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## Family planning poker run for the troops

By *DAVE CLARKE*

Of The Star Courier

KEWANEE -- If you see a motorcycle followed by a Model A, followed by an Army "Deuce-and-a-Half" 2 1/2-ton truck going down the road Sunday don't be surprised. The "Sunday drivers" may be in different vehicles, but they will all be taking part in a poker run to raise funds to benefit the troops of Battery F, Illinois National Guard, now serving in Iraq.

The event is being coordinated by the family of Sgt. Randy VanDeGenachte of Kewanee, one of the members of Headquarters Battery, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, which joined the Galva unit, along with a number of guardsmen from the Dixon battery.

The poker run will have two starting points -- Mary's Family Dining and Lounge on Route 34 at the east edge of Galva where sign-in will be from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or Plum Hollow, at 1933 Illinois Route 26 in Dixon where sign-in will be from noon to 2 p.m.

The last vehicle must be in by 7:30 p.m. at Cerno's Bar & Grille in Kewanee where the run will end.

The route will cover the primary area where most of the members of Battery F are from with those starting at the southern end going from Galva to Walnut, then on to Dixon, Erie and Geneseo, ending in Kewanee. The total ride is approximately 180 miles.

Organizers Cindy VanDeGenachte and Janette Senteney, Sgt. VanDeGenachte's mother and sister, both of Kewanee, want everyone to know that in addition to motorcycles -- the usual mode of transportation on a poker run -- participants may make the trip in any vehicle of their choice.

Members of the Kewanee Headquarters Battery plan to make the run in an olive drab "Deuce-and-a-Half," or 2 1/2-ton, Army truck. Don Tomsic of Kewanee plans to cruise the route in his 1929 Model A Ford.

Pickup trucks, semis, classic cars or any other road-legal vehicle are welcome.

A \$10 per person donation is requested to take part in the poker run with proceeds going to provide care packages for members of Battery F, and assistance for their families here

at home.

Blue "Foxtrot" Battery t-shirts with the red, white and blue unit insignia on the front and a drawing of soldiers on patrol on the back also are available in advance for \$10 by calling Cindy VanDeGenachte at (309) 852-3914, or Janette Senteney at (309) 854-9304. The back of the shirts reads "Three Units: Galva, Kewanee, Dixon. One Mission: Protecting Our Freedom."

Yellow magnetic ribbons also are available for vehicles at \$5 each, also at the numbers listed above.

Proceeds from sales also go to support troops from the Galva unit stationed in Iraq and their families.

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