



RANGER REPORT
(The official Ranger newsletter)
August 1, 2014 through January 1, 2015
Jim Overholser- Newsletter Editor

A Message from the President
by Jeff Bixby

Greetings club brothers and sisters,

The year 2014 was a great year for the Rangers with increased membership and visibility in the community. We took a long overdue first step this year in welcoming our first female members to the Rangers. We continue to be the premier group for conducting BDSM demonstrations whenever and wherever we can and continue our popular events, such as Hearts & Harnesses, Sash Bash, Dawg Days and Leatherfest. Though we didn't share a run with the Iron Eagles this past year, we attended their mini-run and will support it this year while we stockpile our treasury.

New this year is the permanent display at Freedom Valley Campground of a group photo of the Rangers. Freedom Valley has become the location of our annual event "Dawg Days of August." We are grateful for the support the owners Jeff and Michael have given us this past year.

The Rangers has also taken the steering wheel to share leather club events with other leather groups in the hopes that events do not overlap and conflict with other events. Special thanks to officers Warren and Daddy Gregg for making that happen.

I'd like to say how lucky and proud I am to have Sir Jim, Mr. Great Lakes Leather Sir 2015, as my Vice President, as well as Warren, Don, Gregg, and Scot as my other Executive officers. We will work together to make sure 2015 is the Rangers' best year ever.

On a personal note, I have committed myself to LGBT activism for the past 40 years in Cincinnati, Northeast Ohio, and nationally. I've achieved the following over the years: the founder of GLSEN/Cincinnati in 1994, co-chair to the LGBT Caucus of the American Federation of Teachers for 12 years, on the national board of directors of Pride At Work for 4 years, appearing on Gay Cable Network in the mid 1980's, a board member of CANAPI in Akron for 4 years, and Pride Chair for 2 years. In Cincinnati, I co-chaired 3 Pride Day events in the 30 years I lived there and was the chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers for 15 years, as well as serving on the Ohio Federation of Teachers Human Rights Committee. Also, I taught elementary school for 30 years until I retired in 2008. I am currently co-chair of The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of Northeast Ohio (GLSEN NEO). I haven't just talked the talk; I've walked it, too!

Why am I telling you all of this? Because it's my challenge to all of you to be involved, show up, care, take part, network, attend events and support other organizations and businesses that support our community!

In Pride,

Jeff Bixby, President

Dawg Days

by Jeff Bixby

What began as a fun idea in the summer of 2012 has become an annual event at the gay campground, Freedom Valley.

First of all, Freedom Valley, a gay owned campground for gay men in New London, Ohio, has become a popular destination for weekend campers from May to September. This very large property set in the country has permanent camper trailer sites, cabins, rows and rows of avenues for large RV campers to pull in, and an area "in the valley" for pop-up campers and tents. Days are spent lounging by the pool, basking in the sun, and getting yummy food at the poolside "café." Evenings can be spent wandering around the campground from site to site either at the "community building" that has music with a DJ, dance floor, and pool table; an outdoor area with a fire pit; and visiting different campsites, most of which have roaring campfires blazing. The common factors for all at all times are the cool beverages in hand, the warm conversations, and the laughter. Truly a wonderful place to play and have fun!

This past August the Rangers held their 3rd annual Dawg Days fundraiser for Pet Guards. On Friday members began arriving in the afternoon. "In the valley" were Steve, Jim and Tim, as well as Warren and Earl, in their cabins, as well as President Scot and partner Ron at their usual campsite in their tent. In the upper area, members Don, Tom, Chuck H. and Chuck S. were in cabins, and Daddy Gregg, boy greg, Sir Ben Feathers and I were in the bunkhouse which I decorated with a Pride flag and lights. Also there were members Steve P., Rick and Kel.

That evening Sir Tom and his boy porkchop from Columbus Trident leather club hosted a "meet and greet" with the Rangers at their cabin. It was a warm, friendly gathering with a campfire and cocktails that got everyone in the mood for a festive weekend. From there the "wandering" began. Thanks, Trident!

