

Operation-SOS Honors Troops and Showcases the Best of Tampa Bay

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Engines revved at an earsplitting intensity and vendors hawked their wares. Neither the blaze of the sun nor later, the wind and deluge that occurred mid-afternoon could deter or dampen the spirits of car and bike enthusiasts at Operation-SOS (Supporting Our Soldiers) on Saturday, August 2, 2008.

Housed in the parking lot of Wild Wing Café, 9210 Anderson Road, the goal of Operation SOS was to raise money to erect a monument to in Al Lopez Park for the fallen soldiers.

Hosted by Florida Veterans Assistance Association (FVAA) and sponsored by such local businesses as [Venom Custom Choppers](#), [Full Throttle Magazine](#), [Wild Wing Café](#), [Fever Racing](#), [BigDog](#), [SR Performance](#), [Eurocycles of TampaBay](#), [Veterans Ford](#), [Kens Mobile Dyno](#), [Sunoco Race Fuels](#), [813 Customs](#), ProCoat Performance Coating, and [The WriteOne Creative Services](#), Operation-SOS brought the best in automobile and motorcycle artistry to one location.

Event attendees had the opportunity to invest a mere twenty dollars into a raffle ticket to potentially own the star giveaway of the event, a Venom custom chopper. In addition, Operation-SOS offered an automobile performance parts auction for the car enthusiast. The day offered fun for the whole family. A dunk tank adorned with the banner "Set Your *(Gun)* Sights on Bin Laden" housed a wet volunteer wearing a BinLaden mask.

In addition to cars and bikes, Operation-SOS showcased the talents of the band, Cellfish as well as vocalist, Erin Brea. With Lee Harrison drums, Kevin Rothney on bass, Joe Koltay on Lead Guitar and vocals and Chris Tripp as Frontman and Lead Vocals, Cellfish entertained the crowd with high performance rock and roll.

At 2pm, Erin Brea performed a stirring rendition of the Lee Greenwood hit, "God Bless the USA." Said Erin Brea, "It was my privilege and honor to be part of Operation-SOS."

Host and Emcee, retired Sergeant Steve Crosby, FVAA said, "We brought the best of the best in Tampa Bay. We overcame the rain and had a great turnout. We rocked this event and it was all a tribute to our military. God Bless them. "

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