

Ray C's named top regional dealer

LAPEER — He's already got the plaque, but Ray Clemens Jr. is headed off to sunny San Diego next month to get a pat on the back from Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) as the District Dealer of the Year for the Can Am Spyder.

The Spyder is a three-wheeled motorcycle with a \$17,000 to \$21,000 price range that was first introduced by BRP in 2007. Lapeer's Ray C's Extreme began selling them in 2009 and last year sold 34 units making them the leading dealership in the company's Northeast District.

"We've really been rocking this year with Bombardier," said Jeff Clemens. Ray Jr. noted it was the first time since their parents, Ray Sr. and Janet, founded Ray C's Cycle and Sport 30 years ago, that the company has won an award this big.

Ray Jr. said that while a company representative

has already dropped off a plaque at the store, they'll be officially recognized at a dealers' meeting in San Diego Feb. 21-24.

He called the accomplishment "a team effort."

"Not bad for little Lapeer," said Jeff, noting there are about 20 other Spyder dealers just in Michigan.

The Spyder, said Jeff, is a "much more stable user friendly" platform than the traditional motorcycle. He added, "We had a 67-year-old woman who was looking at a sports car who took one of these instead. It took up less space in her garage."

Jeff added the dealership also recently received Platinum Certification from BRP. He said that is a combination of retail unit sales for last year and the store's customer service index (CSI). "All of our CSIs scored 95 percent or above," he said.

— Phil Foley

Daley named chair of Agriculture Committee

LUM — State Rep. Kevin Daley will serve as chair of the House Agriculture Committee during the 2011-2012 legislative session.

"Agriculture has been and is important to our whole state, but hasn't received the attention it should have from the former executive office," said Daley, R-Lum. "Agriculture is the number one industry in Lapeer County and the number two industry in the state."

Daley, whose family operates a fifth-generation dairy farm in Arcadia Township, said he understands the challenges the farming community faces and will continue to help shape the state's agriculture policy in Lansing.

In addition to serving on the Agriculture Committee, Daley will also work on three other committees: Local Government and Regional Affairs, Regulatory Reform, and Transportation.

Lumberjack Shack offers program to provide saws for fire departments

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ALMONT TWP. — A local outdoor equipment company that recently held a fund raiser for the Almont Township Fire Dept. now wants to offer the program to Lapeer County's 14 other fire departments.

David Zgnilec, the owner of Lumberjack Shack, held a drawing earlier this month that won a Romeo man a \$930 Stihl chainsaw and put a new Stihl rescue saw in the hands of the Almont Township Fire Dept.

A rescue saw is similar to a standard chainsaw, except it has a guard that allows firefighters to set a cutting depth that makes it possible to cut through roofing materials without cutting through roof trusses while fighting a fire.

"It's a needed tool, that's for sure," said Almont Township Fire Dept. Lt. Brent Smith. "Having one this new and advanced is really nice. It makes the job easier and safer."

Smith added the saw's special depth gauge can be removed for those times when firefighters need a regular chainsaw.

Zgnilec said a conversation at his shop in December led to the



Photo courtesy FRED RINKE

Almont Township Fire Dept. firefighters Chad Kury, Scott Garner, Jeff Ludwig, Brent Smith and Bret Schapman accept a rescue saw from Lumberjack Shack owner Dave Zgnilec as the winner of the chainsaw drawing. Dennis Davis, and Almont firefighters Derik Stine, Mike Alfonsi and David Gaj look on.

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Lt. Brent Smith
Almont Twp.
Fire Department

idea of selling tickets

for a drawing for a chainsaw to raise enough money to get a fire department a rescue saw. "We decided to test the waters with Almont," he said, and they sold 200 \$10 tickets.

He said they sold the tickets the last three weeks of December and presented the saws Jan. 1. "It was completely non-profit," he said, and now he wants to do the same for the county's other fire departments.

"Everything came together real nice," said Zgnilec.

Zgnilec's father, Bob, opened the business 35 years ago selling chainsaws, log splitters, wood cutting accessories and wood stoves at 7230 Webster Rd., off Van Dyke about two miles south of I-69. In 1989 when the younger Zgnilec took over the business he added lawn and recreational equipment to the products available.

He said any fire department in the county interested in holding a drawing to raise money for a rescue saw should call him at 810-724-7230.

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