

'East Meets West' B.A.C.A.® Awareness Event



The 9th Annual 'East Meets West' B.A.C.A. (Bikers Against Child Abuse) Awareness Event took place on Saturday October 7, 2017. On the East side of the Valley, riders gathered at Scottsdale Harley-Davidson. West side riders gathered at Go AZ Motorcycles in Peoria.

My thanks to Nytro for sharing details of the day with us. She is a member of B.A.C.A.'s Maricopa County Chapter, Arizona's State Public Relations & Events Coordinator, plus their Regional PR. According to her, there were representatives from all 4 Arizona Chapters in attendance {Maricopa County [East-side], Black Canyon [West-side], Pima County, Sawtooth Ridge [Casa Grande]} plus the crew that is forming a new chapter in Show Low.

The rides are self-paced; giving bikers the time to meet up with friends old & new, and take their own ride. An estimated 90 riders participated. The routes are kept simple so there is more time at the end stop to enjoy the vendors, music, camaraderie, and more. Nytro mentioned that, "A lot came to the end event as opposed to doing the ride. It was a good turnout." She also noted that they "got a lot of compliments on the way we did it this year." From the West, riders left Go AZ in Peoria, then rode to RideNow Powersports in Goodyear; before arriving at the Steel Horse. "...from Scottsdale HD... participants drew their first 2 chips, then off to the Hide-A-Way {Cave Creek} to draw another chip, then their final two chips at the Steel Horse Saloon {in Phoenix} where the party was."

In regard to the stops Nytro exclaimed, "Scottsdale HD was so fantastic in helping our event out. This is also where we have our monthly meetings now. They never denied any request we made, they provided a free breakfast to all participants. They advertised our event. They were just so helpful and

made the whole set up so easy." Followed by, "Go AZ on the West was the same.... They just opened their hearts to whatever was needed to make our event a success." Then, "Hide-A-Way has for the last few years opened their doors to our event. They always step up when we ask." And, "What can I say about Joanna & Eric, owners of the Steel Horse Saloon? They know what we do, they get it & they are always there to help.... their hearts are huge, they know the need ... and they have never turned us down."

The last stop, at Steel Horse Saloon on Bell Road in Phoenix, included music by the 'Back Stage Crew'. "They were fantastic." There were raffle items plus an Auction.

The ride winners were Lori & Gary Nadler. They have supported this event for each of the 9 years it has taken place. They gave all their winnings [which was described as a 'significant' amount] back to the organization. Many thanks for your generosity.

Regarding the donation for the day Nytro added, "...total donation estimate may have been around \$3,000 ... but the Awareness outweighed the funds and that was our goal."

Thank you go to all the ride stops and the 'Back Stage Crew'. Plus, thanks go out to the vendors who came out... ABATE, American Bike & Trike, Badazzclips, Buggie Bags, Church Custom, Discount Biker Supply, Handcrafted Audio, Lane Splitter Garage, Ridenow, Safer Bugout Industries, & Ye Olde Pipe & Tobacco Shoppe.

Nytro is passionate about the B.A.C.A. mission, "We have many wounded little Brothers & Sisters out there that are waiting to be found..." B.A.C.A. (Bikers Against Child Abuse) is ... in 16 Countries now... events like this, the presentations we do, the interviews, articles that are written, videos on YouTube that are growing and the community that under-

stands what we do, makes a HUGE difference in the lives of the future of our children. We EMPOWER Children to not feel afraid of the world in which they live. They deserve to be children and they deserve to be heard." This is a free service. Anyone who has a child that needs B.A.C.A. in Arizona, can call the HELPLINE at 1-877-235-7268.

She clarified, "This organization isn't for everyone... It's hard sometimes to know what our little Brothers & Sisters have endured... Going to court with them, to help them stand tall, to not feel afraid to tell their story, is just beyond any paycheck anyone can get. We are ALL volunteers. You cannot put a price on what just showing up can do for a terrified child. Children are 4 times more likely to testify with us in court than without us."

People who want to learn more about B.A.C.A., have a presentation made to their organization, or go to a meeting, can call their local Helpline, or go to www.bacaworld.org & click on 'Chapters'. Scroll to your country, click on the state or province near you and send an email. You can also go to YouTube & search for B.A.C.A. Videos.

Nytro urged, "Our children need ALL of us & there are many ways to help." B.A.C.A. is a 501-c-3 Non-Profit International Organization. It has been working to protect children for 22 years. There are Chapters in 16 Countries. Donations are always welcome. Via their website you can find a Chapter near you to support or simply make a financial donation to the overall cause. Learn more via their website www.bacaworld.org/

Thank you B.A.C.A. for what you do for these children.

Betsy

