



Rivercurrents

Fall / Winter 2007

The official journal of the Grand Rapids Rivermen



Leather, Flannel and Bears!

Grand Rapids—The weekend of November 2nd-4th the Rivermen hosted two fun and furry events in honor of the Southwest Michigan Bears during their Michigan Bearfest Weekend 4.

Friday night the Rivermen hosted the afterhours party at the Grand Inn. Rivermen members Terry S. and Clif N. helped make things festive.

On Saturday the event at Rumors nightclub was titled "Leathermen, Red Flannel and Bears" and brought together the local leather and bear communities. It was very reaffirming to see the diverse crowd having a good time that benefited each group. Brotherhood is alive and well in West Michigan for sure. Cheers to the SWMI's for a very successful event.



Murder most foul at HUG ME XXIII

Fennville— Camp-it Resort was the site of multiple murders during the 23rd annual "run" of the Grand Rapids Rivermen during early July 2007. At regular intervals which mysteriously coincided with regularly scheduled cocktail parties, members of the Rivermen were found murdered.

Each decomposing body was artfully displayed in various poses. The Camp-it coroner discovered a different means of death for each victim. The evil methods used to methodically kill ranged from poisoning, gunshot, deadly pubic crabs, poisoned icy hot and the most gruesome, death by epilator. The killer seemed to taunt with obvious clues at the scenes.

Thanks to a large number of witnesses, who were expert private investigators, the investigation was able to wrap up by the end of the event known as the "run show". There, in an oddly theatrical manner, the killer was revealed to be the Rivermen treasurer, John W. The bloodthirsty killer is still at large and was last seen in the greater Grand Rapids area.

What made the sickening events of the weekend even more horrific was the fact that necrophilia became rampant with the zombie-like victims roaming around. All of the deviant sexual activity was oddly centered in a specific wooded area of the campground.



Current Rivermen officers L-R:
Vice President: Clif N.,
Director of Activities: Tony W.,
Secretary: Eric H.
at HUG ME XXIII



Current Rivermen President:
Patrick P.
at HUG ME XXIII



Fall / Winter 2007

Rivercurrents

A New Mr. Michigan Leather and another Rivermen "wuzzie"

Douglas—The Dunes Resort was again the site for the Mr. Michigan Leather contest on September 23. The Resort was sold out in August and the event itself had record attendance this year. The free fetish workshops and demos were organized by the Chicago Hellfire Club and the Chicago Kennel Club hosted a workshop on competing in a leather contest.

There were five contestants this year including the Rivermen's own Clayton P., the current Mr. Rumors Leather titleholder. Randy Wrisinger from Huntington Woods, MI. won the title of Mr. Michigan Leather 2008. Randy will compete at the 2008 International Mr. Leather contest in Chicago during Memorial day weekend. The 2007 title was skipped to better reflect the period of time that the titleholder would serve and compete at IML.

The first runner up was David Litchfield. The second runner up was Mario Lombardo. The panel of judges were: International Mr. Leather 2006 mega-stud Bo Ladashevskas, Mr. Michigan Leather 2006 Tony Wolfram, Head judge Mr. Michigan Leather 2005 Clif Nash, Bob Miller, Chuck Windemuth, Spot, and Kendra McClain.

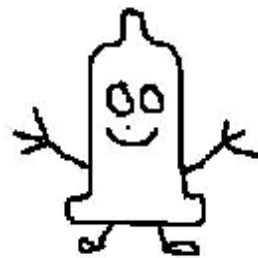
This year the MML event was especially emotional for all of the Rivermen. Rivermen D.O.A. Tony Wolfram ended his title year and was presented his Rivermen colors back after giving a stirring speech about his experience as Mr. Michigan Leather and GLBT issues. The Rivermen are very proud of Tony for representing the title with Pride, Dignity and Respect.

Throughout the entire MML process, from planning to the actual event,

the Rivermen provided exceptional support. Rivermen President Patrick P and Vice President Clif N. gave countless hours serving on the planning committee. The Rivermen were sponsors of the event. I had the extreme privilege of transporting judge Bo L. to and from the airport and being his assistant. And finally the Rivermen assumed responsibility for the MML product sales and helped provide security.

As far as the "wuzzie" concept, that is something that has been a bit of fun between former MML titleholders. Now the Rivermen have three "wuzzies": John Paul B., Clif N. and now the newest wuzzie Tony W. The future also looks bright for another potential wuzzie in the ranks of the Rivermen. Dave W will be competing at the next MML and Dave has the full support of the Rivermen brotherhood. Good luck Dave!!

See Dick.
See dick with an erection.
See dick with no protection.
See dick with an infection.
Don't be a dick—Use a condom!



Rivercurrents is published by
The Grand Rapids Rivermen
P.O. Box 3497
Grand Rapids, MI. 49501
www.grrivermen.net
Rivercurrents editor:
Eric H.
HUG ME XXIII Pictures:
Ed U.

