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## Elks heat up the road for good cause

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The Middletown Elks Lodge No. 2179 in Belford "rode for the kids" on Sunday, Aug. 3.

Over 500 motorcycles and countless hands of poker later, the organization raised more than \$25,000 for the Elks Special Children Committee (SCC).

The SCC is a group that provides many services to handicapped children in Middletown and surrounding areas. This was the sixth year the Elks hosted a poker run to raise money for the group.



(multiple images), Click to Zoom

Elks members and bikers from the Middletown lodge, Old Bridge Lodge No. 2229, Freehold Lodge No. 1454 and Long Branch Lodge No. 742 spent the day riding through Monmouth County.

Beginning at the Middletown Lodge, on Church Street, the procession of motorcycles made its way through Matawan and Aberdeen before its first stop at the Old Bridge Lodge.

Riders took turns drawing their luck with the cards and building a poker hand at each stop.

At the end of the run, the best poker hand was tallied and a winner awarded.

Taking routes 9 and 18, bikers then visited the Freehold lodge before stopping in Long



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The homestretch took the group on a path through Rumson, entering Middletown via the Oceanic Bridge over the Navesink River.

Back at the Middletown Lodge, bikers relaxed to the sounds of Black Pie Funk and Ris'n Tide, two local bands.

It was during the bike rally when over 1,000 people stopped by to enjoy the gorgeous day and the hundreds of bikes on display, including Middletown Deputy Mayor Pamela Brightbill.

The Elks also sold raffle tickets for a 2008 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, which was auctioned off on Sunday. Its winner was Anthony DiCostanzo.

To learn more about the Middletown Elks, visit their Web site at: [www.middletownelks2179.org](http://www.middletownelks2179.org).

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— Melissa L. Gaffney

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