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8:30 AM Registration at the Wonder Bar, 310 W. 2nd Street, Casa Grande, AZ Breakfast Burritos will be Served!
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10:00 AM Kickstands Up!!

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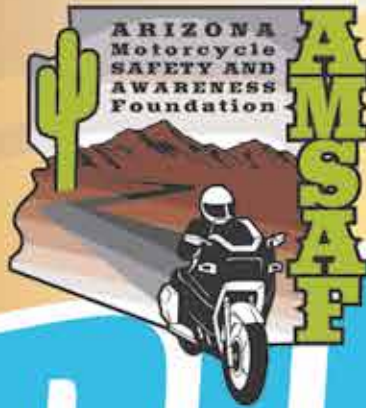
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Complaint Department: Meltdown

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Motorcycling Organizations Contacts

AACME [Antiques & Classics]	623-849-3049	H.O.G., Grand Canyon Chapter	928-774-3896
ABATE of AZ [SMRO]	480-256-9237	H.O.G., Mother Road Chapter	888-757-1981
ACMC [AZ Confederation of Clubs]	520-426-0069	H.O.G., Phoenix Chapter	602-971-3400
Alliance of Marine Corps Veterans	480-217-9356	H.O.G., Superstition Chapter #1743	480-346-0626
American Cruisers MC of Phoenix	480-307-4309	H.O.G., Thunder Mountain	520-458-9500
American Legion Riders:		H.O.G., Yavapai AZ Chapter	928-632-4009
ALR Post 22, Golden Valley	928 565-4545	H.O.G., Tucson Chapter	520-792-0111
ALR Post 26, Mesa	602-320-5777	Medieval Maidens MC	623-341-2767
ALR Post 27, Apache Junction	602-690-7808	Modified Motorcycle Association AZ	520-252-9675
ALR Post 32, Safford	928-322-2580	Mountain Motorcycle Association	928-532-7693
ALR Post 35, Chandler	480-821-0002	MRF -Motorcycle Riders Foundation 1-800-MRF-JOIN	
ALR Post 36, Tucson	520-603-1300	Nomaden MC	520-227-4401
ALR Post 39, Gilbert	480-892-7038	Old Fkin Vets VC	951-970-9245
ALR Post 40, Chino Valley	928-759-9449	Old Guard Riders	623-810-3745
ALR Post 41, Thunderbird, Phoenix	602-403-7401	Old Pueblo Riders	520-419-5865
ALR Post 58, Fountain Hills	602-818-2719	Patriot Guard Riders AZ	602-999-0632
ALR Post 86, Overgaard	928-300-4582	Purple Heart Riders	602-327-1498
ALR Post 105, Phoenix	602-938-1811	Reason Riders Association	602-377-8519
ALR Post 109, Corona de Tucson/Vail	520-731-2000	Revolution Phoenix Motorcycle RC	602-370-3109
ALR Post 117, Phoenix	602-358-7370	Rez Riders IMC	928-300-7066
ALR Post 138, Scottsdale	480-980-4347	Riders of Fire MC	520-266-3624
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AZ Sun Chasers MC	602 689-3378	Sho Ryders MC	520-762-6306
AZ Trail Riders	602-766-1750	Soldiers For Jesus MC	623-203-3681
Bikers Against Child Abuse, Phoenix	800-371-9755	Southern AZ Harley Riders MC	520-249-9299
Bikers For Christ M/M - AZ	541-580-5014	Southern Cruisers Riding Club	623-341-9477
Blood Bought MC	928-200-4598	Star Touring & Riding Ass'n	800-422-1041
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Brotherhood Marine Corps Riders AZ	949-290-1816	Stoned Sober MC	520-336-0150
Brothers of the Third Wheel	602-999-5479	Sun Riders MC	520-975-2907
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Cutrano AZ Troop Run, Inc.	602-577-9789	True Passion Phoenix SC	510-872-0039
Desert Road Riders MC	928-530-8058	Tucson Peacemakers	520-574-2909
Desert Souls [all bikes]	602-367-9522	Venom Riding Club [after 4:30p]	602-930-2665
Desert Thunder MC	602-402-4970	Vulcan Riders, Phoenix	602-696-8064
Eagle Riders, Tri-City	480-967-7948	Warrior Brotherhood VMC	602-317-5400
Flying Wheels of Sun Cities [all bikes]	623-546 8521	Weasels, Black Mtn Chapter, AZ	602-320-1728
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Gypsy Riders	602-418-9225	Women in the Wind, Desert Diamonds	480-241-3358
H.O.G., East Valley #0024	480-844-0803	Women on Wheels/Desert Zephyrs Phx	623-385-2097

To have your organization listed, forward the name, phone # and website (if available) to us @ Editor@AZRiderSouthwest.com or P O Box 7375, Mesa, AZ 85216-7375 or call 480-921-0244. Visit www.AZRiderSouthwest.com for web links to these and other organizations

Editors Column ...

