



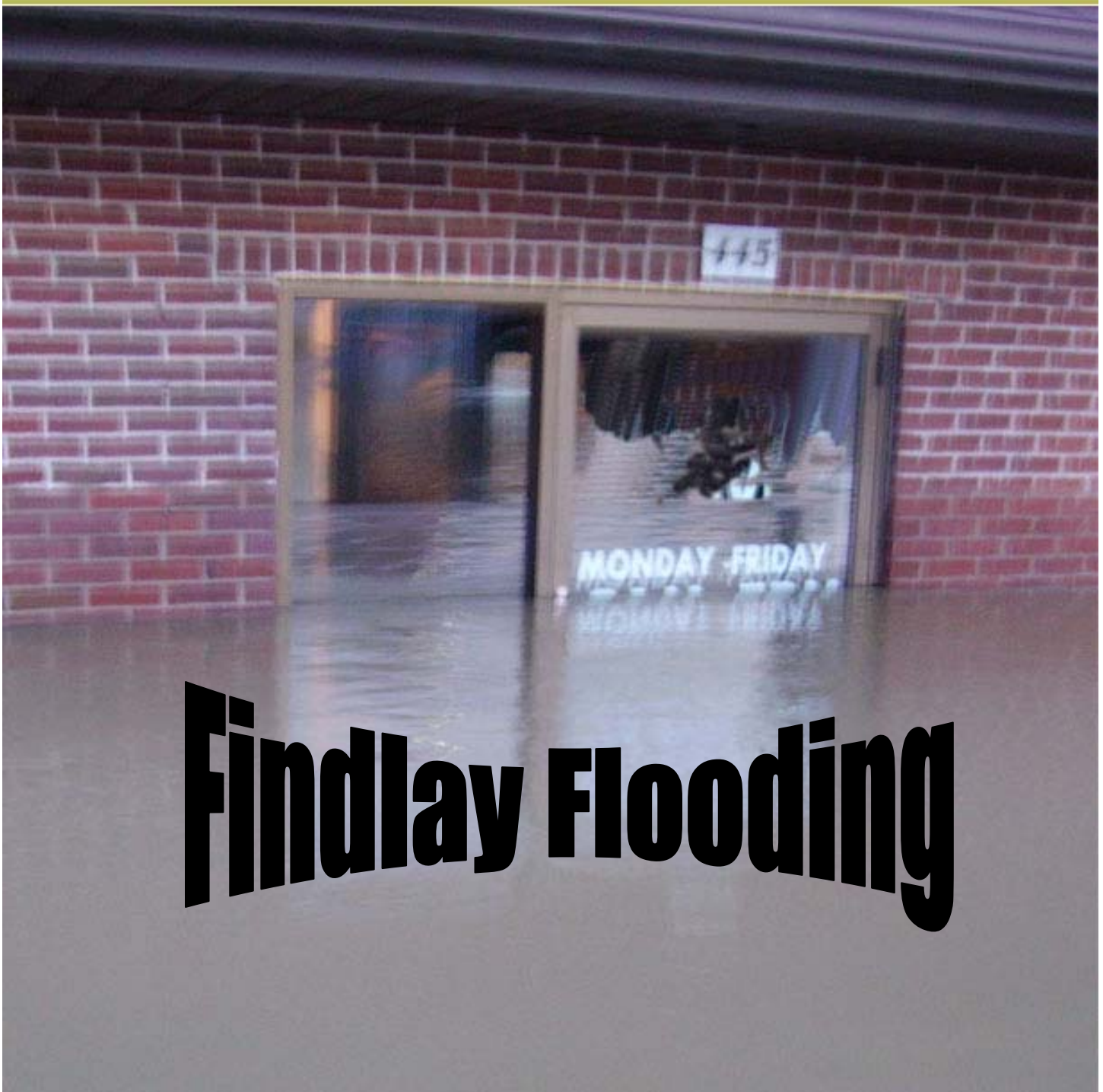
Discover 2007

United Steelworkers

August/September 2007

<http://www.uswlocal2071.org>

Volume 8, Issue 1



Findlay Flooding

Volume 8, Issue 1

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SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 A/C
2 A/C	3 B/D	4 B/D	5 A/C	6 A/C	7 B/D	8 B/D
9 B/D	10 A/C	11 A/C	12 B/D	13 B/D	14 A/C	15 A/C
16 A/C	17 B/D	18 B/D	19 A/C	20 A/C	21 B/D	22 B/D
23 B/D	24 A/C	25 A/C	26 B/D	27 B/D	28 A/C	29 A/C
30 A/C						

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Front left to right: Ron Coldren, financial secretary, Ron Rettig, vice president Rodney Nelson, president, Kevin Welch, recording secretary, Billy Nelson, treasurer, James Gutierrez, guard, Tim Thompson, guard. Back row, left to right: Jim Desgranges, trustee, Bob Brubaker, trustee, Tim Smith, executive board member, Clifton Baxter, executive board member, Rob Greer, guide, Bob Brumbaugh, executive board member and Terri Thompson, trustee.

