

# Flatlander festival features food and fun

By Kathryn Burke

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A warm, sunny day made the perfect backdrop for motorcycles, cars, games, food, fun and even dogs at the Flatlander Fall Festival on Saturday.

Main Street was packed as the crowd weaved in and out of booths offering everything to offer from face painting to a giant jumping balloon.

Stands offered hamburgers, hot dogs, nachos, bierocks and beer, soda, snow cones and water to wash it down.

The motorcycles were out early set up in rows along the north end of Main. From traditional styles to more unusual models, the 195 bikes in the Northwest Kansas Bike Show had something to offer everyone.

The show offered a dinner and dance at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall. Sunday, the group reunited for a breakfast and worship service, followed by a poker run.

Cars shone as pink, turquoise, yellow,

white and metallic paint jobs caught the sunlight on Main in front of Central Elementary.

The Early Iron Car Club rod run featured cars from every category: 1949 and older, 1950 to 1964, 1965 to 1975, 1976 to 1989, and 1990 to present, a total of 170 entries.

Participants joined in games and took home door prizes. The club had a dinner at Central, followed by an evening cruise.

On the south end of Main, the Antique Warehouse had its fourth annual flea market and garage sale. The parking lot of the Cowboy Loop featured garage sales, too.

Visitors stopped to check out a Jeep demonstration and U.S. Army fire truck on display.

Jeff Soper, owner of the old Edson School gym, set up shop, giving people a taste of his wares.

As the sun came overhead, the 12th annual Scruffy Dog contest started.

From small, curly-haired pooches to big

bushy dogs, the judges had some tough choices to make. Thirty-seven entries took the stage.

The contest started with dogs circling the crowd and stopping to do tricks in front of the judges' table.

Some of the more curious canines stopped to get a friendly pat from or sniff members of the audience.

The coveted "scruffiest" title went to Boo, a miniature pincher and pekapo — a pekingese and poodle mix — owned by Shelby Morales.

The smallest title went to Valarie Schlossar's dog Harley, a yorkie, and largest went to Danny Peck's black Labrador Bailey. Aspen, a basenji-corgi mix, was named as the most talented.

Frankie, a poodle owned Amy Reicks and Tellanie Landon who was a shelter dog from Denver, won for the best personality. Mugsy, a pekingese shelter dog shown by Lindsey Baumer, took the prize for the

"face only a mother could love."

The cutest titles went to Elija Bohl's schnauzers Sassy and Libby for a dog over 1 year old and Blaine Sapp's chihuahua-Boston terrier mix Whezer.

The Judges Choice prize went to Pepsi, a German shorthair, and Sierra Mist, a vizsla, owned by Terri Anderson. Pepsi was crowned North American Gun Dog Champion last year.

The dog show was put on by the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter and KLOE, KKCI and KWGB radio.

Later, visitors tapped their toes to live entertainment set up on a stage at 11th Street.

The weekend featured stock car races on Friday and Saturday nights. The stands filled with eager fans as the sound from the racing engines filled the town.

The Howard Johnson Hotel had a burn out pit Friday night, where motorcycles and cars try to make as much noise and smoke

as possible. A beer-bobbing contest was held at the hotel Friday and a dance was set up on both nights.

After dark, the wall at 10th Street and Main was used as a screen for the Carnegie Arts Center's outdoor movie, "American Graffiti." Visitors stopped in the center to check out the Flatlander Photo Contest and vote on favorites.

A Punt, Pass and Kick contest for kids 8 to 15 was held at Cowboy Stadium at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Kelby Smith won the 7 and under competition, Austin Rains won for age 8 and 9, Derek Matthews 10 and 11, Riley O'Harah 12 and 13, and Rory Kling 14 and 15. Everyone except for Smith, the 7 and under winner, will go on to a sectional competition in Scott City on Saturday, Oct. 8.

The festival went until 5 p.m., when the street booths were shut down, but the fun wasn't over. Onlookers set up chairs on Main to watch cruising cars and bikes well into the night.



Clockwise from above, visitors filled Main from Eighth to 17th to celebrate the Flatlander Fall Festival on Saturday. Cars like this 1934 Ford from Centennial, Colo., were on display in front of Central Elementary. Carlee Cooper (left) was not enjoying her side of a pillow joust, as brother Colton swung his pillow and knocked her off the beam. The street was filled with motorcycles lined up in rows. A participant in the biker games rolled a barrel in front of her scooter for a distance of about 30 feet, a new game this year.

Photos by Tom Betz and Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

