

Midwest Bearpack Express

Midwest BearFest Edition

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Midwest Bearfest 2000 Prologue

Another Midwest BearFest has come and gone and life can resume back to normal. Who would have guessed that so much could have come from such a small package. As usual, there was food, family, and fun everywhere you went.

The weekend started with a meet and greet pizza party at the Econo-Lodge hotel. It wasn't long before the smell of pizza and the sound of camaraderie filled the air. The first batch of pizza was gone as quickly as the boxes were opened while the second batch outlasted the first by about 45 seconds. Boy, those bears were hungry! With everyone stuffed, it was off to the 501 Eagle for the Most Huggable Bear Contest (part

one).
Emcee William and his sidekick, Patrick (last years winner), got all 13 contestants to bear their souls (among other things) on stage. After all of the contestants pulled out all the stops, our judges had to narrow it down to four. The decision was so tough that William had to play an improvisation game involving all of the contestants while there was a recount (no joking). Soon, the finalists were named.

After the contest, the country music swelled and the two-stepping began into the wee hours. Soon, the makeshift



Mmmm. . .nothing like cookies and Zingers to get a party goin'!

dance floor was like a tilt-a-whirl of twirling bears and cubs.

The evening was finished off by an after hours party thrown by the Nashville's Music City Bears. Man, everyone got a good lesson on the effects of Jell-o shots *THAT* night.

Special points of interest:

- On January 21, 2001, we will hold officer elections at our monthly meeting at Kendra's house. Send an e-mail to president@bearpack.org for directions.

Midwest Bearfest 2000 The Experience

Early risers got a Donut Dunk breakfast complete with coffee (to shake off the effects of Jell-O shots) and donut holes for all of the hungry bears.

By this time, the vendor market was in full swing with awesome leather goods, bearwear, dance music, and

other bear paraphernalia. Then it was time for Bear Grub and a movie. This year's feature was the Legend of Bagger Vance, which everyone gave a big thumbs up!

Hoosier Bears hosted the Winter Cookout and made sure all of the bears were,

once again, full of good food. (No one likes to be around a hungry bear.)

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Their faces say it all!!!

We asked just a handful of the many who helped put this run together what they felt about the weekend. Ok, we admit, we didn't, but you can tell what they would have said if we had asked them just by looking into their happy faces.



Bill Mack at the registration table: "Oh boy, oh boy, oh BOY!!!"



Miss Kendra looking stunning at the Sunday Brunch: "I just love all you guys."



Tony Walker at the Sunday Brunch: "Y'all are great!"



Mike Davis at the Sunday Brunch: ". . ." (Ed. Note: After three days of fun, fun, fun, his poor brain blew a fuse.)



Tim Smith at the Sunday Brunch: "All I can say is, 'Wow!'" (Ed. Note: No, really, at this point, all he could say was "Wow!")



Michael Lambert at the Sunday Brunch: "I like candy."

Midwest BearFest Scrapbook



Chris and Gene



Kerry and Jim



Jim, Da'Ron, and Dallas

Midwest BearFest 2000 The Experience (cont'd)

After the cookout, it was that time again. The second part of the Most Huggable Bear Contest. This time, it was Miss Kendra with the microphone who has the knack of bringing out the bear in everyone, even herself. This time, the outcome of the contest is based on audience participation, so the bears had to be on their toes (or knees, or back. . .)

After a question and answer session, the four finalists got their buckets and went to collect their votes. All of the audience members were given wooden nickels, which they gave to the contestant they

chose as Most Huggable Bear.

But while the voting was going on, Dallas, our Union-Suit Santa and Dan Clark (This year's International Mr. Drummer) had a photo session with all proceeds going to Parkview Manor.

And this year, the winner is. . . (fanfare) Bruce! Congratulations to out to Bruce and a big thank you goes out to all of the contestants this year.

Then DJ EmFactor took to the DJ booth and started the dance party, which kept everyone moving.

Columbus Ursine Brotherhood was the host for the after hours party for Saturday night, and there was food and beer for everyone not exhausted by the day's activities. Between the two after hours party, everyone was sure to be on Santa's naughty list this year.



Well, with all these bears, someone should be commended for building such a sturdy stage!



Miss Kendra with this year's Most Huggable Bear, Bruce!!!

Midwest BearFest 2000 Epilogue

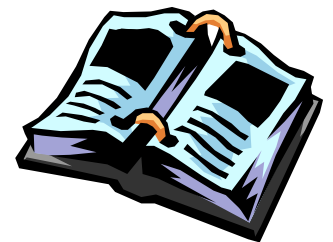
One of the hardest things about BearFest is saying goodbye to all of the bears, and nothing softens the blow like a Sunday Brunch. This year, the Fountain Room served an excellent breakfast to a pack of hungry, albeit worn out bears. It was also

the setting for our *annual* gift exchange, where gifts from the traditional, to the bizarre, were passed around. Afterwards, while some bears had long trips ahead of them, there were those who stayed behind for some Duck Pin Bowling where the balls may

be smaller, but they still pack a punch!

This years BearFest was a success, you would see it in the faces of all of the bears. If you missed it, don't worry, just check out our web site (www.bearpack.org) for information on coming events.

Up 'n' Coming Events



January 12-14
Bears of Old Pueblo
"La Fiesta de Los Osos 2001"
Tucson, AZ
www.botop.com

January 21
Midwest Bearpack
Monthly Meeting
Indianapolis, IN
www.bearpack.org

February 10
Midwest Bearpack
"Bearly-wed Game"
Indianapolis, IN
www.bearpack.org

February 16-19
Bears of San Francisco
"Int'l Bear Rendezvous 2001"
San Francisco, CA
www.bosf.org

March 23-26
BlackJack Bears
"Bear Hunt 2001"
Las Vegas, NV
www.blackjackbears.org

March 29-Apr 1
Dallas Bears
"Texas Bear Roundup 6"
Dallas, TX
www.dallasbears.org

April 20-22
Music City Bears
"Bear Jam 2001"
Nashville, TN
www.musiccitybears.org

April 27-29
Hoosier Bears
"Out of Hibernation 7"
Indianapolis, IN
www.hoosierbears.org

Even more Midwest BearFest Scrapbook