Happy New Year! This is TOO weird... writing 2018 on stuff. I know it happens each year & we'll get used to it... but where has the TIME gone?

We hope you all survived the Holiday Trifecta with your waistlines intact and your good humor refreshed ☺

Just had to show you this cool custom wreath we got for Christmas from Bruce's daughter. So creative! She & her friend make custom wreaths for all occasions.

Interested? Let us know. They're working on Valentine-themed wreaths right now. Hey, what good is being a publisher if you can't shamelessly plug your kid ~ lol ? ☺



Welcome to our annual 'Christmas Wrap' issue. We appreciate the participation of the numerous organizations who sent us news; despite being busy with their own Holiday activities. We're happy to brag on your good deeds!

It's great to work with party organizers to share their event news. Your stories deserve to be told too! Let us help you tell the tale so next time more people will know to attend! We do this year 'round ~ more than just at Christmas! Everyone is invited. Email us at editor@azridersouthwest.com

Our cover photo was taken at Bob's Biker Blast. The story is on page 8.

To our readers who are members of clubs & other motorcycling organizations, please have your Communications Officers post your upcoming events to our calendar, at <http://azridersouthwest.com/calendar.html>. The listing is FREE.

Speaking of the calendar.... You know when the New Year strikes that it's time to make your AZ Bike Week plans. The link for tickets is up and running & ZZ Top is coming back for the Saturday night concert!

We wish you happiness, smooth roads, good health, and abundance in 2018. Ride safely, choose wisely, & Keep Your Butts On Your Putts!

Bruce & Betsy

1st Fridays Sept-June

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From Military To Civilian - A Seamless Transition

When members of the Armed Forces of the United States finish at least one year of their tour of deployment they need to enroll in the Veterans Administration (VA) program to obtain any VA Health Benefits they may be entitled to receive. Enroll PROMPTLY by following these steps:

- Obtain a copy of your service medical records prior to discharge.
- A veteran has 2 years, after separation, to apply for service-related medical conditions. After two years the process becomes more difficult.
- If you require medical assistance from the VA after separation/discharge, bring with you a copy of your medical records, a copy of your DD-214, and two forms of picture identification.
- Any injury or illness incurred while serving on active duty as a regular, reservist, or Federalized member of the National Guard needs to be noted in your medical records.
- Enroll in the VA IMMEDIATELY. Do Not Procrastinate!!
- Join a veterans service organization - American Legion, VFW, DAV, AMVETS, Marine Corps League, Rolling Thunder®, etc

"WELCOME HOME, CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE, AND GOOD LUCK"

Michael DePaulo, COM

National Parliamentarian, Rolling Thunder®, Inc. ; Plt. Sgt. USMC, RVN

<< follow the online link for complete text & additional information



2017 marks the 4th year of the Toy Drive Kick-Off and Car & Motorcycle Show hosted by Superstition Harley-Davidson. This is a two-part event, so we'll follow the calendar to tell the story {;o}

The day dawned on November 4 with a cool grey sky, reminiscent of autumn. If we were up north, you'd be sure there was snow coming. No doubt there was concern by the organizers... but thankfully all that developed was a brief light rain ~ just enough to bring out the smell of ozone.

People gathered at Superstition HD, located at 2910 W Apache Trail in Apache Junction for the Seductive CC Motorcycle & Custom Car Show from 10a-2pm ~ which is also the Toy Drive Kick-Off. Sponsors included San Tan Ford of Gilbert, AZ.

Entry into the show was a new, unwrapped toy. There were more than 62 beautiful vehicles on display ~ motorcycles, cars, and even bicycles. A 1929 Ford Model A hot rod appeared to be the oldest in the show. It's always so neat to see the older vehicles being kept up, road-ready, and show worthy.

Vendor booths included model cars, food & coffee stations, Cornwell Tools, AZ Mounted Rangers, & more.

The raffle table was full of goodies, including sound system components {donated by Slangin Sound}, tools, a custom-painted skateboard, signs, shirts, hats, model cars, gift certificates from restaurants & services, car care kits, and a tall Cornwell Tools chest.

There was music by Gear Shifting Fools and a

Car Hop Competition.