Saturday, we all met at the bunkhouse, which became the general "headquarters" for the weekend, to distribute flyers for the Pet Show which was to occur that afternoon in the community center, as well as announcing the Ranger's evening festivities. A borrowed golf cart served as transportation from site to site for the passing out of flyers. Special thanks to Freedom Valley campers Ron and Scott for the use of their "taxi." That afternoon was spent by the pool, partaking in the nourishing "spirits" provided by Jim and Steve.

The Pet Show, which occurred about 3:00 in the afternoon, was a fun event with about eight dogs and their masters participating. Medals and awards were given out by five judges.

All members gathered at the bunkhouse about 6:00 PM for dinner consisting of hot dogs and hamburgers with all the side dishes made by the guys.

Later that evening began the event that is the most fun. The Dog Pound! To raise funds, The Rangers charged a small fee for our pledge "dogcatchers" to rope someone and place them in our makeshift "pound." If you were caught, you had to stay for 15 minutes or pay \$3 to get out. Attendees could also "adopt" a pet for \$5! Following that event the "wandering" continued.

Sunday was a beautiful relaxing sunny morning, where the guys grabbed some of the sun's rays and good pool time before packing up to head home.

Tremendous thanks to Michael and Jeff, the owners of Freedom Valley, for allowing us to hold this fun event. And thanks, too, to all the members who attended the annual event.

This year will be our fourth year at Freedom Valley. We hope to see many of you there!

Great Lakes Leather Alliance by Jim Overholser



Great Lakes Leather Alliance is a pansexual leather event held yearly in Indianapolis, Indiana. The event was held Aug 21 – Aug 24, 2014. Rangers Gregg Lakota (producer of the GLLA OHIO contests), Steve Bianchi (Mr. Ohio Leather 2014), and Jim Overholser were in attendance along with supporters Ric Scardino (co-producer of the GLLA OHIO contests,) Sir Ben Feathers (Mr. Cleveland Leather 2014,) and pup Mjolnir.

The event hosts many educational classes over the course of the weekend and offered pansexual, men's-only, and women's only play spaces. In addition to the course offerings and social gatherings, GLLA also hosts the Great Lakes ILSb-ICBB, IMsL, and International Master/slave track regional contests. Ranger Jim Overholser competed for the title of Great Lakes Leather SIR 2015. He competed against Sir Justin St. Clair of Chicago, Illinois. Jim edged out his competition and was awarded the title. He will go on to compete in Dallas for the International Leather SIR title in August of 2015. No regrets for Sir Justin however; he went on to win the title of International Trainer along with his partner Tork, who won the title of International Puppy not long after GLLA! The other GLLA contest winners were Ms. Brenda and slave arcane who won the titles GLLA Master & slave, Tim Hotchkin who won the GLLA boy title, Riches who won the GLLA Ms. Leather Pride title, and Bootblack Marta who won GLLA Bootblack.

It was a very exhausting but rewarding weekend for everyone involved. Ranger Jim wants to send his thanks out to his partner Steve, his fellow Rangers, and to everyone else from the Cleveland and Ohio regions who came out to support and assist him. His win would not have been possible without their assistance!

Tri-State Leather by Steve Bianchi



Mr. Tri-State Weekend was held in Cincinnati November 7 – 9th, 2014, at several venues including The Millennium Hotel, Below Zero Lounge, The Cabaret, and On Broadway. The event was attended by three Rangers, Jeff Bixby, Jim Overholser, and Steve Bianchi, as well as (then) Ranger Pledge Boy Cody. In addition to the Mr. Tri State Leather and Tri State Puppy contests, there were several classes offered, as well as a vendor mart.

The primary purpose of Tri-State Leather/Pup/Rubber is to bring together the LP&R communities of SW Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky to promote a positive image of the Leather/BDSM/Fetish lifestyle, specifically in the Tri-State area. Additionally, it brings together the leather communities for the purpose of exchanging ideas, promoting events, and providing support and education to the fetish clubs and groups within and outside the region.

