

“HONOR OUR TROOPS” SNOWMOBILE RIDE

As the troops gathered early Monday morning, February 25, at the Derby Track in Eagle River, they were greeted with hot coffee and an assortment of warm clothing to help prepare them for the day. After a brief introduction from Colonel Hamilton, Colonel Metzgar gave a Power Point presentation on trail safety and instructions on how to operate a snowmobile safely.

By 9 a.m., it was time to hit the trails. With the group split into three riding levels, everyone went outside to pick a sled from the fleet of rentals provided by Boat Sport Marina and Track Side Sales. The more experienced riders lined up behind guide Todd Achteburg and were the first to leave. The second and third

groups lined up behind guides Dick Decker and Russ Davis. Last, but definitely not least, were the “newbies” lining up behind Colonel Hamilton. Because of the varied experience levels, different routes were planned for each. With the trails in awesome condition with plentiful snow, it would be a day to remember.

Following a full day on the trails, everyone made their way back to the Derby Track for a couple laps around the infamous track before heading back to their hotel rooms to prepare for the fun evening ahead. The banquet began with the guides’ sharing tales of the day’s highlights from each group, followed by an excellent dinner of burgers, hotdogs, pasties, beer cheese and



Colonel Hamilton presents Steve Decker a certificate of appreciation for his delicious Northwoods cuisine at the evening banquet.



Cross Country Bar & Grill was presented a certificate of appreciation for hosting a fabulous lunch of pulled pork sandwiches and cheesy broccoli soup, complete with homemade fries and chips.



Taking a couple laps around the Derby Track is the perfect way to end a day of riding.



In spite of some dispute over which of these two were most deserving of the toilet seat award, it was ultimately given to Wally for his impersonation of the Abominable Snowman.





chicken noodle soup courtesy of Chef Steve Decker.

Honored guests Paul Rutz of Fond du Lac and Alice Sucho of the 115 Fighter Wing summed up the day nicely, "Awesome day! Great weather, nice Ski Doo sled, trails great, food awesome, wonderful people. I love this sport!" said Rutz. Sucho too had nothing but praise for the event. "What an awesome time," she exclaimed. "From the accommodations at the Derby Inn, to coffee and a briefing, we were well taken care of. The snow and the trails were great, pit stops and lunch was fabulous. I am grateful to all the sponsors that make this ride possible. It makes one certainly feel appreciated!" **WSN**



Pablo Miralles, an exchange student from Madrid, Spain enjoyed the outing with his host family, the Gaedkes. He thought it was awesome to see so many people show up for the sport and having fun.



A very special thanks to the following contributors for helping to make the 2013 Military Ride a huge success: American Legion, Dept. of WI, Portage; Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs, De Forest; Bear Point Sno-Cruisers, Green Bay; Best Western Derby Inn, Eagle River; Boat Sport Marina, Eagle River; Bonnie's Lakeside, Three Lakes; Cozy Corner Trails, Danbury; Decker Tours, Eagle River; Derby Track, Eagle River; Devil's Creek Stump Jumpers, Merrill; Ewald's Whispering Pine Lodge, St. Germain; Harshaw Wanderers, Harshaw; Hoelzel, Patricia and Stuart, Neenah; Ken's Sports, Kaukauna; Near North Trail Riders, Athelstane; Northwoods Riders, Tomahawk; Oneida County Snowmobile Council, Rhinelander; Pitlik's Sand Beach Resort, Eagle River; Sundowner's Snowmobilers, Edgerton; Track Side Sales, Eagle River; and Waunakee Winter Wanderers, Waunakee. **WSN**



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