

## **WHAT IS A POKER RUN?**

A poker run is an organized event where participants usually ride motorcycles, but carts, boats, and occasionally even horses, must visit five to seven checkpoints, drawing a single playing card at each one, and then travel to the next location, eventually building their complete poker "hand." The object is to have the best poker hand at the end of the run. Poker run organizers usually develop a unique or scenic route to each of the stops and the run normally takes 2-4 hours to complete. Many times the event has a time limit, however the participants are normally not timed — winning is purely a matter of chance.

Poker runs usually require a fee to enter; part of the fee goes to funding the event, including the prizes, while the rest goes to the event's charity recipient or club treasury. Prizes, such as money, plaques, or merchandise donated by commercial sponsors of the event, will be awarded for the best hand. Some runs will award smaller awards for lower hands or even the lowest hand.

Participants initially register at a specific location where they purchase one or more blank tally sheets used to record the cards they'll draw at each stop. The participants then take their tally sheet(s) to the first card stop where a volunteer has a container filled with a single deck of loose playing cards. Participants stir the cards and draw one card for each tally sheet they purchased. The volunteers observe the card(s) drawn by the participants, annotate the tally sheet(s) with the appropriate card information, and the participants proceed to the next card stop with their tally sheet. Each checkpoint might offer food or entertainment, covered either by the entry fee or at additional cost.

Each participant is responsible to maintain the integrity of his or her hand during the run. The only requirement is that riders arrive at the final checkpoint by the time prizes are awarded, usually near the end of the day, typically at a party with food and refreshments. It might be required that participants collect all of the requisite number of cards, five or seven, or they might be allowed to miss checkpoints and use a hand with fewer cards, though the odds of a winning hand are much lower.

After drawing their fifth card at the final stop, the participants give their tally sheets to other volunteers who will score the sheets and determine the winning hands. Prizes are normally given to the top three hands and also to the worst hand drawn by participants in the poker run.

That's all there is to it, so sign up, ride and have fun!