Labor Day

Labor Day is more than just a Monday holiday marking the end of summer.

At least it should be. For many of us in the union movement, it's a time to hold Labor Day picnics and rallies and often, as this election year, move full-speed ahead in political action on the way to the November elections. It's also a time to reflect on the sacrifices of those U.S. workers who came before us—especially those who lost their lives in the fight for justice at the workplace.

While the radical origins of May Day are not contested, as labor historian David Montgomery **notes**:

Labor Day is more a complicated affair.

Only the United States celebrates Labor Day in September. Elsewhere around the globe, nations honor workers on May 1—May Day.

And that historical quirk is no accident.

Ironically, “May Day” was founded by U.S. workers—and taken away from them as a day to celebrate by a federal government fearful of the wave of large demonstrations for the eight-hour day and massive strikes for justice on the railroads, in the mines and factories that had begun in **1877**.

Such an action may seem quaint now. But the symbolism of May Day—working people challenging corporate power—still causes fear among the top elite.

Just ask George W. Bush and the Republican extremists in Congress.

In 2003, Bush proclaimed May 1 as “**Loyalty Day**” when U.S. citizens should

express allegiance to our nation and its founding ideals, we resolve to ensure that the blessings of liberty endure and extend for generations to come.

That same year, Congress, designated May 1 of each year as “Loyalty Day.”

Proclaimed Bush:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President

of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2003, as Loyalty Day. I call upon all the people of the United States to join in support of this national observance. I also call upon government officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on Loyalty Day.

And while hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers and their supporters took to the streets for justice May 1, 2006—as did their symbolic forbearers in the 18th century—Bush again proclaimed May 1 **Loyalty Day**.

Just when you think historical events are just that—they come back stronger than ever.



May Day was officially founded in 1886, during a Chicago strike for the eight-hour workday. In 1889, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) delegate to the International Labor Congress in Paris proposed May 1 as international Labor Day. Workers were to march for an eight-hour day, democracy and the right of workers to organize. Delegates approved the request and chose May 1, 1890, as a day of demonstrations in favor of the eight-hour day.

On a separate track, U.S. labor leaders had agitated for creation of a **labor holiday** years before the Chicago rally. Among them, Peter J. McGuire, a carpenter and labor union leader, had proposed his idea for a holiday honoring America's workers at a New York labor meeting in early 1882. (Others say the “founder” of Labor Day was Matthew Maguire, a machinist who served as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York.)

Either way, New York's Central Labor Union began planning labor day events for the second Tuesday in September. McGuire (one of them) had suggested a September date to provide a break during the long stretch between Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

Today, the union movement marks Sept. 5, 1882, as the first Labor Day, when 20,000 working people marched in New York City to demand an eight-hour workday and

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(Continued from page 3) (Labor Day)

other labor law reforms. In the parade up Broadway, they carried banners reading, "Labor Creates All Wealth." About a quarter million New Yorkers turned out to watch.

In 1887, Oregon became the first state to establish Labor Day as a holiday, which it put on the first Saturday in June. Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York observed Labor Day on the first Monday in September that year.

The remainder of that decade and the early 1890s saw massive strikes, often put down with brutal violence by government troops. In the 1894 Pullman strike, led by the American Railway Union leader Eugene Debs, workers demanded lower rents (Pullman was a company town) and higher pay after massive wage cuts and layoffs. Railroad workers across the nation boycotted trains carrying Pullman cars. President Grover Cleveland declared the strike a federal crime and deployed 12,000 troops to break the strike. Two men were killed when U.S. deputy marshals fired on protesters in Kensington, Ill., and the strike was crushed.

But 1894 was an election year. As workers protested Cleveland's harsh methods, legislation was rushed unanimously through both houses of Congress to create a holiday for workers. Yet the symbolism of May Day was

too strong for U.S. politicians. In creating an annual Labor Day holiday in September, Congress at the same time declared May 1 to be "Law Day"—paving the way for the Bush administration's Loyalty Day.

