



Fortessa, Inc. 800.296.7508

CHEF-RIDERS RALLY FOR SHARE OUR STRENGTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sterling, VA – More than 85 leading culinary and foodservice professionals, revving their motorcycles for the Third Annual Chefs on Bikes rally, rolled through the streets of Washington, DC, and northern Virginia on June 20, riding for a day of collegial interest and entertainment, and to raise funds for the national campaign against childhood hunger.

Chef-riders from Washington's top restaurants and from establishments as far away as New York and North Carolina were given a police escort on this year's tour - a 125-mile trek, from the nation's capital to Lovettsville, VA, with a stop at the Patowmack organic farm, culminating at Blue Hill Farm with a giant BBQ cook-off, on the way toting up dollars for Share Our Strength. The participants – and a network of supporters, as well as their restaurant customers - contributed \$1.00 for every mile traveled to the SOS fund.

This year's event raised \$17,000.00 for the anti-hunger drive, nearly double last year's proceeds. A leader in the campaign since 1984, the SOS organization has raised more than \$190-million to help build the first hunger-free generation, according to Bill Shore, founder and executive director of Share Our Strength. "If we are to address the challenge of 13-million children who face hunger in America today, it will take innovative solutions – and creative efforts, such as Chefs on Bikes," Mr. Shore said.

Chefs on Bikes was co-founded by Jean-Philippe Krukowicz, a former chef who now heads Kruko, a Washington foodservice company; and Scott Hamberger, vice president, Fortessa, Inc., the tableware company, based in Sterling, VA.

"For chefs, it's an opportunity to take a break from the kitchen and enjoy a summer ride on their bikes with colleagues and, at the same time, contribute to a great cause," said Mr. Krukowicz, who rides a custom Honda Rune. Growing interest in the event is reflected in the number of participants, which has nearly doubled each year of the tour, Mr. Hamberger noted. "From a local gathering, the event is attracting riders from around the country," he said.

One of the new riders, Grant Sharpe, rode his motorcycle, with his wife aboard, from Grandy, North Carolina, the Southern Shores, Outer Banks, where he is chef at Meridian 42, to join the tour. The five-hour ride was "an escape from the commotion in the kitchen" and just a warm-up for the tour, Mr. Sharpe said.



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Chefs Jacques Sorci and Laurent Richard, from New York's Ritz-Carlton, at Battery Park, also joined the rally for a day in the Washington-Virginia sunshine. Both riders came bearing a donation of \$1000.00, each, for the SOS fund.

Fittingly, all of the participants had a chance to compare recipes during the gala party and cook-off that capped the ride; 10 qualified for the final BBQ contest. After a hotly-contested competition, Daniel Labonne, executive chef at Washington's Tabaq Bistro, took top honors for his Honey-Ginger-Orange Ribs, with Grilled Plantains.

Other winners were Jamie Stachowski, Restaurant Kolumbia; and Jeffrey Buben and R. J. Cooper, Vidali, for second and third place, respectively, selected by the contest judges – Ariane and Michael Batterberry, editors-publishers of FOOD ARTS, and Thomas Head, Washington food and restaurant critic. Emceeding the day's events, which included a poker tournament and bike contest, was Marc Silverstein, co-host of the Food Network's "The Best of..." program.

Equally coveted were those awards made in the bike competition. Top winner – for best over-all cycle – was Craig Hamilton, Fells Point Wholesale Meats, with his Harley Davidson Heritage Soft Tail. Award for best bike in the road category went to Mike Benson, Café Saint-EX, while Isaac Lewis, of Corner Bistro took honors in the cruiser category. Adding a fashion note to this year's tour, Ken Ambrose, SOS, was named "best-dressed biker."

Other sponsors of the 2006 event included: Garnier-Thiebaut, the French fine linens company; Louisiana Contract Furniture; Sitram and Staub, cookware manufacturers; and Nap, the French paper manufacturer.

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