

HOGS ON THE HIGH SEAS 6TH WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

by Ron Cox



Weeeeeeee

Billed as the "World's Largest Rally on a Cruise Ship" the 6th Annual Western Caribbean Cruise took place November 2nd-9th. With stops in Labadee, Haiti, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, Georgetown, Grand Cayman Island and Cozumel, Mexico, more than 1,600 bikers boarded the 138,000 ton Mariner of the Seas. And since the ship's capacity is 3,000, we bikers numbered more than half the passengers.

HOG's On The High Seas (HOHS) is the brainchild of Dean & Debbie Anderson, a biking couple who live in Virginia. While an almost non-stop seven day party is the primary goal, there is a serious mission to the cruise too! Having a close Anderson family member with malfunctioning kidneys, the need for dialysis treatment every two or three days was a necessity, ergo, no vacations, the Andersons realized that if their family member couldn't go on vacation, there must be others, including bikers and their friends, who could not take a vacation either. The HOHS Dialysis Fund was born. Funds raised through raffles, 50-50's, pirate bingos, poker walks, sponsorships and contributions enables dialysis patients to receive a virtually all expense paid vacation while keeping up with their treatments. For

complete information, go to www.hogsonthehighseas.com and click on the link for Dialysis Fund information. Recognizing the importance of the Fund, individuals and group donated some or all of their prize money back to the Fund. The Groupless Cruisers won the \$3,000 for having the most members on board (74) and they donated it all back. In total, the cruise raised \$105,000 for the Dialysis Fund which will enable another 16 bikers and/or friends to enjoy this vacation.

It would be impossible to highlight all the activities that occur during the cruise but to summarize on Haiti there is the world's largest T-shirt swap. Imagine two 450 person circles with each person displaying his/her T-shirt. In groups of 50, bikers run around the circle and exchange the shirt they brought for one that catches their fancy. Of course, someone in the next group could snatch the shirt you just got and leave you with theirs. And on it goes until all groups have had their turn.

Then there's the Topless Man Contest. Oh, I won't tell you about that one.

The Treasured Chest Contest pits 10 volunteer wenches vying for the title against each other, the winner is determined by the amount of money she collects while cavorting among the guests.

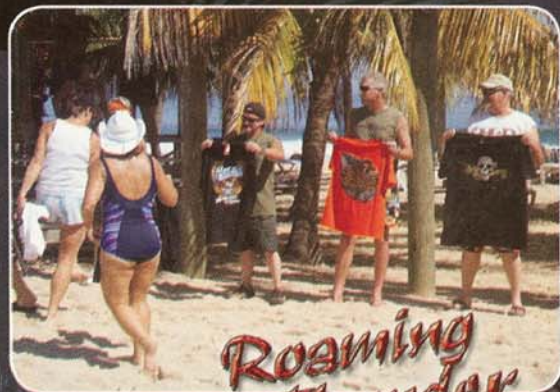
Spectacular on shore parties take place at each of Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville Clubs on Ocho Rios, Georgetown and Cozumel. Although on Cozumel, you could start out at Margaritaville and, if you make it, end up at Carlos & Charlies where the drinks are mucho strong.

On shore shopping was another popular pastime, diamonds, watches, precious stones, tobacco products and adult beverages by the liter at attractive prices made their way back on board

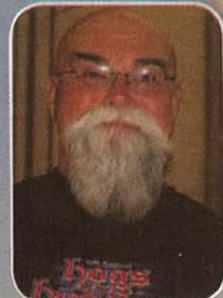
Shipboard activities include Biker Pirate Bingo, the Belly Smacker contest, HOHS Tattoo Contest, Best Beard Contest, vendors, technical seminars and the not to be missed Nightly Giveaway Shows. At the Giveaway Shows, thousands of dollars of merchandise donated by the vendors on board are given away.

Capping the giveaways though, on the last night, is a custom built motorcycle valued in excess of \$30,000. A very happy Steve Coley from North Carolina took this puppy home. Called Pirate's Fantasy, the bike was built by Nightmare Custom Cycles.

Wanna sign on? The next cruise will be the Mexican Riviera in March of 2009, and the next Western Caribbean cruise will be in November. Not only will you have one hell of a vacation, you'll be helping dialysis patients enjoy the same experience.



HOHS founders Dean & Debbie Anderson with this writer



John King of Baltimore MD won Best Beard Contest



John Coley exults on his new chopper



Parrotheads



Sexy wenches in the Treasured Chest contest



Don't know what this game is but it looks like fun!