

MESQUITE CITIZEN JOURNAL

Publishing local news as it happens in Mesquite, Nevada • 702-346-6432 • barbara@mesquitecitizen.com • Barbara Ellestad, Publisher

Smokin' in Mesquite Grand Prize Winner

Posting Date: 09/06/2011

By John Taylor



Kim, left, and Andy Groneman of Smoke on Wheels receive their \$10,000 check from CasaBlanca General Manager Marty Rapson Sunday evening at Smokin in Mesquite. Photo by John Taylor

The CasaBlanca event center was filled Sunday with visitors tasting the food, listening to live music and participating in audience games. Lots of interactive games, like country music trivia, got the crowd pumped up for contests like a pie eating contest for kids and for the adults, a rib eating contest and a team eating challenge. There were smiles all around as the day progressed.

The line was long for the BBQ sampler sponsored by the Elks on Sunday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For five dollars, a person could sample three different kinds of barbecue and the five dollars went to the local Elks Club. An event on Saturday benefited the Mesquite Boxing Club who received \$1,400 last year.

Barbecue wasn't the only thing on the menu though. Other delicacies included garlic fries, funnel cakes, deep fried twinkies and oreo's, a sausage on a stick and even a pickle on a stick.

As the crowd of several hundred looked on, last year's \$10,000 winner, Jennifer Duncan from Arizona, said she will be competing against her husband Tommy instead of with him. Her team "Smoked to the Bone" will go head to head with "Whiskey Ranch," the team he will be running this year. "I like to stick with what works," she said. "He likes to always be trying new things so we have a competition going." Her method must

have worked because she has won over \$34,000 in prize money, not counting sponsorship money.

"I never heard of Mesquite until three years ago," said Johnny Trigg of Smokin Triggers BBQ team. "The people here do one helluva job taking care of us and putting on a great event. I love Mesquite."

When the final prizes were awarded on Sunday, Tommy Duncan of Whiskey Ranch won 9th place in the chicken category. Not to be outdone, his wife Jennifer Duncan of Smoked to the Bone won 9th place in the pork category and 11th place in the overall category.

The big winners of the weekend were Porky's Revenge of Austin, Texas winning third place for \$2,500. Rhythm N Cue of Phoenix, Arizona took second place for \$5,000 and the grand prize winner taking home \$10,000 was Smoke On Wheels, a family barbecue team from Kansas City, Kansas. The barbecue team of All Sauced Up from California took home \$3,000 for winning the Nevada State Championship category. Several other categories of smaller prizes were given out, insuring that almost everyone won something and that everyone had a good time.

After the awards ceremony, teams began to pack up and bid each other good-bye, until the next competition. Teams with names like Big Poppa's Smokers (California), Smokin Triggers (Texas), Smoked to the Bone (Arizona), BBQ Junkie (Las Vegas) and All Hogs Go To Heaven (California) started loading up the gear and their cookers to say good-bye to Mesquite. Most said they would be back next year. Competitors shook hands, took their prize money and headed out of Mesquite.