Seductive Car Club is unique in that theirs is a Car, Motorcycle, and Bicycle Club ~ allowing for the interests of everyone in the family. They are based in Mesa, AZ. Learn more at their Facebook page www.facebook.com/seductivecarclub1/

We love the motorcycles of course.... but the cars bring back such memories; offering an extra treat at this gathering. Other car clubs represented included Majestics CC, Pride CC, Redeemed CC, Society CC, Timeless Bombs CC, and USO CC.

From November 4 until delivery day on December 9, people could drop off toys at SHD. The beneficiary of these donations is Sunshine Acres Children's Home. Over 400 toys were donated.

Everyone was invited to return to Superstition HD on December 9 to take the Toy Deliver Ride.

There were about 40 motorcycles, 4 low riders, & another half-dozen or so cars that took the self-paced trip to SACH, on Higley Road in Mesa. This was a family-friendly outing which included a Christmas Party at Sunshine Acres where the kids got to open their gifts and everyone enjoyed cupcakes, cookies, and candy canes.

Brina Brown & Melissa Diekman of Superstition Harley-Davidson, organizers of this event, send out thanks to "Seductive Car Club and Vice President Paul Ponzetti Jr. and all those who participated in the giving of toys and bringing them to the kids. Without the help and support of all involved we would not have been able to have such a successful

toy run!!"

Paul Ponzetti Jr. of Seductive C.C. shared on his Facebook page, "It was amazing to give back to the community. Seductive CC, Superstition Harley, SanTan Ford, Hayes Transmission, Devine Signs, Franks Hydraulics and all the car clubs and solo riders. Thank you all and God bless."

There are many reasons why parents are unable to care for their kids. Sunshine Acres Children's Home {<http://sunshineacres.org/>} "provides a loving, wholesome, Christian home for children who are separated from their parents..." This 501(c)3 organization relies solely on donations. It was established at the beginning, back in 1953, that SACH would take no government support and children won't be turned away for financial reasons. There are currently 96 kids of various ages in residence. If you are unfamiliar with Sunshine Acres, the story of how it all began & how it continues to care for children of our community is on their website. It is an extraordinary & inspiring read.

Various groups representing the motorcycling community do fundraisers for Sunshine Acres during the year. Coming up is the annual 'Miracle in the Desert' picnic supported by CMA and ABATE. It is traditionally held in Spring. We'll have details of that in our calendar as they become available.

Congratulations to all involved for a job well done!

Betsy & Bruce

more pix on page 15



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Just like in any community, there is good news and not-so-good news. Maybe someone has passed away, or is in the hospital or home recovering from injuries or illness. Or maybe you've got a child or grandchild who is deploying Perhaps when people read these things, they'll say a prayer, wishing them well - each in their own way. Announce a birth in your family, or that someone's getting married, or your GI just got home. You get the idea. We look forward to hearing from you. And so, for now ~

Happy Birthday in January to

- Millio Ciccirelli, Papadave Treadwell,
 - Wilma Shearhart, Billie Daman, Still Ray,
 - Billy Sample, Scott Hagemann, Kathi Calahan,
 - Woody Phillips, Mark Kalifut, Mustang Sally,
 - Gary Nicholas Imholte, Jeanne Shinn,
 - Greg Sleeper, Bill Goodwin, Nick Karras,
 - Sally Mo Jo, Mariah Newill, Gina Ritchie,
 - Craig Martin, El Hefe, Brandy Bradford,
 - David 'Double D' Devereaux, Chad Daugherty,
 - DEfeCT, Nick Malucci, Gina Edwards,
 - Josette 'NeverReady' Rossi, Horrhayn Manos,
 - Cheri Latini, Britt Rowland, John Tartaro,
 - Mick Degn, Vicky Wikid Purple Elliott,
 - Gene Mummert, Deb Lotardo, Stu Dvoret,
 - Lynda Marie Handi Barnett, Linnae Wolkoff,
 - Christine Layne, Tom Felten, Frankie Petrucci,
 - Mark Pappy Patton, George Bellman,
 - & Rosi Khazoom
- * & & & *

Happy Anniversary in January to

- Ginger Brunson & Joe Terborg
 - Margie & Frederic Sanchez
 - Billy D & Jewels Docherty
- * & & & *

Gone But Not Forgotten

- Richard 'Rick' Ellis ~ January 25, 2001
 - Pat 'Little Bit' Luther ~ January 6, 2005
 - Big Gene Loeffler ~ January 28, 2006
 - John Hopkins ~ January 23, 2009
 - Robert Vasquez ~ January 14, 2012
 - Red Hartman ~ January 4, 2013
 - Gar Belanger ~ January 15, 2013
 - John 'Jet' Taylor ~ January 9, 2015
- * & & & *

September 30, 2017 ... Marine League Charities in Northern Arizona hosted the Run Around the Mountain "Spider's" Poker Run to benefit their Wounded Marine Program. Thank you to organizer Marinell Woolley for sending us information about the day.