We had a great time socializing with our brothers and sisters from Trident in Columbus and Scorpius in Cincinnati. In addition, the ILSb title holders, Sir Mark Eddy and boy Paul Brown, were in attendance, along with GLLA Titleholders Ms. Brenda and Slave Arcane. It was great to spend some time with them as well!

The Rangers in attendance would like to thank Ron Clemons, boy Kevin, and all the staff and volunteers of Tri-State for all their hard work and hospitality extended to us. We would also like to congratulate the winners of Mr. Tri-State 2015, Brian Bolt Donner and Tri-State Puppy 2015, Pup Spaz.



Haunted House Social by Jim Overholser

The Rangers had a social night on October 23rd, 2014. Rangers Gregg Lakota, Steve Bianchi, Jim Overholser, Cody Feucht, Rick Cordaro, and Rick Cardaro's partner TK made the trek out to the Haunted Schoolhouse and Laboratory in Akron, Ohio. It was a perfect chilly fall evening for this kind of trip. All of us were definitely in the spirit for Halloween festivities. Both the Haunted House and the Laboratory were top-notch attractions. We all had the bejeezus scared out of us! Hopefully a visit to this haunted house will become a yearly Ranger tradition!



November Social by Jeff Bixby

On, November 30, fifteen of the Rangers and some guests attended Akron Weathervane Playhouse's opening Sunday performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," which starred Ranger President, Jeff Bixby, in the role of Father Jacob. This is the fourth time Jeff has performed this role in Weathervane's annual production. The musical is fast paced with wonderful sets and costumes and features some of Akron's brightest, youngest talent. It was exciting for me to see so many of my friends there for the opening weekend.

Before the show, everyone met at Papa Joe's Restaurant in the valley for brunch along with some members of Jeff's family who were also attending that afternoon's performance. Papa Joe's is normally closed until 4:00 on Sunday, but they opened early for our large group! Everyone had a great time.

Christmas Party by Aazura Bowers



The Christmas Party started at 6:00 PM with wonderful conversation and great food, which included ham, potatoes, macaroni salad, chips with dips, rumaki, and many deserts including a birthday cake for Ron. Aazura brought the videos she found of old Ranger run shows, and we watched several of them including the sensational 60's run show. Great laughs were had by all watching these videos.

Ron was very surprised that the Rangers remembered his birthday and was very appreciative of the cake. The conversation flowed nicely during dinner and the banter was aplenty. The Ranger brotherhood came through very well.

After dinner we played Daddy Gregg's fun "white elephant" gift exchange game. Everyone enjoyed trading and sometimes stealing the gifts they wanted. The funniest one was Don and Tom swapping back and forth a merman Christmas tree ornament. They were both determined to have it, but in the end Tom won out.

In my opinion, this was the best Christmas party with a leather club that I have ever attended. Everybody had an amazing time. I really look forward to next year's!

Mr. Leather Akron Contest by Gregg Lakota



As a part of the Rangers' annual Leatherfest, the Mr. Leather Akron contest was held. Gregg Lakota first introduced the contest in 1992. It used to be held as a separate event, but in the late '90's Gregg asked his club if he could make it a part of Leatherfest. From that point on, it has been an integral part of the event.

This year the contest celebrated its 22nd year, making it the oldest leather contest in Ohio. Gregg selected a panel of distinguished judges: Steve Bianchi (Mr. Ohio Leather 2014), Rocky McCombs (Mr. Ohio Leather 2013), D'Lyla Rose (Miss Cleveland Leather 2014-15), & Jimmy Crooks (Mr. Leather Akron 1992- the very first one). Three contestants vied for the title of Mr. Leather Akron 2015: Carl, David, & Cody. Each contestant competed in the four categories: leather image, on-stage questions, community forum, & leather expression.

During leather image, the contestants' entry forms were read to the audience by Morgan Jeffrey (the current Mr. Leather Akron) while the contestants walked about the stage. The judges evaluated them on their leather attire, the manner in which their attire complemented their physiques, confidence level, masculinity level, and interaction with the audience.

