

Hudgens: Big people's fun will help little ones

DAVE HUDGENS, Tellico Talk
Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Check out "Tour for the Cure." Three Village groups are sponsoring a poker run, car and motorcycle show on Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Tellico Village Community Church, 130 Chota Center, Loudon.

Proceeds go to the Cure Starts Now Foundation, which funds research in pediatric brain cancer. The event is organized by Villager Dennis Desserich, whose 6-year-old granddaughter Elena lost her battle with brain cancer last year. The Foundation was started by Desserich's son and daughter-in-law in Elena's memory, and is now a nationwide nonprofit organization.

The clubs involved are the Village Vintage Vehicles Club, the Tellico Riders Motorcycle Club and Village Vettes, the Chevy Corvette group.

Desserich is a member of the motorcycle club, which ran a poker run last year. He said he enlisted the aid of the other two clubs, to create an event that "would have a wider appeal and involve more people in Tellico Village."

The poker run starts at 8:30 a.m. from the church. Drivers travel on a specific route and draw a playing card at designated stops. The object is to have the best poker hand at the end. They'll award \$500 to the winner, with the rest of the money raised going to the charity.

Car and bike show registration is at 11:30 a.m., with the show starting at noon. Should be a cool collection of vintage vehicles and some very nice Corvettes, including the very cherry '54 restored by Villager Bill Spate, which recently received Bloomington Gold certification.

Entry to the car and bike show is \$10, and to the poker run, \$25. There'll be door prizes, a silent auction, music and refreshments. To download a registration form or for information on the charity, visit www.thecurestartsnow.org. Call Desserich with questions at 865-657-9030.

n WATeR trail folks keep at it; need fresh hands. After building nearly 14 miles of hiking trails on TVA land across the lake from Tellico Village, the Watershed Association of the Tellico Reservoir continues to build more, and is looking for help to do it.

"We can always use more trail builders, including women," says leader Bob Martin, adding that the group also needs more "adopt-a-trail" workers to maintain the existing paths and report on major problems such as deadfalls across them. They clear litter and trash, cut back encroaching vegetation, check signs, stairways and timber treads, and make minor repairs.

Volunteers are putting finishing touches on the two newest trail branches - Sinking Creek and Lotterdale. Work parties go there on the first Monday, second Tuesday and third Wednesday of every month, year-round. Since the project started in 2002, some 100 volunteers have participated, according to Marjorie Waldrop, publicity chairwoman of the group.

We hear that the TVA may build a larger bridge to help connect the upper and lower sections of the trail, and that eventually, the trails could connect to the Lenoir City Greenways, via a walkway over the proposed Highway 321 bridge.

You can check out the trails on the group's Web site, www.tellicowater.org. Check out the East Lakeshore Trails page for maps and driving directions.

To become a trail builder or to help with maintenance, contact Martin 865-458-9233 or Larry Smartt 865-408-1541.

n Senior personals: "Recent widow who has just buried fourth husband looking for someone to round out a six-unit plot. Dizziness, fainting, shortness of breath not a problem."

"Active grandmother with original teeth seeking a dedicated flosser to share rare steaks, corn on the cob and caramel candy."

"Male, 1922, high mileage, good condition, some hair, many new parts, including hip, knee, cornea, valves. Isn't in running condition, but walks well."

