

# River Currents



## Silver Anniversary for the Rivermen

**Grand Rapids, MI.** - This year marks a major milestone for the Grand Rapids Rivermen. The Rivermen have been around for twenty-five years, and counting. We have made many friends along the way and we look forward to the new friends we will meet over our next twenty-five years.

the make-up of the Rivermen has evolved one constant is the brotherhood amongst the attendees. HUG ME has been held in private homes, bars and nightclubs, restaurants, hotels and now a gay resort is it's home. This year our run will feature some very special surprises to commemorate this anniversary.

Our first twenty-five years has seen the Rivermen take an active role in the West Michigan gay community. We have been active participants in West Michigan (Gay) Pride for a number of years. The Rivermen are proud to support the Mr. Michigan Leather and Mr. Rumors Leather contests. Our bar nights have benefited many charitable organizations in West Michigan and beyond. We also coordinate and help provide security for Chicago Hellfire's annual Inferno event.

There are also many clubs that have been with us on this journey that have provided fun, laughs, support and even guidance. Here in Grand Rapids is our brother club, Nimbus Michigan, who have been along side us and have given much support and brotherhood. Other clubs who have also supported the Rivermen are: Tribe, Trident, Icon, Rodeo Riders, Mall City Cruisers, Chicago Leather Club, Windy City Boys Troop, Hellfire, Southwest Michigan Bears and surely others I missed. Thanks to all who have been there along the way. We look forward to seeing many of you during our special celebration July 10 - 12.

Our annual run, HUG ME, has seen many different locations, different themes and different faces. While

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Rivermen  Anniversary  
 1984 2009  
 Celebrating 25 Years of Brotherhood & Charity



## Rivermen: Turkeys at Touche', Snow Bunnies at Esquire

**Out and about** - The Rivermen have been on the road again, this time to Touche in Chicago and The Esquire in Lansing. On November 15, 2008 was the annual "Turkeys in Bondage" night in Chicago. January 24, 2009 was "Snow Bunnies from Hell" in Lansing.

During "Turkeys", the Rivermen attended a fire-side chat at the Leather Archives & Museum with Chuck Renzlow. The Rivermen are members of the LA&M and each visit we make there educates us more about the

leather community and even provides a stroll back through Rivermen history. Then we were off to Touche for a night of fun. David Boyer and his staff always make us feel welcome. It's nice to see members of the local clubs. Not to mention all the fresh meat GDI's. Or are we the "fresh meat"? Thanks so much to Touche for the support they have given to us.

The Rivermen Bunny made his annual trip to the Esquire complete with eggs filled with goodies. GDI Ken Nottoli also got a birthday surprise. Thanks

to the Esquire staff and everyone who attended .



L-R: Rivermen member Dave Watt, Snowbunny Ed Urbany and G.D.I. Ken Nottoli

Photo courtesy of Greg Serrano.

*Please join the Rivermen for:*  
**West Michigan Pride**

*Visit the Rivermen booth for cool ice cream treats for sale.*

*Saturday June 20, 2009*

*John Ball Park & Zoo, Grand Rapids, Michigan*

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Grandma: Jim Riggle (Honorary)

Jerome Omlor (Honorary)

Dave Watt

Eric Hanson

Clayton Phillips

Ed Urbany





## Mr. Michigan Leather 2008-09, Dave Watt, is IML bound.

**Chicago, IL.** - As the Fourth member of the Rivermen to hold the title of Mr. Michigan Leather, Dave Watt has been busy representing the title and the Rivermen around the United States.

Dave has traveled to Washington for Mid-Atlantic Leather, serves on the board of C.L.A.W., hosted a fund-raising event in Kalamazoo called "Meet the meat", gave a speech at Mr. Chicago Leather and has even introduced "Mr. Friendly" which is a new

concept in preventing HIV Status phobia. Sprinkle in other trips to Chicago, Detroit, Lansing, Flint and who knows where. And all of that is in addition to his duties as a case worker and HIV prevention counselor for C.A.R.E.S, a marching band flag corp. director, plus he still has time left to spend with his partner Ken.

Dave has always been a great asset to the Rivermen. His efforts and dedication are priceless. The Rivermen proudly support him in all his endeavors

and we wish him all the best while he competes for the IML title in Chicago. Good luck Dave!



Current MML title holder Dave Watt

## HUG ME XXV Cocktail Party Slots & Ad Space Available

**Fennville, MI.** - The Rivermen are busy making plans for a very memorable Twenty-fifth anniversary run to be held July 10 - 12, 2009 at Campit Resort. This year will more than likely be the biggest and best run to date. There even may be a few surprises in store for attendees as the Rivermen commemorate this milestone in our history.

The run will have a military theme this time around. Attendance is expected to be larger than in the past as we remember all of the people we have encountered over our Twenty-five years as a member of the Leather

Community. We also hope to meet many new friends as we embark on our next Twenty-five years as a club.

Cocktail party time slots are available to those who respond first. Once again this year we are offering a free half page advertisement in the run book for clubs, businesses or individuals who host parties. Those groups or individuals can upgrade to a full page ad for a small additional fee. Ad space is also available to those who don't host parties. The support of those who host parties is greatly appreciated by the Rivermen and is a great way to promote your organization.

Contact the Rivermen Secretary Hale for information and scheduling by email: [ariesclub1@msn.com](mailto:ariesclub1@msn.com) or by phone @ (616) 745-1767.

**Any Club, Business or Organization that hosts a HUG ME XXV Cocktail Party will receive a FREE HALF PAGE Run Book Advertisement!**



**The Grand Rapids Rivermen are proud to be members of the Leather Archives & Museum. We encourage all clubs to become members and help preserve our history.**

[www.leatherarchives.org](http://www.leatherarchives.org)



Grand Rapids Rivermen



The power of the paddle.

We're on the web:  
[www.grrivermen.net](http://www.grrivermen.net)

**1984 - 2009**

**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF  
BROTHERHOOD & CHARITY**



**HUG ME XXV:  
RIVERMEN BOOTCAMP  
BACK TO BASIC(S)**

**JULY 10 - 12, 2009**

**CAMPIT RESORT - FENNVILLE, MICHIGAN**