



FOUNDATION FOR RURAL
EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

2003 Summer FRED Event

Oktoberfest Celebration

Traverse City, Michigan

Tuesday, July 22 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Hosted By:



The attendees of the 2003 OPASTCO Summer Convention and Tradeshow discovered that July is the perfect time of year to attend an Oktoberfest celebration. Close to 450 guests attended FRED's Oktoberfest Celebration in Traverse City, Michigan on Tuesday, July 22. The event was made possible thanks to many great sponsors, especially Communications Data Group, the Grand Sponsor of the event.

As guests entered the festively decorated room, they were greeted by the sounds of a live polka band and complimentary Alpine hats, complete with feathers for everyone!

Guests donned their Alpine hats and headed for the buffet, which included grilled brats and knockwurst, Bavarian pretzels, a delicious display of desserts and other traditional German fare.

A flurry of activities kept guests busy all night long. Highlights include six-year-old Jessica Garner of Bay Springs Telephone Company winning the cherry pie-eating contest. , Gracie and Alvin Fuhrman of Nortex Communications winning the Best German Outfit and a packed dance floor of OPASTCO members flapping their arms to the "Chicken Dance."

The must-see of the evening for everyone was the BMI Mouse Car. Undaunted by a three-hour inspection at the border, our friends at BMTS/BMI towed the fully functional 4-cylinder Mouse Car from Tiverton, Ontario to the lobby of the Grand Traverse Resort hotel. Almost everyone from the youngest child to the OPASTCO chairman, Herb Bivens and his wife, Becky, sat in the car to have their picture taken. Many thanks to Hans Nilsson, OPASTCO Board Member, for providing such an enjoyable photo opportunity.

A special thanks goes out to all of the FRED sponsors listed below. Proceeds raised from this event will support FRED programs which provide more than \$200,000 grants and scholarships each year to OPASTCO members.



Grand Sponsor

Communications Data Group

Centerpieces

RTFC

Program and Pretzel Stand

CoBank

Children's Cherry Jubilee

Sierra Telephone

German Band

Badger Communications
Pigeon Telephone

Desserts

Madison Group
Power and Telephone Supply Company

Alpine Hats

WTC Communications
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Decor and Stage Production

Bennet & Bennet, PLLC

BMI Mouse Car

Bruce Municipal Telephone System