

Eleven Years of (Fun)d Raising



From a humble start, West Richland's Hogs & Dogs event shifts to higher gears of excitement each year

By Tracy Hill

The popular Hogs & Dogs motorcycle event was born 11 years ago in West Richland. Initially held at Flat Top Park, Hogs & Dogs attracted fewer than 50 motorcycles and served about 100 hot dogs. Despite that quiet beginning, it laid a solid foundation.

"By creating powerful partnerships with local motorcycle clubs and retailers, the West Richland Area Chamber of Commerce has been able to expand and grow the event," says May Hays, executive director of the chamber. "The event has found a niche in the motorcycle circuit, as it's held on a Thursday evening. Many of the motorcycle enthusiasts stop by Hogs & Dogs on their

way to other weekend events. It's really boosted our attendance."

As proof, the event doubled in size in the first seven years, and Flat Top Park became too small. The current venue is the Bombing Range Sports Complex, which allows for the more than 4,000 motorcycles and classic cars that participate.

"Hogs & Dogs grew so fast because we partnered with other events to bring in hundreds of classic cars, stunt bike riders for entertainment, live bands, vendor booths, a beer garden and much more," says chamber board president Troy Berglund.

In 2005, the chamber added a motorcycle raffle to the event. Tickets are sold

from the first of the year until about 8:30 the night of the event.

"This year's motorcycle is a Victory Hammer 8 Ball," says Delt Clark, Hogs & Dogs chairman. "We are very thankful for Thunder Alley Victory for providing this beautiful bike."

In addition to entertainment, the owners of the bikes in attendance will vie for awards.

There will be seven competition categories, says Ben Dosch of Thunder Alley Victory. Bike owners can compete in American Classics, Metrics, Classics (1989 and older), Customs, Top Dog Choice—chosen by the top event sponsor—Chamber Choice and People's Choice.



Victory bikes, cycles and, this year, super cars and spectators will number in the hundreds and spectators will number in the thousands at the June 23 Hogs & Dogs event.



Jason Britton performs a stunt at last year's event.

Hogs & Dogs now attracts more than 8,000 people from around the Northwest. An event this large requires hundreds of volunteers to coordinate, staff and clean up. A huge source of community pride drives people to help out.

"It makes me feel incredibly lucky to be part of a community with such giving, caring people," says Ben. "The best way to give back to the community in which you live is to get involved in events that mirror your beliefs and goals. Hogs & Dogs is a family oriented event that's a perfect fit for Thunder Alley Victory."

This year's event on June 23 may prove to be even bigger as more attractions are added. The 2011 Hogs & Dogs is themed "Hot Bikes & Super Cars," since a select group of high-performance, high-end super cars will be added. The small group of "super cars" will be another unique aspect to entertain attendees and create a buzz.

"The main attraction will always be the thousands of motorcycles, but the super cars will provide a dynamic addition for spectators to enjoy," says Troy.

As the major fundraiser for the West

Hogs & Dogs Details

Eleventh Annual Hogs & Dogs

- June 23, 2011
- 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Bombing Range Sports Complex, West Richland
- No admission fee, but a small charge for food and beverage
- Motorcycle raffle tickets are \$10 each
- Live band, beer and wine garden, vendor displays
- www.westrichlandchamber.org
(509) 967-0521

Richland Area Chamber, Hogs & Dogs has enjoyed fantastic support from the motorcycle community.

"The event helps the chamber conduct events such as the regional Veterans Day parade and the Washington state Time of Remembrance for fallen soldiers. The chamber's active role in honoring our veterans is shared by many motorcycle clubs and has made for a great relationship," says May. ■