The Rivermen are:

President: Patrick P.	Craig C.
Vice President: Clif N	Russell F.
Secretary: Eric H.	Dave W.
Treasurer: John W.	John Paul B.
D.O.A.: Tony W.	Tone V.
M.A.L.: Terry S.	Clayton P.
Grandma	Pledge: Ed U.
Hale Y.	



Fall / Winter 2007

Rivercurrents

More pictures from HUG ME XXIII



Rivermen member: Clayton P.



Rivermen member: Grandma



HUG ME attendees: Chris and Ken



Rivermen treasurer: John W.



Rivermen member: Craig C.



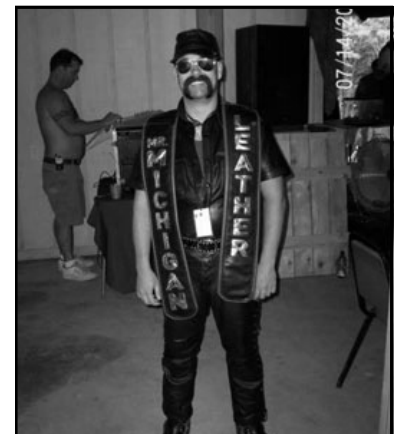
HUG ME attendee: John



Rivermen member: Russell F.



Patrick grilling burgers under the watchful eye of Little John



The newest MML wuzzie Tony



Fall / Winter 2007

Rivercurrents

Rivermen coordinate security for HELLFIRE: INFERNO

Douglas – Hellfire's annual event, Inferno, was held at the Dunes Resort on September 5 –12. The Rivermen continued the tradition of coordinating and providing the security needed to allow Hellfire to host their event. Inferno is the biggest money making event for the Rivermen which allows the group to continue in its mission of brotherhood and charity.

With the need for 24 hour a day guards at multiple posts the Rivermen are grateful for the many volunteers who helped the members of the Rivermen provide the need-

ed manpower. The nights are long and coverage is still needed rain or shine.

Hellfire is a well organized club and it is always a learning experience for the Rivermen to work in conjunction with them. The members of each club share very similar mindsets and the relationship between the Rivermen and Hellfire is an ever strengthening partnership.

Rivermen D.O.A, Tony Wolfram, assumed most of the responsibility and spent the entire time on site. We all owe him a great amount of

gratitude. The Rivermen camp sprung up at the Dunes and even featured a play area this year to provide the security detail some well deserved relief after their shifts.

The volunteers, many of whom did not know each other prior to helping out with guard duty, were able to make new friendships. Next years Inferno is scheduled and planning will begin soon. Volunteers will be needed and all who are willing to help will be greatly appreciated.





Dave W. wins Mr. Fetish Detroit

Detroit—Congratulations to Rivermen member Dave W. on winning Icon Detroit's Mr. Fetish Detroit contest. Dave will be even more active than usual now.

In addition to being a case worker for C.A.R.E.S. he will be doing a presentation at LIFE Detroit on December 5th and hosting a fundraiser event at Rumors Nightclub in Grand Rapids this winter. Dave is also a member of the CLAW Advisory Board and plans to be a contestant at the next Mr. Michigan Leather competition.

Following is the speech Dave wrote for the Mr. Fetish Detroit contest:

I feel I need to begin this speech with a confession—I have a food

fetish. Food, sex, fun—all in the same part of my brain. And if you've ever met my family, you'd know exactly where my food fetish comes from.

In setting up a time to visit my parents—now retired in Michigan—the conversation might go like this. "Hey Mom—can I stop by tomorrow morning for a visit?" "Sure thing—come for breakfast!" "Oh I can't be there until 11 a.m." "We'll have an early lunch then."

Food is everywhere in my life - in my car, my bedroom, in my dreams and in my dungeon too. Whipped cream, chocolate sauce, mashed potatoes, even guacamole. Sharing food with your partner can be very erotic, especially if you use your fingers

as a utensil, or your penis, or your inner thigh as a serving platter.

In a time where HIV rates have plateaued at a surprisingly high rate. I think we can be role models for safe, sane, consensual—and tasty play.

So thank you Icon for this excellent idea of an event, for I often find that we as leather men and women don't talk enough about our fetishes! Anything, anywhere can be a hot fetish, an incredible sexual experience—as long as you have the right mind-set—and a partner with a healthy appetite...and maybe some chocolate cake too. Bon appetit!

Wrap that rascal!! Use a Condom!
Safe—Sane—Sensual—Smart
Get tested for HIV—You can live with the results





Fall / Winter 2007

Rivercurrents

Reflections on a year with the Rivermen

Out and about—As I finish up the last few parts of this newsletter I cannot help becoming a bit nostalgic. My first year as a member of the Rivermen has been quite an experience.

This was the first time that I was a member of a leather club and I thought I knew what to expect. I was around the Grand Rapids leather community for many years and considered the members of the local clubs friends. The pledge process was a bit of a pain in the ass and did nothing to prepare me for the months to follow. What I got in return was a complete surprise.

