



BBQ expert to teach at Smokin' in Mesquite event

9:00 PM, Aug. 11, 2011 |

MESQUITE - Kelly Wertz of Grand Bend, Ka., who has been teaching the art of barbecue for the past seven years, is bringing his class to the CasaBlanca Resort on Sept. 2 as part of the third annual Smokin' in Mesquite BBQ Championship.

The class, scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., will cover every aspect of the BBQ trade from the selection of the utensils to cooking procedures.

"We will cover chicken, ribs, pork and brisket," said Wertz, a 49 year-old who now operates an award-winning restaurant called 4 Legs Up BBQ and Steakhouse with his wife, Roni, in Great Bend, Ka. "It will be kind of a contest class on how to prepare for competition. We will gear it to everything from beginners to intermediate cooks.

"Even the backyard BBQ people who want to improve their work will enjoy it."

Wertz said he has never been to Mesquite, but he's looking forward to the trip. He said BBQ competition is a lot like auto racing in that while the prize money in most events may not be big - the purse for the Mesquite event is \$40,000, one of the largest on the BBQ circuit - the friendships are always memorable.

"For \$150, you will get more tips, techniques and ideas and different ways of looking at things," he said. "The money is cheap for what people will learn."

What started out as a hobby for Wertz grew into big-time competition and the restaurant is so respected that it has become a popular BBQ stop for lunch and dinner; with award-winning prime rib on Fridays.

Since 2007, 4 Legs Up has finished in the top 15 out of more than 4,500 teams in the Kansas City BBQ Society Team of the Year points. The team is also the only team to have won the Frisco, Colo., and Dillon, Colo. contests in the same year.

Now in its third year, the Smokin' in Mesquite BBQ competition, sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society, offers a bonus to the top finishers from the Best Damn BBQ on Memorial Day weekend in Boulder City along with the Mesquite event. In addition, a \$3,000 bonus is provided to the Nevada State Champion who has the best combined scores from both events.

For more information about the event that runs through Sept. 4 log onto www.mesquitebbqchampionship.com, call Christian Adderson at 888-711-4653, ext. 51, or email cadderson@casablancaresort.com