During the on-stage questions, Gregg Lakota asked each contestant to select an envelope from a number of envelopes that he held. Inside the envelope were two serious questions and one light (creative or humorous) question. Contestants were then judged upon their abilities to respond to the questions, their public speaking skills, and confidence levels.

Community forum allowed the audience to ask questions of the contestants, followed by questions from each of the judges. Again, responses and public speaking skills were evaluated.

The final category used to be "fantasy." However, this year it was changed to leather expression. A number of items were placed on the judges' table: flogger, paddle, blindfold, duct tape, rope, & feather duster. The contestant was to select one or more items and demonstrate his ability to interact with these items as either a dominant or subservient. He was evaluated by the judges in terms of his expertise, knowledge, and genuine ability to engage in the role he had identified with.

The contestants all did a terrific job with each of the categories and each of them would have made a fine titleholder. However, Cody Feucht (then a pledge of the Rangers) scored the most points. He far outshined his competitors during

leather expression. His “boy side” was expressed so well that the bar became almost silent as the audience watched his subservient nature being expressed. His interaction with Johnny Flex (his designated Sir) caused tented pants to abound within the audience. It was that hot!

This year’s winner received a medallion, a title patch, and for the first times ever, a title sash. Congratulations go to boy cody (Cody Feucht), the new Mr. Leather Akron. The Rangers couldn’t be more proud than to have one of their own winning this prestigious title



2015 Rangers Officers

President – Jeff Bixby
Vice President – Jim Overholser
Past President – Scot Baker
Secretary – Gregg Lakota
Treasurer – Don Williams
Road Captain – Warren Stauffer

The Rangers would like to thank Chuck Skidmore, James Jones, and David Richmond for their service as officers over the years. We appreciate **everything** you have done for us!

Upcoming Rangers Events

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

Sunday, June 7 Sash Bash Leather Stallion Saloon, Cleveland 5:00 – 9:00 PM

Saturday, August 15 Dawg Days Freedom Valley, New London noon to midnight

Saturday, November 21 Leatherfest & the Mr. Leather Akron contest Cocktails-Akron 9:00 PM -1:00 AM

Note: Another bar night is in the planning with the theme of "Hanky Code." Details to follow.

Congratulations!

The Rangers would like to congratulate Julia Underwood, Cody Feucht, Rick Cordaro, and Kel Hess for being accepted as full members to the club. We are all proud to call them our leather sister and brothers.

With Pride

by Gregg Lakota

During the summer of 1988, George Roscoe and I had a vision of starting a new club, a levi, leather, uniform club. A short time later Steve Paris, Steve Giaimo, and Mike Samolis joined us in making it a reality. For several months the five of us worked feverishly, developing the Articles of Incorporation & the club bylaws, creating the club colors, and applying for tax exempt status. I don't think any of us realized that one day the Rangers would be the second oldest club in Ohio and now Ohio's largest leather club with 18 full members. In 2007 the club almost folded when it was down to only three full members. However, a group of leathersmen from Akron were interested in starting a new club. The Rangers' Board of Trustees met (the original five) and offered the club to the Akronites, saving them the time and expense of starting a new club from scratch. They accepted our offer, and it wasn't long before the club began to grow and become healthy again. I thank God for their enthusiasm and determination to make the Rangers a premier club once again. Some of the original Akronites have moved and one is deceased. However, Scot Baker, Chuck Skidmore, James Jones, & Chuck Harries persevered with the club to this very day. The Rangers is no longer just a Cleveland club or an Akron club; it's a Northeast Ohio club. Six members are from the Cleveland area; eight are from the Akron area; and four are from the Canton area. We have expanded in membership and geographically. Of that I am proud. Moreover, I am even more proud of the fact that brotherhood and camaraderie is stronger than ever within the club. There's no drama; there's no egotism; there's no politics. Everyone gets along. It's the way it's supposed to be. I am so very proud and blessed to be a part of this club. Thank you, brothers & sisters, for making all of this possible!

In the next issue.....

The next issue we will feature the Rangers' anniversary dinner, Hearts and Harnesses, the Rangers' 26th Anniversary Bar Night, Sash Bash, and other events and social reports!