The ride started & ended at Grand Canyon H-D in Bellemont, AZ. Those who brought a new, unwrapped toy donation for Toys-for-Tots in addition to the registration fee received a commemorative patch.

45 riders participated in the self-paced ride. The ~ 130-mile route took them to Wild West Saloon in Williams. The stop at Valle Air Museum in Valle included free museum admission the riders. Next stop

was the Horseman's Lodge in Flagstaff and then back to GCHD Bellemont.

The family-friendly end party included a the barbeque lunch hosted by GCHD. A local band, Rock Nine, performed and there was a dance floor. They played mostly classic rock. The ride's high hand winner of \$250 was Steve Wiley. The low hand winner of \$150 was Mike Hansen. There was a 50/50 raffle and door prizes, as well as a dart board contest for a rifle-shaped bottle of tequila.

Approximately \$2,000 was raised for the Wounded Marine Program and ~ 50 toys were collected for Toys for Tots.

Marinell thanks their event sponsors "Terry Marxen Chevrolet, Brennan Masonry, Niles Radio, Merry Maids, Realty Executives, Five Star Printing, Law Office of Brian Webb, Law Tigers, LaFonda Mexican Restaurant, Scrubly's Window Cleaning, International Insurance Group, Pepsi, Keith Hammond Law, and of course, event host Grand Canyon Harley-Davidson Bellemont."

* & & & *

November 28, 2017 ... Recall ~

NHTSA Campaign Number: 17V762000
 Incorrect Information on Federal Label/Part 567
 Potential Number of Units Affected: 36
 Summary: Zero Motorcycles Inc. (Zero) is recalling certain 2018 S ZF13.0, S ZF7.2, SR ZF14.4, DS ZF13.0, DSR ZF14.4, FX ZF7.2, and FXS ZF7.2 motorcycles. The information on the Vehicle Emission Control Information (VECI) Label may indicate the wrong model year. As such, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 567, "Certification". If the affected 2018 motorcycles are ever subject to a recall, the owner may not realize the safety risk because of the misstated model year. Remedy: Zero will notify owners, and dealers will replace the incorrect label with a corrected label, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin in December 2017. Owners may contact Zero customer service at 1-888-841-8085. Zero's number for this recall is SV-ZMC-017-380.

Notes: Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov

* & & & *

December 1, 2017 ... Recall ~

NHTSA Campaign Number: 17V772000
 Rear Wheel Spokes May Loosen
 Potential Number of Units Affected 45
 Summary: MV Agusta USA, LLC (MV Agusta) is recalling certain 2017 Brutale 800 Dragster RR motorcycles. The spokes on the rear wheel may loosen, potentially affecting the motorcycle's handling. If the handling is compromised from the loose spokes on the rear wheel, there would be an increased risk of a crash.

Remedy: MV Agusta will notify owners, and dealers will replace the rear wheels, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin December 13, 2017.

Owners may contact MV Agusta customer service at 1-215-781-1770. MV Agusta's number for this recall is 2813.

Notes: Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

* & & & *

December 1, 2017 ... Recall ~

NHTSA Campaign Number: 17V774000
 Improper ECU Setting may cause Engine Stall
 Potential Number of Units Affected: 9,914
 Summary: Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (Kawasaki) is recalling certain 2017-2018 Z125 PRO & PRO KRT Edition motorcycles, models BR125JHF and BR125JFF. The Electronic Control Unit (ECU) may have an improper setting for the fuel injection, allowing the engine to stall. An engine stall can increase the risk of a crash.

Remedy: Kawasaki will notify owners, and dealers will replace the ECU, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Kawasaki customer service at 1-866-802-9381.

Notes: Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov

* & & & *

Dec 20, 2017 ... I don't know how many people would choose to make a special trip to Sky Harbor Airport that doesn't involve flying... BUT thanks to Barry Caraway of CycleRides.com we learned some information that can certainly help make the time spent during a layover or other airport delay more interesting.

