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OHIO BIKE WEEK, 2013!

(May 31 - June 9)

By Helen Marketti

Ohio Bike Week enthusiasts will soon be revving their engines for another season, which kicks off on Friday, May 31 and will run until Sunday, June 9. Steve Ernst, promoter for Advantage Entertainment, is looking forward to a new year of Ohio Bike Week that will be better than ever! "Our lineup this year is probably the strongest we've ever had. I'm very excited about it," said Steve. "May 31 is the first day at Toledo Harley Davidson with the band, *Queensryche*. The next night we are back at Mad River Harley Davidson in Sandusky where fans can enjoy listening to *Skid Row*. The following night (June 2) Blackberry Smoke will be playing. They are exceptional and have sold out many of their venues during the House of Blues tour. Blackberry Smoke is part of our Southern Fried Country Sunday as we call it. We're excited for them to be with us this year."

Many will recognize the band, Jackyl with Jesse James Dupree from the TV show, Full Throttle Saloon. Jesse has participated in Ohio Bike Week in previous years and will return once again for another season of fun and riding. "Jackyl will play a free concert in downtown Sandusky on Thursday, June 6. The following night the band Drowning Pool will entertain the block party. We will have other familiar favorites such as the Barrel House Saloon along the waterfront, which will have live entertainment. Keep checking back on Ohio Bike Week's web site for updates and details," said Steve.

"We're trying something new this year. We would like to keep branching out and this year we will have an event in Cleveland. If we can break into the Cleveland area and market with the event then we hope to have a full-blown concert there for next year. We are working with Karen Huebner who is the General Manager for South East Gears & Cheers in Bedford Heights, which is part of South East Harley Davidson. Nigel Dupree (Jesse James Dupree's son) will be doing a show there on Tuesday, June 4. Jesse will perform a few songs with his son and also make a celebrity appearance."

Karen is excited to be part of this year's Ohio Bike Week and hopes this will be the beginning of an annual event. "I have personally supported the Cleveland music scene for over twenty years. I've attended shows at The Agora, Cleveland Café and so many more places," explains Karen. "We are actually getting ready to experience our first full season of what we can offer. Gears and Cheers is a beautiful place. There is a huge front bar, dining area, a private back bar and a fenced in patio area. It's open to everyone not just to the bike riding community. We are booking great local music on Saturday nights and on Tuesdays we are hosting bike nights."

Karen continues, "We are very excited to have Jesse James Dupree here on June 4 to celebrate the Jesse James Bourbon Bash! His son, Nigel will be here with his own band as well. I am very excited to be part of this. Jesse will be good for business. It's an opportunity to combine my love for music with my job as General Manager. As for the music scene here, I am opening our doors to bands. If we can work something out where they can bring excitement to our place then we can build them a crowd. There is amazing talent in Cleveland. Great bands from the early days are still playing. They're just in different bands now but still want the opportunity to play. I am constantly promoting, shaking hands, talking with people and meeting bands. We're trying to bring something back to the music scene that seemed to be lost."

The islands are also a popular destination during Ohio Bike Week. "Wednesday, June 5 will be Kelleys Island Day. Ferry service over to the island is free for that day only," said Steve. "Last year we had over 600 bikers over to the island! We would like to give a big thank you to the Kelleys Island ferry service that assists with transporting the bikes over and we would like to thank all of the business owners on Kelleys Island for making the opportunity available. The businesses benefit from the ferry service and the ferry service wants to introduce people to the island. An interesting fact too is that over 700 people were surveyed last year and 76% of those people said they would return to the area within the same year."

On Thursday, June 7, there will be a special Cancer Ride with Jesse James Dupree. "This is a special ride," said Steve. "Jesse's uncle passed away from pancreatic cancer as did a dear friend of mine. We invite anyone who wants to ride and participate."

"Our annual bike parade will take place on Saturday, June 8 before the block party starts. Bikers will meet at Roeder Racing in Monroeville. Another attraction we will have this year is the "Wall of Death" where fans can watch professional stunt bikers. Last year, the attendance with all of the events totaled around 165,000 for Ohio Bike Week. We want to break that record this year and of course, we want great weather!"

For more detailed information about Ohio Bike Week: www.ohiobikeweek.com
For information on South East Gears & Cheers: www.segearsandcheers.com

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