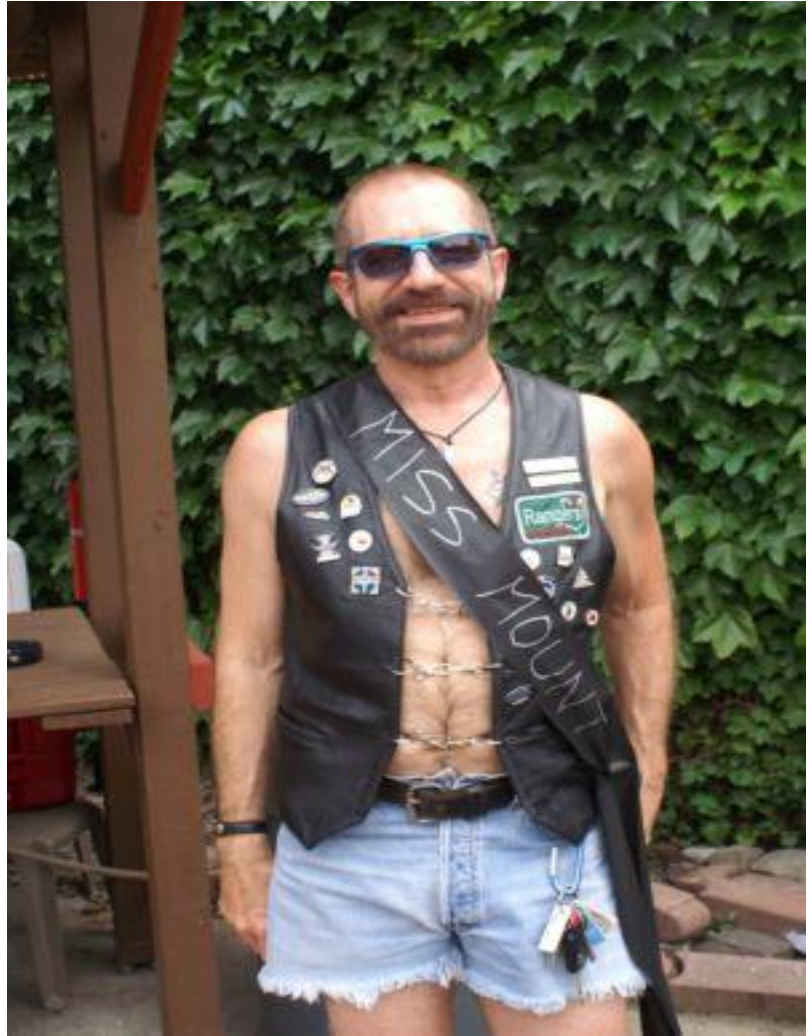
Columbus Pride Cody Feucht

Pride was a lot of fun down in lovely Columbus. On Friday, June 19th, some of the Rangers met at Exile bar. This was a lot of fun with no rain, which was nice compared to the rest of the weekend. The bar night was a great way to start out Pride weekend. On Saturday, however, the big day of the Pride celebration, the Rangers were split up. A couple of us marched with OLA (Ohio Leather alliance) and the rest of us marched with NLA. The parade was still a lot of fun despite the downpour. The parade was about a 3 mile walk, and we were all in good spirits even though we were soaked and cold by the end of it.

After the parade, there was a cookout with Ohio Leather Alliance. A couple of the Rock 'n' Roll Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were in attendance, and everyone had an amazing time during and after the cookout. Full members Cody Feucht, Warren Stauffer, Earl Nelson, and Jeff Bixby all met at the AWOL bar to celebrate the end of Pride.



Sash Bash Julia Underwood



We had a perfect evening for our annual sash bash; the weather was just right. This is the event that the Rangers throw every year where every attendee is a titleholder and gets a sash at the door to prove it. Pictured above is our past president Scot Baker with his "Miss Mount" title. We had an amazing turn out that night; it was wall to wall leather brothers and sisters.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, along with our 50/50 raffle and our Chinese auction. We also had a special guest performer, Denise Russell, who is always a treat to see. A special thank you goes to the LSS softball team the Mustangs for selling their spiked gummie bears and donating the proceeds to us. They were delicious and strong! It is always a fun time when we get together as a club joining forces to make the evening fun for all. The Rangers donated \$325 to the Cleveland LGBT center from the funds raised at this year's Sash Bash!

Cleveland Pride Warren Stauffer



After being cancelled due to inclement weather, the annual Cleveland Pride parade and festival was rescheduled for August 8, 2015. For the first time in its history, the parade was led by two leather men- the Rangers own Warren Stauffer, Mr. Cleveland Leather 2015, and Cody Feucht, Mr. Akron Leather 2015. While attendance was down due to rescheduling the parade, everyone was in great spirits and had a blast.



