



Scott DeJulia

In spite of rainy weather, bikers turned out in force Saturday for the third annual Blessing of the Bikes and barbecue chicken dinner, given by Moose Riders at Moose Lodge 276 in Greenville.

People don't have to join Moose Riders in the dark. Webster said anyone was welcomed to join the Moose Riders for three free rides before deciding to join. Members of the Moose Riders and Moose Lodge would be more than happy to walk potential candidates through the application process, Webster said, and they meet at 5 p.m. the first Sunday of every month, then ride a few times a week through the fair-weather months of the year. Webster said there's a ride at 11 a.m. every second Sunday of the month, and the Moose Riders will often ride to Sharon on Wednesdays, to Jamestown on Thursdays and also on Fridays.

# Holy rollers

Local Moose Lodge holds annual blessing of the bikes

By SCOTT DeJULIA  
dejulia@recordargusnews.com

Saturday may not have featured perfect weather for riding motorcycles, but nothing could stop the Moose Riders from holding their third annual Blessing of the Bikes and barbecue chicken dinner sale at Greenville Moose Lodge 276 Family Center. Members of the Moose Riders and other Moose Lodge members said prayers over the machines

and their riders for a safe motorcycle season.

The proceeds from Saturday's event, which included a Chinese auction, wine basket raffle and more, will go to Mooseheart, a children's home in Chicago for kids who've lost their parents, and to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Vice president of the local Moose Riders chapter John Webster said the group planned to ride out to Chicago to personally deliver the funds to Mooseheart.

"All walks of life show up at a bike blessing," Webster said, including the old, young, men,

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women, riders and non-riders. "We all have a common interest and a common goal ... to help our fellow man."

In addition to the prizes and food, local rockers Remedy kept the crowd's feet moving by playing everyone's favorites on the Moose Lodge stage.

Moose Riders president Charlie Redzinak said the Moose Riders were formed four years ago by a handful of Moose Lodge members who enjoyed riding motorcycles. Redzinak said the Greenville chapter was the largest Moose Riders group in Pennsylvania and one of the largest in the nation. A few new sign-ups ticked the Greenville unit past the 140-member mark, he said. In 2013, Greenville will host the annual Pa. Moose Riders gathering.

The Moose Riders try to contact everyone on their list for all rides, said Webster, whether by phone, email or other means, and they accept any kind of bikes, from Harleys to scooters.

"We've got a great group of people," Redzinak said. When the Greenville Moose Riders go to Chicago this weekend for the national Blessing of the Bikes, Redzinak said Lodge 276 will vie for the first-ever Tiny Metcalf Award, which will be given to the Moose Rider Group of the Year.

Sue Riley, local Moose Riders secretary, said, "The community has been very supportive with donations for the Chinese auction and prizes."

Webster thanked all local businessmen for their support of the Moose Riders, not only for the 2011 Blessing of the Bikes, but also for their support over the years at all of the Moose Riders' events.