Did you know that Sky Harbor Airport has a Museum? There are various displays going on at all times, with each Terminal offering different exhibits. Of particular interest for motorcyclists is an exhibit currently being presented in the Terminal 4 Level 3 gallery, entitled "Art of the Ride". This collection of custom-built motorcycles, paintings, and photography will be on display through May 28, 2018.

According to their website, www.skyharbor.com/Museum/Exhibitions "The Phoenix Airport Museum collection includes almost 900 works of art in all media." The website provides much more information on the location of each presentation and the different collections available for viewing.

* & & & *

Share your news within AZ's Biker Community. Boast about a grand-baby, extend congratulations or well wishes, send someone kudos for a promotion, announce an engagement, welcome your GI home. You get the idea. Send an email to editor@azrider-southwest.com, subject line: Community News.

* & & & *

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... and come have breakfast with us!

Marines Toys for Tots 2017



Supporting the Marines Toys for Tots Toy Run has been a passion of Sue 'Brat' Ashe for decades. 2017 is no different. This event gathered at sponsor Harley-Davidson of Scottsdale on the morning of November 25; a fine way to kick off the Holiday Season. Thank you Sue for sharing your day with our readers.

Sue noted that 290 riders participated in the ride, which is a turnout consistent with prior years' events.

She described the day's route. "Riders registered, enjoyed lots of hugs, a fantastic breakfast donated by HDoS, a visit with Santa (many thanks to Rick Black for volunteering his time) and then hit the road when they felt it was time to ride! A scenic route of ~ 125 miles included stops at Gremlin Garage in New River then VFW Post 1796 in Black Canyon City; ending at Lucie's Sage & Sand Bar & Grill 13831 West Glendale Ave, Glendale, AZ." Riders rolled dice at each stop with prizes for high and low roll.

About the end party ... "Nearly all of the riders visited all of the stops and ended up at Lucie's for a great end party. The patio and outdoor space at Lucie's was a great place for people to visit, relax and enjoy some good food, music and friendly conversation. The 74th Street Band was the main attraction at Lucie's and a one-man band JD Madrid did a very impressive warm up for a few hours prior to 74th taking the main stage. The 74th Street Band was amazing as always! Love those guys - great band, great music and most of all great friends over the years!"

The donation to Maricopa County Marine's Toys for Tots Program was a combination of cash and goods. "The ride collected approximately 40 boxes of toys. A large donation was done by Chuck Franklin and his wife and daughter who went shopping on Thanksgiving evening. Chuck and his daughter were on hand to give the toys directly to the Marines at the event. In the week leading up to the ride I got a call from a gentleman who said he and his wife wanted to bring their daughter to the event to drop off a small donation. He said it was a good way to show his

daughter the meaning of giving to others. When the wife and daughter found me that morning I was shocked to see their definition of 'small donation' was vastly different than mine. Their donation filled 3 of the 40 toy boxes. A check was sent to the Maricopa Marines Toys for Tots Program for \$4,318.43 which was appreciated as always."

In regard to the event supporters Sue sent along, "As always much heartfelt love and respect to H-D of Scottsdale and Shelley Martin / HDoS Senior Event Coordinator along with Chuck Franklin Law for their continuous friendship and support for this event. I welcomed Desert Rose Dispensary as a new sponsor along with Gremlin Garage and too many others to list. Lucie's crew did a terrific job with the setup & the food really looked amazing! I look forward to working with all of the sponsors again in 2018 and Desert Rose has already expressed interest to be more involved... Who knows what the future holds? And I also want to personally thank Bruce & Betsy of AZ Rider for always supporting me for the Marines Toys for Tots Event.

And for 2018? "It has been my honor, pleasure and passion to be the Chair of this ride event for 8 years. I totally enjoy working directly with the civilian group who heads up the county program. And of course the handsome young men who serve our country all dressed in blues is a welcome added bonus. I am not sure what direction my efforts will be taking during 2018 but I will be involved with the Marines Toys for Tots Program in Maricopa County in some capacity without a shadow of a doubt."

In closing, "As I have said in the past many times - when it comes to the riding community we simply cannot be beat for support for all things charity related... Grinch who? Not here in Maricopa County!"

Sue 'Brat' Ashe
Chairperson,
Annual Marine Toys for Tots Ride Event



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Hog N Ham Run with MVR

On December 17, the Mountain Vista Riders of Mountain Vista Bible Church in Mesa hosted their 2nd Annual Hog N Ham Run. Less fortunate families in the Valley who could use a bit of assistance in preparing a Christmas dinner are referred to this program via MVBC members or through the event's Facebook post.

Supporting this event is three-fold... people are welcome to participate at any or all levels.

