

RED RIVER VALLEY MOTORCYCLISTS SHOW DEDICATED TO AREA VETERANS

On Saturday, April 16th and Sunday, April 17th the Red River Valley Motorcyclists (RRVM) will again host what has become the largest motorcycle show in North Dakota. The Alerus Center in Grand Forks will open its doors at 9:00 am each day and will close at 7:00 pm on Saturday and 4:00 pm on Sunday.

The RRVM group is excited to announce that the 2011 show is “dedicated to our veterans and all those who keep our nation free.” “With nearly 60,000 veterans in North Dakota alone it’s appropriate that we take the time to say thank you to our servicemen and women,” said Tim Gowan, RRVM President and owner of Street is Neat in Oslo, MN.

There will be at least three custom motorcycles on display that are dedicated to veterans. A 1969 Harley-Davidson custom chopper built by Clark Hagen, Williston, ND, features a tribute to all war veterans. Drawings on the bike are the creation of Viet Nam veteran Roger Westerso and were painted on the bike by artist Joel Schumacher. The cycle’s images depict praying and reflecting hands linked in tri-folded American flags and Purple Hearts. It also has pictures of dog tags, barbed wire, shackles and chains of POW’s and MIA’s, and a wheelchair symbolizing disabled veterans.

In addition to the custom vet chopper there will be a 2005 Harley-Davidson Ultra Classic owned by Tony Krogh of Fargo and a 2004 Harley-Davidson Road King owned by Mark Nelson of Minot. Both bikes wear spectacular veteran orientated paint jobs and are a must see for all vets and motorcycle enthusiasts. You can find both Tony and Mark at the North Dakota Patriot Guard booth adjacent to their motorcycles.

The North Dakota Patriot Guard (NDPG) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars will be represented as well. The NDPG mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family. Their mission is sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families, and their communities. When necessary and invited to do so, they shield the mourning family and friends from interruptions created by any protester or group of protesters. The latter is accomplished through strictly legal and non-violent means. Tony Krogh, mentioned previously, is the NDPG State Captain and Mark is his assistant. Also staffing the booth will be Ride Captains Dave Pagel, Jeff Peterson and a counselor from the Vet Center. Outside of the Alerus, the Vet Center will have a well marked motor home that invites veterans and friends to discuss any veteran related issues. The Vet Center specializes in readjustment for veterans and families after serving in combat zones.

The RRVM is a non-profit organization that, since 2001, has donated nearly \$70,000 to area charities. This year they have chosen three: The Boy Scouts of America Venturing Program, the Grafton Golden Gloves Boxing Club, and the Domestic Violence and Abuse Center of Grafton, ND. In 2010 the Red River Valley Motorcyclists donated \$12,900 to local charities.

This year, as has been done in the past, the RRVM is asking that show visitors please bring new teddy bears for donation to the Bear Hugs Program. These bears are collected in the memory of Cannon Bear Hebl and RRVM member Roger Ready who passed away in 2009. Bear Hugs provide comfort to families of seriously ill children.