Cleveland signed the bill creating Labor Day six days after his troops had broken the Pullman strike.



Writing of this year's May Day protests by immigrant workers, historian **Nelson Lichtenstein** says: these May Day demonstrations and boycotts return the American protest tradition to its turn-of-the-20th-century ethnic proletarian origins—a time when, in the United States as well as in much of Europe, the quest for citizenship and equal rights was inherent in the fight for higher wages, stronger unions, and more political power for the working

class.

Meanwhile, **Montgomery** points out that the day created in September to honor America's workers was established precisely because of workers' demands.

First state governments and then the federal government adopted the day in response to workers' demands. The government did not create the holiday.

Some call May Day the real Labor Day. But workers in this nation shed their blood for a day of honor. And no matter what the date, they deserve our memory.

snopes.com

Did you ever get an e-mail with a strange story and you weren't quite sure if it was true or false? Every now and then we all seem to get one.

Some story about sending e-mails to our best friends and then Mr. Gates will send us a boat load of money. How about a virus that is incurable? The e-mail may say you must share it with a friend, because it is the last time you will be able to (guilt trip). What about a message that states a certain product has a harmful chemical in it and you need to stop using it?

Not every e-mail you get is true and not every e-mail you get is false. So, how do you know which is which? Well, here's a start.

Go to <http://www.snopes.com>. Here you will find a host of information about these strange stories you receive in your e-mail. You may not find all the answers, but this is a good place to start. You will find enough information to keep you busy for awhile. The next time you get one of those e-mails that is just a bit to hard to believe, try looking it up at snopes.com.

Dear Friends,

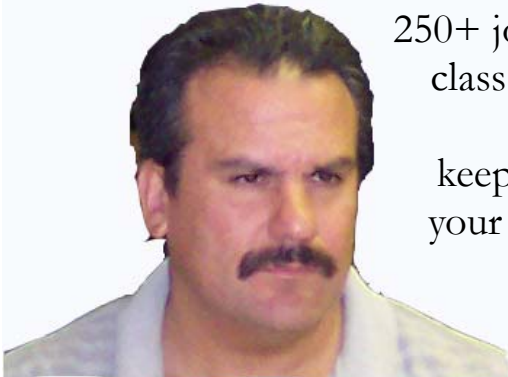
I understand the frustration our union stewards are going through with the problems with the LMAT and finishing department's automation. Being a steward is a thankless job. I realize the success of my leadership is dependent on the relations I have with them. I took pride working with my stewards in the departments I was assigned to work in when I was on the Executive Board. I listened, gave advice and received advice from my stewards. That kept me out of trouble. If it was not for the working relationship I had with the stewards in my areas, I would not have been elected as President of this local.

I want to thank the stewards on the floor. I am not able to get on the floor as much as I would like because of the duties I have as your Local President. You are not being taken for granted and are not a formality that is part of this process. You are that first and most important part of our grievance procedure.

I have not had a chance to schedule a steward's school because of the vacation season, training of new employees, the

250+ job transfers and being short handed lately. I will have a class as soon as possible.

I'm asking the stewards to keep up the good work and keep management contractually accountable. Thanks for all your help.



Rodney

AFL-CIO

At its annual Labor Day briefing, set for Wednesday, August 29th, the AFL-CIO will announce a historic new drive that puts the full force of 13 million AFL-CIO members and retirees behind winning secure, high quality health care for all by 2009. On the same day, working people across the country will unveil what the campaign will look like at the local level and why health care reform is so crucial in every community in America.

"The out-of-control cost of health care is crippling American families and American businesses," Sweeney said. "Our campaign is based on the simple premise that no one in America should go without health care, and we're going to make sure candidates and elected leaders understand that we'll accept nothing less."

In addition to launching this major campaign, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney will talk about the state of America for working people this Labor Day, including the need for fair trade, good jobs and the freedom to form unions and bargain for a better life. Together, these issues will form the economic framework for the AFL-CIO's "Working Families Vote 2008" election agenda.

Jim Coleman
USPA Secretary Treasurer
USW Communications Department

Sierra Club, United Steelworkers Announce 'Blue-Green Alliance'

Washington, DC—The United Steelworkers (USW), North America's largest private sector manufacturing union with 850,000 members, and the [Sierra Club](#), the nation's largest grassroots environmental organization with 750,000 members, announced the formation of a strategic alliance to pursue a joint public policy agenda under the banner of Good Jobs, A Clean Environment, and A Safer World.

