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Former Minnesota Twins Manager and Players Team Up to Battle Lou Gehrig's Disease

The 23rd Annual Ride to Fight ALS shatters all time fundraising record

Duluth, MN – The Black Woods Blizzard Tour raises an all-time record number of dollars to provide support to individuals battling ALS. The three-day snowmobile ride concluded on February 5th at the Celebration Dinner held at Greysolon Ballroom in Duluth. Over \$1.6 million was raised this year in the fight against ALS. Former Minnesota Twins alumni Terry Steinbach, Kent Hrbek, and Ron Gardenhire were among the over 250 snowmobilers who participated in the 23rd annual Black Woods Blizzard Tour, and who helped put the event fundraising total over the million-dollar mark for the sixth year in a row.

“If you happen to get this terrible disease of ALS, you now have the best chance of beating this because we are changing the projection of ALS. Everyone in this room has made a difference: From the riders to the sponsors to the doctors bringing new ALS trials to Essentia Health,” said Black Woods Blizzard Tour board chair David Kolquist. “We have all teamed up to bring the latest and greatest ALS research right here in Duluth, Minnesota. Now, people in the Northland fighting this disease have hope.”

The Black Woods Blizzard Tour has now raised \$15.2 million in its twenty-three-year history and has seen increases almost every year.

Information on the Black Woods Blizzard Tour

Four riders started the idea of an annual fundraising snowmobile ride when they rode their sleds around Lake Superior in 1999. Randy Bannor, Larry Bannor, Greg Sorenson and Dennis Nelson received \$15,000 in monetary contributions, which were used to help those fighting Lou Gehrig's Disease (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). A year later, a group of dedicated people banded together to form what is now the *Black Woods Blizzard Tour*. That same year, *Black Woods Bar & Grill* jumped on board as title sponsor of the annual event. In its first year, 38 riders raised \$46,000. Twenty-three years later, 257 riders raised \$1.3 million, bringing the lifetime event total to \$15,295,000.

Each year, the *Black Woods Blizzard Tour* brings people together in the fight against Lou Gehrig's Disease. Though they participate for various reasons, all are united in a quest to find treatments and ultimately, a cure for ALS. For additional information on the event visit www.blackwoodsblizzardtour.com.

The Black Woods Blizzard Tour Board

Bud Baker, Matt Bordson, Jeff Erikson, Cullen Flaherty, Pete Gassert, Dan Hartel, Doug Jensen, Tom Jespersen, David Kolquist, Whitney Kolquist, Jim Lesemann, Jeff Thompson, Julie Thoreson and Sandy Judge

Sponsors for the event include: our Title Sponsor: Black Woods Grill and Bar; Presenting Sponsors: Cirrus Aircraft, KBJR 6 & Range 11, KQDS, Lamar Advertising; Major Sponsors: 509, Aluma Trailers/Widdes Trailer Sales, Bernick's. Bullyan RV/Ice Castle, Duluth Lawn & Sport, Jespersen Studio, Lake Rock Wealth Management, Marsh & McLennan Agency, Stokes Media House, Tischler Wood, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Youngstedt's; Participating Sponsors: American Family Insurance, AmericInn Proctor, Amsoil, Duluth Coating Solutions, Essentia Health, Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Hartel's Disposal Co, Hockenberg Newburgh, Kolar Chevrolet GMC Buick Cadillac, Kolar Toyota, Milwaukee Tool, Minnesota Twins, Molo, Northland Subway, Park State Bank, Polaris Industries, Precision Pipeline, Pro Print, Reinhart Food Service; Contributing Sponsors: Bell Bank, Best Western Plus, City of Proctor-Tourism, Creative Threads Inc, Dave Croke CPA, GPM Inc, Holiday Stationstores, Johnson Brothers Liquor Co, Mellin Promotions, Minnesota Coaches, MN USA, Morgan Stanley, National Audio & Visual, National Bank of Commerce, Overum Law, Perkins, ShelDon, SolPacific, Superior Fuel, Superior Shores; Supporting Sponsors: Byfuglien Trucking, Duke's Towing, Enbridge, Halvor Lines, Honey Baked Ham & Cafe, Innovative Office Solutions, Jamar Company, KLN Family Brands, Ody's Country Meats, Regional Diagnostic Radiology, RollX Vans, Super One Foods and VFW of Hoyt Lakes.

The ride operates under USDA Forest Service Permit.

The Black Woods Blizzard Tour – A Ride to fight ALS is a fundraising event specifically focused on raising funds to help those that have ALS and to ultimately find a cure through research.

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