



**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**
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Black Woods Blizzard Tour Rides the Snowmobiling Trails Until A Cure for ALS is Found— Raises over \$1.4 Million to *Fund the Fight Against ALS*

Carlton, MN –The Black Woods Blizzard Tour celebrated its 27th anniversary at the Black Bear Casino Resort and raised \$1,425,611 to provide support to individuals battling ALS. Over 400 miles of trails were covered by 200 snowmobilers during the three-day event, all to fund the fight against ALS. The Black Woods Blizzard Tour has now raised more than \$22 million in its twenty-seven-year history.

Riders blazed the trail from Black Bear Casino Resort to Tower to Two Harbors and back. The bright sunshine made for beautiful weather, and riders expressed surprise and delight that the trails remained good, with one rider describing the trails this year as in their top 5 rides of all time.

With the theme “Going Home,” riders returned to a route that allowed them to spend Friday night in Two Harbors, celebrating at the restaurant of their title sponsor: Black Woods Bar and Grill and listening to live music provided by the Northwoods Band.

Fun, fellowship, and laughter followed the rides each day, with entertainment provided by the magician Matt Dunn, the Northwoods Band, and the Sidestreet Detour Band. Former Minnesota Twins alumni Terry Steinbach and Kent Hrbek also participated in the three-day event.

Saturday night’s Celebration Dinner featured a live and silent auction with special touches for Valentine’s Day, such as hearts that allowed riders to note who they were riding for, Cupids interacting with the crowd, and a drawing for a Celebrity Cruise® for two. Dr. Merit Cudkowicz and Dr. David Walk, both world-renown researchers, shared how funds provided by Never Surrender Inc had advanced research, expanded access to clinical trials, and provided help for people living with ALS and their families. Mike Farrell of Hermantown, MN, was named the Most Valuable Rider, and Gary and Maureen Fjelstad of Duluth, MN were selected as Volunteers of the Year for their tireless work year after year on the silent auction. Sandy Judge of Palisade, MN was also recognized and received the first ever Circle of Excellence Award as she prepares for retirement after 20 dedicated

years of funding the fight against ALS. A replay of the Welcome Home event is available on www.blackwoodsblizzardtour.com.

We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors that made this event possible. We would also like to thank our community for their important donations and our riders for riding the trails until a cure is found and for Never Surrendering in our Fight Against ALS.

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-seven years later, participants raised over \$1.4 million, bringing the lifetime event total to more than \$22 million.

Each year, the *Black Woods Blizzard Tour* brings people together in the fight against Lou Gehrig's Disease. Although 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 and the two other events (Kolar ALS Fishing Tournament and Tomassoni Tour-Cycle for ALS) also held by Never Surrender Inc, visit <https://www.neversurrenderinc.org>

The Black Woods Blizzard Tour Board:

Chair Matt Bordson, Cullen Flaherty, Pete Gassert, Tyler Gronseth, Vice-chair Doug Jensen, David Kolquist (President of NSI,) Whitney Kolquist, Jim Lesemann, Kevin Swanson, Kristen Thoen-Hrbek, Jeff Thompson, Julie Thoreson, and staff Lisa Erikson (Executive Director,) Sandy Judge, Kaila Hlava, Marissa Kallio, and Skylar Yachinich.

Sponsors for the event include: our Title Sponsor: Black Woods Grill and Bar; Presenting Sponsors: Black Bear Casino Resort, KQDS 95/My 95.7, KDAL, Lamar Outdoor Advertising, Northern News Now, Ruger; Major Sponsors: Danger Bird Productions, Duluth Lawn & Sport, Lake Rock Wealth Management, Marsh & McLennan Agency, Shel/Don Print Signs and Designs, Superior Fuel, Superior Shores, UNRL, Tito's Handmade Vodka; Participating Sponsors: Aluma & Widdes Trailer Sales, Amsoil, Bernick's, Dave Croke CPA, Hartel's Disposal Company, Kolar Chevrolet GMC Buick Cadillac, Kolar Toyota, Midwest Sports Publishing Network, Milwaukee Tool, Minnesota Twins, Northland Subway, Overom Law, Park State Bank, Polaris Industries, Skyline Social & Games, Tischler Wood, Twin Ports Paper & Supply; Contributing Sponsors: Advantage Emblem & Screen Printing, American Family Insurance, Bell Bank, Bluestone, Circle K Stores, Cirrus Aircraft, Cruise Marketing, Duluth Coating Solutions, Essentia Health, Fortune Bay Resort Casino, MN USA, Morgan Stanley, National Audio & Visual, Performance Food Group, Perkins, Pro Print Duluth, Regional Diagnostic Radiology, RollX Vans, Stokes Media House, Super One Foods; Supporting Sponsors: AEM Accounting, AHL Health Care Group, Aluminum Cabinet , (Buff-lin) Byfuglien Trucking, Duke Boys, Fisherman's Corner, ITEX, Johnson Brothers Liquor Company, Maurices, Mellin Promotions, Minnesota Coaches, INC, SolPacific, Sunrise Cemetery, The Northwoods Band, The Vein Center.