

OHIO BIKE WEEK 2015!

By Helen Marketti

Ohio Bike Week is celebrating its 15th year and Steve Ernst (Advantage Entertainment) has been part of it for at least 11 of those years. Every year Ohio Bike Week seems to get bigger and better. People travel to the Sandusky area from all over the state and country. It brings in thousands of bikers each year. At the end of each season, many take the time to book their hotel room and plan ahead for the following year.

"We feel our band lineup is very strong this year," said Steve. "On Friday, May 29 at the Toledo Harley Davidson, will be Tom Keifer from the band, Cinderella." Cinderella, originally from Philadelphia broke into the music scene during the 80s with hits such as *Nobody's Fool*, *Gypsy Road*, *Coming Home* and *Don't Know What You Got (Till It's Gone)* with Tom Keifer as the lead singer. Tom will sing all the familiar favorites for fans who remember the 80s hair band.

"At the Mad River Harley Davidson in Sandusky, the band Puddle of Mudd will be performing on Saturday, May 30. At this time, we are also working on partnering with the Hard Rock Rocksino to get some events planned. The Ohio Lottery will be doing the Cash Explosion Game live from downtown Sandusky on Saturday, June 6! There will be over \$5,000 worth of prizes being given away," said Steve.

"One of the things we are excited about this year is bringing some activities back to the Erie County Fairgrounds. We will be partnering with Broken Spoke Saloon who will be at the fairgrounds," said Steve. "There will be limited vending available and the campgrounds will be open from June 3 to June 7. National acts will also be playing. On Wednesday, June 3, the band Saving Abel will play and on Friday, June 5, it will be the band, Bullet Boys. There are several other conventions going on in the area at the same time as Ohio Bike Week and some of those folks are choosing to stay at the campgrounds,

"We have regional acts that will be playing this year such as Jasmine Cain and Rebel Son who have played for us in the past and are very popular," said Steve. "We will have hot rod shows, motorcycle shows and great food. There is going to be so much going on with winery tours, events at the islands, free concerts, various motorcycle rides and more. This year we have the historical American Motor Drome Wall of Death with daredevil performers."

"Jackyl will be doing a free show on Thursday, June 4 in downtown Sandusky. Jesse James Dupree has played for us the past few years. He enjoys being part of the line up and loves to ride. He works hard to help us and is an incredibly nice guy. He has his own Jesse James Bourbon, which will be on hand. He will be making appearances at a few places in the area to promote his bourbon. He will be leading the Jesse James Dupree Pancreatic Cancer Ride on Thursday, June 4. Anyone who is interested in participating in this ride can meet at the Mad River Harley Davidson in Sandusky at 10:00 am. There will be a stop for lunch, people can meet Jesse and talk with him. The ride will then continue and end at the Comfort Inn in Sandusky. Jesse's uncle passed away from Pancreatic Cancer and so did one of my best friends," said Steve. "We have this ride every year and it's for a great cause. Jesse has been very passionate about this ride being a success. Later that day, he will be judging a bikini contest and then doing a free show the same evening."

"On Friday, June 5 there will be a free show by Colt Ford and on Saturday, June 6 will be a free show with national act, Buckcherry. We have never had a national act play for the Saturday night block party so we are expecting an incredible crowd!" said Steve. "The Budweiser Clydesdales Horses will be leading the parade this year on Saturday, June 6. The parade with the Clydesdales and motorcycles should end up in downtown Sandusky by 3:30 pm. If the weather and programming are right we hope to exceed 200,000 in attendance!"

For a complete schedule: www.ohiobikeweek.com