



# Mid America MS Achievement Center News

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## WHAT IS A POKER RUN?

By Dr. Sharon Lynch, Medical Director

I asked this question as I was riding down the road in a Trike (a three wheeled motor-bike) on my way to Knob Noster State Park in the name of the MS Achievement Center. I had been told earlier by Erline and George Hardy that they wanted to have a fund-raiser for the MSAC by scheduling a run on trikes. Apparently, their club, the Mo-Kan Trike club, believes in using their hobby for charity as well as fun. This fund-raiser was known as a poker run. I arrived at the Paddy O'Quigley's at noon on Saturday. Erline and George fitted me with a helmet and greeted me and everyone else with doughnuts and other sweets. Before I knew it, I was riding down the highway at 70 miles an hour behind George on his trike.

I had never seen one of these before. It looked like an overgrown motorcycle with 3 wheels. It had an extra passenger's seat, and was fairly comfortable. In fact, it felt much like riding a motorcycle, but seemed a little more stable. It was a lovely ride. I haven't been on any kind of motorbike in years, and the wind on my face and the feeling of riding without any real encumbrance was exhilarating. After an hour or so, we made it to Knob Noster without any major mishaps.

The MS Achievement Center's mission is to enhance and heighten the body, mind and spirit of people with progressive Multiple Sclerosis (MS), empowering them to take charge of their own lives, and live to their fullest potential. The Center accomplishes this by helping those with MS improve and retain functional ability through a program consisting of rehabilitation, social activities, support groups, and education.

On the way back, I was thinking this might be a nice simple ride, when suddenly George and I discovered that the rest of the caravan was no longer with us. After some search, we went back a few miles to discover that one of the members of the party had broken a brake line. She was understandably nervous about driving down the highway without brakes, and decided she had better stop. What should we do now?

One of the members went ahead, back to his home, and got his van to take the ailing trike home. The rest of us continued our drive, including the ailing trike, until we came back to Lee's Summit, when we felt that sudden stops would not be possible and the gearing down would not be enough to be safe. Eventually, we all got back to Paddy O'Quigleys, where I asked again, "So why do you call this a Poker Run?"

Erline explained to me that now we were going to play a "High Card - Low Card" form of poker to win tickets that would be drawn for prizes. That is why it is called a poker run. After playing this game, we drew for prizes, some people went upstairs to eat, and we declared it a good day.

The fund-raising aspect of this is that each person who comes to the "Poker Run," pays a fee to come on the ride. In addition, a donation area is arranged, and the fees and the donations all go to the designated charity; In our case, the MSAC.

I really appreciate the efforts of Erline and George Hardy and all of the other members of the MoKan Trike club in helping the MSAC with this fund-raiser. I also had a fun day.