♦ In the days leading up to the 17th, anyone can recommend a family-in-need to receive a Christmas ham, by contacting the Church with the family's name and address, or via the MVR Facebook page.

♦ Anyone can donate a ham ~ either for a specific family or for the general collection ~ to be given to whomever needs it. The size averaged 10#.

♦ Scooter folk help deliver the hams. Riders gathered after Church on December 17th to make the deliveries.

They collected 33 hams, which

was enough to help about 30 families. John Smith of the Mountain Vista Riders recalls that they helped about the same number last year.

Morning of the 17th was greeted with rain and cold... but that didn't deter everyone from sharing Christmas Cheer to those in need. John noted, "Overall, we had 13 participants {to help make deliveries}. We had 8 bikes and 2 chase vehicles."

John and the Mountain Vista Riders want to "thank everyone who donated a ham and those who helped deliver them as well as Pastor Drew and everyone at Mountain Vista Bible Church for supporting us and what we do."

John also wants to let our readers know that, "This, and all of our rides and events are open to all bikers/riders. We would also like to invite bikers/riders to join us for Sunday services every Sunday at 9am. Motorcycle parking is available."

Mountain Vista Riders extends a "A huge thank you to everyone who made today a success."

Mountain Vista Bible Church is located at 10153 E Hampton Ave, Ste 106, Mesa, 85209. Everyone is welcome. If you want to learn more about the Mountain Vista Riders and/or Mountain Vista Bible Church visit online at <https://mountainvista.church>

My thanks to MVR John for sharing news of their day with our readers.

Betsy



TROLL'S TEDDY BEAR DRIVE 2017

Troll's second annual Teddy Bear Run took place on December 2nd. Sponsors of this benefit include San Tan Ford, American Bike & Trike, Desert Wind H-D, and of course Troll's Biker World. Teddy bears are collected and donated to Mesa PD and its Mesa Family Advocacy Center Unit. This year, donations also go to Phoenix Children's Hospital ~ Mercy Gilbert, and to Mesa Fire & Medical.

These bears can play an important part in a child's life. First responders have them in their vehicles. During times of trauma, what might seem like such a simple item can be a calming influence in the midst of an ordeal... giving the little ones something to hold onto until their life can get back to normal.

The ride again started at Desert Wind Harley-Davidson in Mesa, with about 60 riders taking part. Stops were at Wahoo's Restaurant in Gold Can-

yon, River Bottom in Florence, Airport Tavern in Casa Grande, with last stop at Brick and Barley in Tempe.

Thanks to participants of the December 2 event plus additional stuffed animals collected afterwards, this year's Drive received 657 stuffed bears & other cuddlies to donate to the cause. Outstanding! That more than doubles last year's donation! Well done!

We've learned that there are people already taking advantage of after-holiday and pre-inventory sales opportunities to start stocking up on teddy bears for next year. Who knows how many the 3rd annual could collect? ☺ We are happy to be able to share this news & look forward to hearing about the 3rd annual Troll's Teddy Bear Drive. Congratulations on such a successful effort!

Betsy & Bruce



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ABATE of Arizona, Inc is a non-profit Motorcycle Rights Organization that is dedicated to the freedom of the road for ALL motorcyclists. We are a volunteer organization that fights discriminatory legislation aimed toward the motorcycling community. ABATE's position is that all motorcycle riders have the right to choose not only the machine they ride but also what gear they will wear or not wear. We also Lobby to educate the government and general public to promote motorcycling in a safe and positive image.

Bob's Biker Blast

The 6th Annual Bob's Biker Blast took place on Saturday November 4, 2017. The 'I Ride For PCH' Ride departed from Phoenix Children's Hospital, with last bike out by 1pm. We learned that nearly 400 riders made the run.

In the meantime, other folks were gathering at Harley-Davidson of Scottsdale, located at 5656 N Hayden Rd.

The band 'Analog Outlaws' rocked the Patio that afternoon! Emcee Jack Schit and his lovely assistant Shelley of HDoS distributed raffled goodies to the lucky winners. Raffle items were provided by Harley-Davidson of Scottsdale, artist David Uhl, Amazon, and Kendra Scott Jewelry. Also performing on the patio stage was the Kiss tribute band 'Mini Kiss'. They drew a big crowd and cell phones were held high to capture the performance. Bill Davidson, son of Willie G., attended on behalf of The Motor Company Family and was available to meet and

take photos.

