

Rose City Motorcycle Club named, in appreciation, as Grand Marshall

Why would a small town ask a metropolitan motorcycle club to serve as grand marshal in their annual parade? Isn't the grand marshal usually someone who has done something remarkable, or who has had great impact on a community?

Yes! That is the reason the Jamboree committee asked Rose City MC to accept the honor.

A little explanation may be in order: RCMC is not just any motorcycle club. They formed in 1911 as a bicycle club and, over the years, became a motorcycle club. This family-oriented organization is the oldest American Motorcycle Club sanctioned club in Oregon and, with about 250 members, is probably also the largest.

Because they are a large organization, they have many activities. Funds raised from the activities are used to maintain the club's needs, but they also are used to help others.

Following the devastating flood in February of 1996, Den Bair, a member and director of the club, suggested adding Vernonia Cares as one of their "helping" projects. Bair's job regularly took him through northwest Oregon and southwest Washington and he was aware of efforts to cope with aftermath of the flood.

"It seemed to me," Bair said, that the towns along major highways were getting a lot more help than those, like Vernonia, on less traveled roads."

RCMC "adopted" Vernonia Cares emergency food bank, using income from their annual 250 mile poker run. Since their



Pictured above are Rose City Motorcycle Club members who were on the latest trip to Vernonia, along with volunteers

first trip in 1996 – on a rainy day, of course – they have made many trips, to Vernonia, bringing tons of food and sundries to people needing help.

On the latest trip, Saturday, June 21, the club brought nearly 1400 pounds of food they purchased for Vernonia Cares.

Supporting the club on every trip has been Bob

Lanphere's Beaverton Honda, which has always provided a van and driver to deliver the donations to Vernonia. The people at Beaverton Honda have also done much more. Since the effort started, they have had a drawing each year for a new helmet, with the proceeds also going to the food drive.

Each time, when the RCMC

from Vernonia Cares, who helped unload the food, then sorted and weighed it, and gratefully restocked the shelves.

and Beaverton Honda van arrive at Vernonia Cares, it's obvious that someone did a lot of shopping. That someone has been Char Messenger an RCMC member who remembers the adage that man "does not live by bread, alone." She also makes sure there are items such as coffee, toothbrushes, and treats for the kids. This is about caring, not

just feeding.

There won't be very many representatives from RCMC in the parade because most of them will be helping at another fund raiser. So, when you see the people representing this big-hearted group, let them know how much their efforts are appreciated. They don't ask for recognition, but they have earned it.

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