



Barbecue with the Best

Sponsors, vendors, cooks applications now available; Annual Rotary Boots & BBQ Festival, May 11-12:

Backyard barbecue aficionados and smoking pros alike will be congregating at the Will Rogers Downs east of Claremore on May 11 and 12 (Friday and Saturday) to cook some of the best barbecue to be found in Oklahoma during the 11th Annual Claremore Reveille Rotary Club's Boots & BBQ Festival event.

"This event is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society, and trained certified judges will be determining the winners in each category," Rotarian Richard Mosier, event co-chair, explained, "and some of our past winners have gone on to win other national cook-offs. But not all winners have been professionals."

"You could say, this is no amateur performance, but it is open to amateurs," Mosier said. However, if your secret barbecue recipe has earned raves from family and friends, don't let that stop you from entering the competition, which offers \$12,000 in cash prizes to the winners. It's one of the largest KCBS cash purses in Oklahoma. You can learn more about KCBS rules and regulations at www.kcbs.us/about.php.

Because of the growing reputation of Claremore's event, more judges than ever before have applied to judge the barbecue samples, according to Mosier. Approximately 45 teams vied for the trophy and cash prizes last year. "Many return as competitors year after year," he added, "because we are consistent. They like us and we like them." Categories include beef brisket, pork ribs, pork butt, chicken and dessert. Although entrants are expected to provide their own meat for these categories, those who enter the People's Choice category will have meat provided. Each team may also enter more than one category with one \$200 entry fee. The fee includes a space and water, septic and electric amenities.

Making the Festival a family event is the sponsors and vendors who add to the outdoors atmosphere that invites the entire family to come out for a day of fun, food and fellowship. On Friday, the main activities will be arrival of the entrants, vendors and entertainment. Saturday morning at 10 a.m. the festival opens with vendor and entertainment activities, pony rides, inflatables, arts and crafts booths, and live entertainment. Will Rogers Downs Cherokee Casino is the presenting sponsor and provides access to a variety of entertainment options including live racing. Other major sponsors Jack Kissee Ford, HydroHoist and RCB Bank.

Barbecue entrants, sponsorships and vendors are now being accepted. Six sponsorship levels are available, ranging from \$250 and upwards. Vendor booth spaces for businesses and non-profits are open, subject to approval.

Vendor applications are being screened to avoid duplication of products and services, giving those who participate the maximum exposure and return on their investment. Business vendors pay \$150, while non-profits, who must also have committee approval, will be charged \$40 for their space. This event is not just about the barbecue, it is also an opportunity for area nonprofits, election candidates and groups to get their message out to the greater Rogers County community.

Proceeds from the Boots & BBQ event benefit Claremore Reveille Rotary's projects, which include personalized dictionaries for Rogers County third graders, building an elementary school in Kenya, water wells in Nicaragua, shoes for Orphan Souls, the Medical Supply Network, End Polio Now, RYLA Student Sponsors, scholarships for area students, Will Rogers Day Parade and leadership training.

"This is our biggest fundraiser," says Mosier. "The public participates by purchasing a taster's kit for \$6 and sampling all of the entries. They can then cast a ballot for the best barbecue, which will receive the People's Choice award."

For more information, go to the club's website at www.claremorereveille.com and download a brochure with an entry form or sponsorship application.



A recognized Kansas City Barbecue Society champion, Little Pig Town, was the 2011 Reville Rotary Boots & BBQ Festival Champion. Scot Kee, his wife Rocky, and daughter Bailey, receiving last year's trophy in the Will Rogers Downs Winners' Circle. Joining the Little Pig Town team were event organizers: Reville Rotarians John Walke, Club President Roger Fleming, both left, along with Cherokee Nation Enterprises General Manager Tony Cavallo.