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**ANOTHER ROARIN' GOOD TIME**

*~ Motorcycle rally generates thousands for Great Dismal Swamp Gallery~*

SUFFOLK, VA: The Suffolk Swamp Roar Motorcycle Rally made its eighth annual 80-mile lap around the perimeter of the Great Dismal Swamp on Sunday, October 11. Over 600 motorcyclists departed from Suffolk Peanut Fest at 10:30 a.m. and returned thousands in dollars for a Great Dismal Swamp Gallery in Suffolk. The Gallery will be featured in the Nansemond County Courthouse—currently a vacant historic landmark—to be renovated soon as a visitor center and municipal offices. Preliminary figures, including proceeds from the seventh and eighth annual rallies for this specific project, approach \$20,000. Proceeds from prior years have benefitted education and signage programs as well as habitat restoration within the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

The Suffolk Swamp Roar event was created in 2001 by the Division of Tourism to increase awareness of the Great Dismal's fragile eco-system and to enhance nature-based tourism and interpretative programs. "Our tourism staff remains focused and steadfast in generating appreciation and understanding of both the historic and environmental significance of the Great Dismal Swamp," said Council Member Joe Barlow. Barlow enjoyed his first rally this year on a Honda trike hosted by members of the Patriot Guard Riders.

The Eighth Annual Suffolk Swamp Roar was sponsored by Suffolk Festivals, Inc., Lipton, Budweiser, Pepsi, Tidewater Motorcycles, Inc., Firehouse Subs of Suffolk, Southern Screen & Graphics, Penske, Krispy Kreme and the Suffolk Chapter of the Christian Motorcyclists Association.

The mission of the Suffolk Division of Tourism is to promote the city through creative marketing initiatives and cooperative programs which stimulate visitation and awareness of Suffolk as a tourism destination within the Hampton Roads region. The Suffolk Visitor Center is located in the historic Prentis House (c. 1800) at 321 N. Main Street and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 757.514.4130 or visit [Suffolk-Fun.com](http://Suffolk-Fun.com).

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