"The Blue/Green Alliance is one of the most important initiatives undertaken by the environmental movement in decades," said [Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club](#). "We have reached a point in the development of a global economy where we can either use our planet's resources for long-term sustainability or to create an ever more dangerous polarization of wealth and poverty. Our new alliance allows us to address the great challenge of the global economy in the 21st century--how to provide good jobs, a clean environment and a safer world."

"Good jobs and a clean environment are important to American workers--we cannot have one without the other, said [Leo W. Gerard, International President of USW](#). "In fact, secure 21st century jobs are those that will help solve the problem of global warming with energy efficiency and renewable energy."

A joint resolution establishing the Blue/Green Alliance was signed by Pope and Gerard, declaring that, "This alliance will focus its resources on those issues which have the greatest potential to unite the American people in pursuit of a global economy that is more just and equitable and founded on principles of environmental and economic sustainability."

Gerard and Pope also announced their intention to launch a "New Vision for America" tour designed to highlight the economic benefits of dealing with global warming. The tour will feature events in several cities across the country whose mayors have embraced the Cli-

mate Protection Agreement, a movement of more than 200 U.S. mayors who have vowed to take action in support of the Kyoto Treaty on global warming.

Mayor R.T. Rybak of Minneapolis, one of the signers of the Climate Protection Agreement, said, "This alliance between the Steelworkers and the Sierra Club is exactly what America needs to help promote positive choices. We can have stable jobs based on sound environmental principles. I look forward to welcoming the 'New Vision' tour to Minneapolis."

The USW and the Sierra Club have worked jointly on issues of mutual concern for many years, including the Clean Air Act, trade reform, and corporate responsibility. Currently, the two organizations have joint projects in fifteen states. The new Alliance will build on these existing programs and focus initially on



Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club signing agreement with USW International President Leo W. Gerard

three key issues—global warming and clean energy, fair trade, and reducing toxics. The work will begin in four states—Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Ohio, and Washington with plans to expand into at least 10 more states in the next two years.

The Alliance will be headquartered in Minneapolis, MN in the USW District #11 office. The first Executive Director of the Alliance will be David Foster, former District #11 Director of the USW. The Alliance's Blue/Green organizers will be housed in USW offices around the country.

The USW also released its new Environmental Policy Statement in conjunction with the Alliance announcement. Carl Pope called the statement, "the most important environmental statement to be issued by any trade union in North America—and indeed would make most environmental groups proud. American public policy debate is deeply polarized and paralyzed today. By reaching across the divides of class and geography, the Sierra Club and Steelworkers are showing that there is another way."

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What Your Union Is Doing For You?

During our membership meetings, written agreements by Local207L and Cooper Tire are read to the membership. These are some of the agreements read during the August membership meeting.

The company has agreed to the following pay adjustments on blue-lined time cards:

Clock#	Amount
13318	\$325.96
13753	\$119.02
13874	\$303.58
13407	\$45.32
13866	\$40.53
68523	\$28.60
68623	\$26.91
13857	\$155.23
67700	\$25.04
13943	\$22.51
13857	\$28.86

The company has agreed to adjust holiday pay for the following employees.

Clock Numbers: 13902, 13868, 13519 and 13302.

The following employee was reinstated. Clock number 13534

There are a lot of blue-line time cards being reviewed by the company and Local207L regarding the LMAT and also we have several grievances being looked at.

Workers Compensation

When or if you receive a request by the company's representatives for a medical release, DO NOT sign it. We have a BWC form that you can sign at the Union Hall that will allow them access to your records that are pertinent and timely to your case. The majority of the company's releases are a blanket release that will allow them to look at records that are NOT relevant to the case at hand.

If you have any questions regarding your claim please feel free to contact Mike Lee or Dave Sharninghouse at the Union Hall on each and every Wednesday.

Rapid Response

Anti-Sweatshop Legislation Based on Dog and Cat Act

The Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act (S. 367 & H.R. 1992) would operate in a similar manner to a piece of legislation signed into law in November 2000.

The Dog and Cat Protection Act prohibits the "importing, exporting, manufacturing, selling, advertising, transporting, or distributing" of any dog or cat fur product. This legislation got its spark from reports of widespread abuse and slaughter of dogs and cats in China to make the fur collars on jackets sold in the U.S. The legislation passed unanimously. The Senate passed the measure by unanimous consent (without a recorded vote).