The night's concert headliner was '3 Doors Down'. A reported 10,000 people attended the show. How much would you expect a ticket to cost for a concert by this Grammy-nominated band? Well, this night's show was *free* ... just for showing your motorcycle endorsement AND free for your passenger as well. Pretty cool! No endorsement? A \$20 donation to PCH got you in the gate.

Of course another huge draw to the night was the anticipated announcement of who would win the motorcycle giveaway. You had to be there to claim the prize. The name was randomly drawn & contact was made via cell phone. You had to answer your phone OR respond to a text message within 3 minutes of it being sent. The winner of the motorcycle was 24-year old Brandon Scott. He's looking at a Ducati from GO AZ Motorcycles. Congratulations!

All proceeds of the day benefit Phoenix Chil-

dren's Hospital. The total presentation added up to \$500,000 ~ thanks in great part to the generosity of the Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation. "Including this year's event, Bob's Biker Blast has contributed \$2.2 million to the [Phoenix Children's] hospital's Hope Fund over the past six years. ... The Hope Fund makes it possible for the hospital to offer the very best care, medical specialists, cutting-edge technology and behavioral health services to families who are unable to pay." VERY cool! To learn more about Phoenix Children's Hospital, visit www.phoenixchildrens.org.

It was a fun day for an excellent cause. We're glad we could be there. Thank you Taylor Browning, Marketing Manager for HDoS and Amber Lip-tai of Big Yam advertising agency, for your input for this report.

Betsy & Bruce



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Evil Twin Custom Cycles Changes Hands

On Christmas Eve our travels included a stop at Evil Twin Custom Cycles for their Christmas Open House. The place was busy with well-wishers sharing Christmas Cheer.

Along with the food, drinkables, and socializing was the opportunity to meet the new owner of Evil Twin Customs. Yes ~ you read that correctly. For those who haven't heard the news yet... Robert has sold the shop and is retiring. Wow ~ how about THAT!! Yay for him!

So this was kind of a combo Merry Christmas ~ Retirement ~ Meet-the-New-Guy Party ☺

We met the new owner, Chase

Jorgensen, and had a brief but good conversation with him. He told us that the same crew will be staying on. One of the most important comments that you our readers & Evil Twin customers overall can take away from what we learned is that Chase wants a smooth and seamless transition. "No one should notice a difference."

So we wish Robert all the best in his retirement and wherever that path may take him. Best wishes to Chase as well as he embarks on this new endeavor.

We look forward to working with you in the future.

Betsy & Bruce

Evil Twin Custom Cycles is located at
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Steel Horse Saloon's Toy Run

The Steel Horse Saloon, located at 1818 W Bell Rd in Phoenix, hosted their 22nd annual Toy Run on Saturday December 16. Once again, their beneficiary was the Crisis Nursery. Event sponsors included Law Tigers.

The ride started and ended at the Steel Horse. This was a family-friendly gathering, with Santa Claus visiting with the kids in the morning at the Steel Horse.

Stops included Peaks & Valleys on Carefree Hwy and the Road Runner on Black Canyon Hwy. 75 riders took the trip and the Steel Horse Party Bus made the run as well; with additional people choosing to let someone else do the driving.

The day also included a Poker Hand. Best hand winner was Dana Mahoney and Low went to Tommy Shaw. Prizes were gift certificates for Steel Horse Saloon.

Donation requests focused on toys and needs for children infants to 10-years.

In addition to \$2400 being collected from the event, there was a wall inside the Steel Horse that was stacked high with toys & goods. Joanna of the Steel

Horse Saloon sends along thanks to everyone who supported this event. Extra shout-outs go to Mike & Suzanne Emch, who donated a pallet of diapers and to Cheri Mason from St Nick's for the great job she did on their event.

Saint Nick's Pub Crawl Sleigh Ride was held on December 9. It started & ended at St Nick's with stops at Beaver Bar, Maverick, Steel Horse, & Larry's Cocktails. We learned that this event rolled everything collected forward into the Steel Horse fundraiser for the Crisis Nursery. Nice!

Joanna shared that this will be her last toy run ~ well at least that she's organizing. What you say????? Yup... the lady is *retiring!* WooHoo ~ good for You!

SO... there's gonna be a Retirement Party at the Steel Horse on January 27. Joanna invites everyone to bring pictures, bring stories, and c'mon down. Details will be posting to their Facebook page soon.

Congratulations Steel Horse Saloon on another successful event, and best wishes Joanna for an enjoyable retirement!

Betsy

more pix on page 15



Arizona Biker Leathers 15th Anniversary Party

Arizona Biker Leathers hosted their 15th Anniversary Party and Customer Appreciation Day on Saturday December 9 from noon until 4pm. It was great to see Ann and the rest of her family during the day. She sent along some followup details to share.

