

# RUNNING OF THE BULLS RETURNS FOR ITS EIGHTH YEAR

by Heidi Travis

Susan Carter, a.k.a. Smacker Jack Suzie.

Last year, the Running of the Bulls saw over 300 registered runners and, according to the Roller Gurlz, this year's event is already off to a promising start.

"We're already sitting at 109 runners," said Carter. With registration still open until July 19, that number is expected to go up the closer it gets to race day.

For the past several years, the proceeds of this event have gone to the USO of Northwest Florida and this year will be no different. The event raised \$7,000 dollars for the organization last year and the Roller

Gurlz are aiming for at least \$10,000 this time around. The choice to support the USO is a no brainer for the team. The military is the backbone of our community here, so giving back to them only serves to make the community that much stronger.

"The USO strengthens America's military service

Photo by Guy Stevens

members by keeping them connected to family, home, and country throughout their service to the nation," said Dana Cervantes, Senior Director for the USO of Northwest Florida.

Each year, the money the Running of the Bulls event raises goes toward maintaining the USO's operations in the area. The boost they receive from the proceeds has been a very big help to them in recent years and they would like to see that continue and grow.

"The proceeds raised from the event help stock our four USO centers in NWFL with much needed snacks, drinks, and supplies. Last year, USO Northwest welcomed over

191,000 military guests through the doors of those four centers located at NAS Pensacola, Corry Station Pensacola, PNS International Airport, and the Destin-Ft. Walton Beach Airport. Running of the Bulls is a fun way for the community to give back to our service members," said Cervantes.

Clearly, the Running of the Bulls is not just fun and games. Sure, it's a blast and participants enjoy it, but at its heart, the event is so much bigger than that. The Running of the Bulls has become a local tradition rooted in the spirit of giving and community building. It's about making a difference and the Pensacola Roller Gurlz are leading the charge.

## Event Schedule for La Fiesta de San Fermin:

**Spanish Wine Dinner**  
Thursday July 19, 2018  
6:30 pm  
Seville Quarter

**Chupinazo**  
Friday July 20, 2018  
4 pm – 7 pm  
In front of Seville Quarter

**The Running of the Bulls**  
Saturday July 21, 2018  
Packet pickup  
7:30 am – 8:30 am  
Race and after party  
9 am – 1 pm  
In front of Seville Quarter/  
Phineas Phoggs

To register or for more information check out the event website at [www.pensabulls.com](http://www.pensabulls.com).

It's a soggy day outside of the studio with rain coming down in fits and bursts. The humid air is miserably thick, making hair and clothes stick uncomfortably—but it does not dampen spirits. They are undaunted.

As the ladies file in, decked out in their full regalia—corsets, horned helmets, wiffle-bats and roller skates—it's plain to see they are a tight-knit group. Their rapport is infectious. They banter back and forth trading gibes as they help each other into the rest of their elaborate costumes. They speak freely and openly about their day, their lives and the upcoming events. It's obvious in the way they support and cheer each other on as they are photographed that this is more than just fun and games for them. The Pensacola Roller Gurlz aren't just a team, they're family—a sisterhood—and they are as loyal as they are fierce.

There's no doubt that the dedication and drive these women have for their sport plays a large part in the success of the Running of the Bulls event held each year during the Fiesta de San Fermin at Seville Quarter. They are the life-blood of the event and the energy they bring to the cause has really delivered a boom to the fundraiser.

"We get bigger and better every year," said Roller Gurl