Message from the Co-founder of the Rangers Gregg Lakota

It is hard to believe that the Rangers will soon be celebrating their 27th anniversary, making it the second oldest leather club in Ohio. When George Roscoe and I made the decision to start a new leather club in September of 1988, I don't think either one of us envisioned the club to be what it is today. With charter members Steve Paris, Mike Samolis, and Steve Giaimo, countless hours were spent forming the club and making it a reality. Many steps had to be taken: writing the Articles of Incorporation, writing the bylaws, filing paperwork with the federal government, trademarking the club name, applying for 501 c (7) tax exempt status, designing the club logo, having patches made, having our club colors made, and many other details. It was a lot of work, but well worth it.

The club did extremely well during the 1990's, gaining a positive and noteworthy reputation throughout the area, state, and even at the national level. This was due to our fund raising events for various charities and our high level of visibility. We were a large club with half our members from the Cleveland area and half from the Akron area, and we traveled everywhere: leather runs throughout the MACC region, IML, MAL, you name it. The club also engaged in many social events like frequent cookouts at the country home of Mike Samolis and Larry Martin, trips to Blossom Music Center, Halloween & Christmas parties at one another's homes, and so on. There was a true feeling of Ranger camaraderie.

Like most clubs that go through a cycle, the Rangers faced attrition. Members moved out of the area; some had passed away; others sought alumni status. By 2006, the club was down to four full members and was barely functioning. In fact, the Rangers' Board of Trustees met in late December and decided that the club should go on a hiatus.

Then in early 2007 a miracle happened. A group of men in Akron were trying to form their own leather club. When the Board of Trustees heard of this, they met with the group and offered them the club. For their own sake, a great deal of time, effort, and money could be avoided by merely taking over the club. Three of the five Board of Trustees (George Roscoe, Gregg Lakota, & Steve Paris) reactivated as full members in order to guide this new group of men. The Rangers were reborn. Scot Baker, Chuck Skidmore, and James Jones are the three Akron saviors still with us today.

Then a few years later came the second rebirth when Jim Overholser and Steve Bianchi asked to join the club. Being from the Cleveland area, their high level of visibility and upstanding reputations in the leather community sparked interest in the club from others in the Cleveland area.

The Canton area became a part of the club with the addition of Aazura Bowers, the first woman to join the club since Becky Brown (early to late 1990's). Aazura's exuberance and Ranger enthusiasm prompted others from the Canton area to join the Rangers.

Part of the strength of the Rangers today comes from its high visibility throughout the region, state, and nation through its many titleholders. Since 2008 the following Rangers have held bar, city, state, and regional titles: Gregg Lakota, Scot Baker, James Jones, Morgan Jeffrey, Jim Overholser, Steve Bianchi, Warren Stauffer, Cody Feucht, & Eric Kugler. In addition, further strength comes from members such as Rick Cordaro, who is a major force within CLAW, Jeff Bixby, who is in charge of NE Ohio GLSEN, Jim Overholser & Steve Bianchi, who are the orchestrators of NE Ohio Team Mr. Friendly, Chuck Skidmore, an active member of GMO, Gregg Lakota, the producer of GLLA OHIO, Scot Baker, an active member of the 12-Step Leather Club, and many others all of whom promote the Rangers through their outside charitable activities. Then there are the Rangers who volunteer their time and efforts for CLAW, the LGBT Center, CANAPI, food drives, and so on. Everyone is involved in the community in one way or another.

The Rangers' club is now the largest in its history, and it continues to grow. It is also the largest club member-wise in Ohio. The brotherhood and sisterhood within the club is paramount. As large as we are, we all get along with one another and truly love one another. The word "drama" doesn't even exist within the club. No politics. No in-fighting. No cliques. None of that.

As we approach our 27th anniversary, we'll continue to be a viable force within the leather community, raising much-needed money for various charities, planning events to bring the leather community together, and promoting the leather standards of fellowship, brother/sisterhood, and charitable work. The Rangers is a club to be proud of.

2016 Rangers Officers

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

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!

Upcoming Ranger Events

The remaining Ranger events are listed below. We invite each and every one of you to attend and support our events.

Rangers' field trip to Chicago (private tour of the Leather Archives & Museum)- Oct. 30 to Nov. 1

Final Ranger meeting of the year- Nov. 8, 2:00 PM, Cocktails-Akron

Leatherfest / Mr. Leather Akron 2016 contest – Nov. 21, 9:00 PM, Cocktails-Akron

Want to see more of us?

We have many great pictures of our events on our website at <http://www.rangersinc.org/> and in our Facebook group located at <https://www.facebook.com/RangersInc!>