

Sky Valley Motorcycle Show

May 19 marks 23rd anniversary of Motorcycle Show

By **ELAINE HAFT**
Contributing writer

The motorcycles will rumble on historic First Street in downtown Snohomish on Sunday, May 19 for the 23rd annual Motorcycle Show hosted by the Sky Valley chapter of ABATE.

The event's free to the public, and the money raised from bike entry fees support the Snohomish Food Bank and Senior Center, as well as the Delta Rehabilitation Center.

One highlight is that the motorcycle stunt team The Seattle Cossacks are returning again this year. They will perform at 1 p.m.

"That's a big deal," said Roger Hanson, deputy coordinator for Sky Valley ABATE, a motorcycle awareness and freedom group that stands for "A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments" with 23 chapters statewide.

The popular Snohomish County band Crooked Mile will be performing classic rock at the show. "They are

a really fun band to listen to, and we're glad to have them perform at the show this year," said Hanson.

Hanson estimates that about 10,000 people will come to Snohomish to watch the show, which is held every third Sunday of May.

"It's really something," he said.

There will be 22 categories for riders to enter, Hanson said, including antique/vintage (pre-1955), classic (1955-1975), custom trike, sport bike, radical custom, old school chopper, metric full dresser and many more. Judging starts at noon and the top-three trophies will be awarded around 3 p.m., he said.

People who want to enter a bike can register from 9 a.m. to noon at booths on either end of First Street. The cost is \$15 to enter a motorcycle. It costs \$150 for vendors to rent a 10-foot-by-10-foot space on a first-come basis.

Dean Ekloff, the retired pastor of Midnight Cry Church in Snohomish, has been a motorcycle rider for 60 of his 74 years and has

attended all the shows, he said.

A member of Christian Crusaders Ministries, Ekloff said he was a former "town drunk" who was changed through his Christian faith. He now tries to help people from similar backgrounds — and that includes motorcycle lovers.

In previous years, Ekloff walked the streets of Snohomish doing ministry while the motorcycle show was in progress. This year he will work in a booth near the Oxford Tavern as he did last year, helping leathersmith Teria Williams Huaracha sell her wares. Ekloff said he's still willing to pray with people who need it—even at the booth.

"I'm just not walking the streets as much. I'm in a central location," he said.

"All kinds of vendors" will be at the event, according to Hanson, including Emerald City Harley-Davidson, which will show off new motorcycles and leather goods.

The money raised goes back into the community.

One year, ABATE's



contribution allowed the Snohomish Community Food Bank to purchase 30,000 pounds of food in conjunction with a state assistance program, food bank director Elizabeth Grant said. These contributions are significant, she said.

"It's really very kind and very community-minded,"

Grant said.

Hanson and his wife Jan, the treasurer of Sky Valley ABATE, noted that many people, largely drawn from area motorcycle groups, volunteer to help with security, clean up and other services necessary to make the motorcycle show a success. "I would also like to thank O'Reilly Auto Parts for their sponsorship," said Hanson. "They have really helped us out for many years and pay for all of the trophies

awarded at the show."

Sharon Burlison, the Snohomish Senior Center's director, has attended several of the shows.

"The men in my family love motorcycles," she said. "It's just beautiful. I love what it brings to the town."

Show coordinator Rod Hobelman was hard-pressed to pinpoint his one favorite memory from past motorcycle shows.

"There have been so many great shows," he said.



**Cossacks
perform
at 1 p.m.
See you
at the
show!**