The following are some key provisions of the Dog and Cat Protection Act:

- Those who violate the Act face a fine up to \$10,000 for each item containing dog or cat fur.
- Repeat violators are banned from bringing any fur product into the United States.
- A "watch list" is published in the Federal Register annually of those businesses and individuals who are known to trade in dog and cat fur.

A monetary reward is offered for information that leads to the prosecution of any business or individual violating the Act.

Now that Congress has acted to save dogs and cats in China, will they do the same to protect human beings?

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(Continued from page 6) (Blue/Green Alliance)

The document provides North American workers with a strategic vision on how to fight for both job security and an improved quality of life. North American workers know that the global economy is not being managed in their interest.

Leo Gerard concluded, "We believe that the complex problems of a global society are interrelated and that a coalition such as ours can focus the country's attention on the positive solutions—whether global warming or outsourcing, public health or public safety, or workers' rights and environmental standards."

Rapid Response is now calling on Congress to offer the same protection to children and other abused workers across the globe that they have afforded dogs and cats.

A number of legislators have joined the fight. We have joined together to fight for passage of the "Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act," also known as "The Anti-Sweatshop Bill." We began fighting for this bill late last year and by the end of the last Congress, there were 61 Sponsors or cosponsors in the House and six in the Senate thanks to the work of Rapid Response Teams across the country. The bill has now been introduced once again in the new 110th Congress (HR 1992 and S 367), and we are continuing the battle.

The Anti-Sweatshop Bill:

1. Bans goods made by children from entering our country
2. Bans sweatshop goods from entering our country
3. Creates an incentive for businesses abroad to clean up their act
4. Is based off established law: Dog and Cat Protection Act of 2000
5. Allows shareholders and competitors to file suit in federal court for enforcement

"When it comes to sweatshops, you have to choose sides. Do you choose the side of the corporate special interests that profit from exploiting cheap labor? Or do you fight for decent-paying jobs for Ohioans and working people everywhere?"

- Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) in a press release on the introduction of the Anti-Sweatshop Bill

"This groundbreaking legislation has the power to incorporate the values of dignity and respect for human rights in our trade relationships. For far too long, our trade agreements have focused on corporate protections while ignoring the lives of human beings within our global economy. We can do better - and we must."

- Leo W. Gerard, USW International President in a letter to Members of Congress on the Anti-Sweatshop Bill

Hearing Test

In the month of September, the hearing test van will be parked outside of the guard shack. A small investment of your time now could prevent a great loss of your hearing later. The test is free and available to all Cooper employees.

Scholarship Checks

Winners of the scholarships need to come into Local207L union hall to get their checks. The checks will be made out to your College or University of choice.

Software

Every now and then I come across a program I really like. The best part is the cost, it's zero. Go to this address and down load [Free Hide Folder 1.6:](http://www.cleansoft.com/hidefolder/free_hide_folder.htm)

http://www.cleansoft.com/hidefolder/free_hide_folder.htm

This program is a computer security software that hides any folders you want to hide. It is every easy to use. If more then one person is using the same computer, this is the software to have. You can hide all of your personal files and keep others from deleting them or changing them.

Warning

Before you start using programs you are not sure of, you should back up you hard drive. Get yourself an external hard drive first. Most external hard drives come with software capable of backing up your hard drive. Do a complete back up then you can experiment with strange software. This way if something goes wrong (and it will) you can always reformat and start over.

**Next Union Meeting
Sept. 18th & 19th**

Findlay Flooding

Here are pictures sent to me from our union members.



Flood Victims

LOCAL207L has two boxes at the guard shack entrance. These boxes are for us to donate to the Flood Victims. One box is for tangible goods and the other box is for money.



September 8, 2007



**Annual
R & B Poker Run**

All Rods and Bikes Welcome

**Sponsored by USW Local207L
1130 Summit Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840**

**Sign up at Local207L Union Hall
At 11:00 AM**

**\$10 Single and \$15 Couple
Stops:**



- **Bullwinkle's—Dola**
- **ADA VFW—ADA**
- **Bluffton Drive Thru**
- **Billy Jack—Benton Ridge**



Finish - Daves Hideaway - 4:30 PM

Events

First R & B out 11:30 AM Local207 Union Hall

Last R & B in 4:30 PM Daves Hideaway

50/50

Door Prizes

Plaques for winning Poker hands

Plaques for peoples choice Rod \$ Bike

Food & Beverages



All proceeds go to the United Way