The friendship's I have made inside

and outside of the Rivermen have been wonderful. Getting to know the members better has resulted in what I know will be life-long friendships. At the various Rivermen events I have had the luck to meet and associate with some very amazing men, something that probably wouldn't have happened if I were still a GDI.

Another aspect is knowing that while good times have been plentiful, doing something that will help others has been an added bonus. Whether it was through the contributions to the various charities that have benefited from Rivermen events, or providing an positive image of being an out and proud leatherman. Yes, leather clubs do

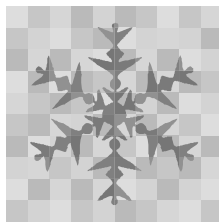
provide a positive role model of what the leather community is about and what the leather brotherhood can do to benefit the GLBT fight for acceptance and equal civil rights.

While sensuality and sex are a part of the leather lifestyle, being a Rivermen has taught me that there is so much more to this wonderful community. While I have always considered my self to be a lone wolf, being part of this pack has taught me a lot about myself and I am better for it. I can't wait to see what the next year has in store on this journey.

Eric Hanson

Please join the
Rivermen
as they present:
**Snowbunnies
From Hell!!**

Saturday,
January 19, 2008
Esquire, Lansing



**ERASE
THE
HATE**



hom·o·pho·bi·a
hom'ə fō'bē ə
insecurity about
being heterosexual.



Fall / Winter 2007

Rivercurrents

Rivermen on the road again...still. Spreading Rivermen Cheer

Out and about—Wow it all seems like a blur, but the Rivermen have logged quite a number of miles on the road over the last year. Each barnight definitely took on it's own vibe. Some were low key and some ended up over the top. Each stop the Rivermen made new acquaintances and hopefully we have had an impact or at least showed smaller communities what the leather community is about.

Flint was interesting. Interesting because of miscommunication, they weren't expecting us to show up. Clif N., who was the current MML titleholder at the time, left quite an impression on at least one of the locals.

The night at the R & R Saloon on June 2 turned into one of the more memorable road trips. Eric H. was not feeling well and ended up getting sick all the way to Detroit and for the rest of the night. The rest of the Rivermen hosted a successful barnight and the after

hours party in the Rivermen's room above the bar is one for the record books.

The weekend before HUG ME XXIII was the Rivermen barnight at Rumors on July 7. It's nice for the club to have an event in town and not have to worry about driving and lodging. It also helps us maintain the local brotherhood with Nimbus, the SWMI bears and the local GDI's. What a way to give a final push for registering for HUG ME XXIII. Rumors was also the site of our November barnight saluting the SWMI bears during Bearfest weekend.

August 18 was Stars and Stripes at the Detroit Eagle. The Eagle always welcomes the Rivermen and a good time is always assured. Being in Detroit also enables the Rivermen to interact with all the Detroit area clubs such as ICON, Tribe, Trident and Wolfpack.

Battle Creek and Partners Bar can

be variable. This year Halloween on October 20th was very low key. It was nice to see the renovations that have occurred to the bar. Thanks to Partners for having us.

Turkeys in Bondage on November 17th was a really good time. Touche manager David Boyer took the entire club out to dinner once again this year. Thank you so much David. The rest of the night was a blast and the play area was festive the whole night. You could even get a buzz cut right there in the bar. Being in Chicago is also a great opportunity to hang with members of Hellfire, Chicago Leather Club, Windy City Boys Troop, Rodeo Riders and all of the other hot, hot men.

On January 19, 2008 the Rivermen will be in Lansing at the Esquire for "Snow bunnies in bondage". Please join us for another great night in the Capital City.

The Rivermen extend thanks for the support of many!

The following businesses have graciously helped the Rivermen in our mission of brotherhood and charity. Please support them!

Campit Resort—Fennville
Diamond Jim's—Detroit
Eagle—Detroit
Esquire—Lansing
Partners—Battle Creek

Ripcord—Toledo
R & R Saloon—Detroit
Rumors —Grand Rapids
Touche'—Chicago



Fall / Winter 2007

Rivercurrents

HUG ME XXIV : Fetish Festival : July 11-13, 2008

What's your fetish?



Got Fetish?

Get your kink on!

Plans are already underway for HUG ME XXIV. This year's theme is "Fetish Festival". Once again the event will be at Campit resort and looks to be the Rivermen's biggest run to date. There are a lot of fresh ideas being presented at the Rivermen meetings and there are sure to be many new and exciting features. One thing you can count on is Dave W. leading the food fetish contingent.

One of the new features will be a \$10 discount off of the regular run fee for anyone who sends in their application and deposit before July 5th.



Happy New Year

From

The Grand Rapids Rivermen.

The Rivermen would like to wish you a New Year filled with
Brotherhood , Prosperity and Pride!

Visit us on the web: www.grrivermen.net