AZBL hosts this free event each year in appreciation for the support the biker community has shown the shop over the years. This was a beautiful day for it. Ann estimates that about 700 people visited during the day.

Music was provided by DJ Charley Farley. He and his wife Joanne have supported this event for more than 10 years. Lunch was served up by Chuck, Charles, Lil Charles, and Freddy Four Fingers; all courtesy of AZ Biker Leathers.

There were about a dozen vendors, including Law Tigers, Iron Maiden Boutique, Bee-lineBikes.com, Ron the Seat Maker, Custom Metal Creations, Wolfskin Tattoo, Breyer Law, Kamanawana Shave Ice, Unique Beading, and more. There was apparel, jewelry, and various giftables; plus information from the Patriot Guard Riders, VFW/VFR, and the Christian

Motorcyclists Association.

A bitter-sweet addition to this year's activities was a balloon release in memory of George who passed away back in March 2017. About 3pm all were invited to get a balloon to participate. After a prayer, the family released their balloons, followed by everyone else. Ann sent along, "Special thanks to Tiffany with CMA for the prayer prior to our balloon release. We released 425 balloons in honor of George." The balloons floated up and hovered in a group over the store for a bit; then continued their journey on up into the bright light of the sun's rays. It was a beautiful remembrance.

George Jr stepped in to call the numbers for the raffle drawings, in place of his Pops. Although it had to be an emotional time, he did a good job. Between the AZ Biker Leathers items plus donations from the various vendors, there was quite a collection of goodies to pass out... headgear, bandannas, signs, leather goods of all sorts {of course!}, giftables, jackets, vests, patches, Law Tiger swag, a pedal car, bicycles, a kid's trike, and the grand finale ~ a 50" LED HDMI TV. Merry Christmas indeed!

Ann shared this note, "Thanks to my loved ones George Jr, Amber, Summer, Nick, Dirty Old Man, Kevin and Little Boss Man David. They are amazing. Thank you to everyone for your continued support. We have met so many amazing people in the last 15 years. Special thanks go out to our promoters, Kelly and staff with *Biker Information Guide* and Bruce & Betsy with *AZ Rider Motorcycle News* for the great jobs they do all year keeping you informed and making sure our ads are out there. Thank you also to our ladies doing the raffle ~ Leigh, Crystal, and Sabrina. They did an amazing job."

Arizona Biker Leathers is family owned and operated. It is located at 13833 N. 19th Avenue, that's the NE corner of 19th Ave & Thunderbird, in Phoenix. Look 'em up online at <http://arizonabikerleathers.com/> or www.facebook.com/arizonabikerleathers, or give 'em a call at 602-843-5847.

We're glad we could be there. We wish Ann and the entire Arizona Biker Leathers family all the best in 2018!

Betsy & Bruce



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Run Calendar

on web, click title above for more calendar entries and event details

Every Saturday: Rollin Knights' Steak Night at the Castle, 1134 W Grant Ave Phoenix. Starts at 8pm-til all the steaks are gone. Drinks, music and great dinners. FMI: www.rollinknightsmc.com

1st Sundays [thru 3/2018]: Arizona Cycle Swap @ Big Surf Waterpark, 1500 N McClintock Dr. Tempe, 85281 from 8a-noon. \$5/pp @ gate, under 12 free. Sponsors include Law Tigers. FMI / Vendor info: www.arizonacycleswap.com/

2nd Wednesday: ABATE-AZ Yavapai Chapter meeting ~ 6pm at VFW Post 541, 202 N Arizona Ave, Prescott. FMI: 928-308-9911, ycabateaz@gmail.com

Every Friday: ALMA MC Westside Open House... 8-11:30pm. 1050 N. Eliseo Felix Jr Way #105, Avondale. FMI: www.facebook.com/AlmaMcWestside/

2nd & 3rd Friday: ALMA MC East Side Open House from 7pm-? Entertainment. Food & Beverages available. 3212 S. Fair Lane, Tempe. FMI: 127.Eastside@gmail.com

1/5 {Fri} Motorcycles on Main Bike Night in Downtown Mesa from 6-10pm. Live Music with the Unknown Associates. Beer Garden, vendors, & more. Park & show your bike. Eateries open. Takes place every first Friday between September & June. Vendors call Courtney 480-890-2613 <https://facebook.com/MotorcyclesOnMain>

1/20 {Sat} 8th annual Skin & Steel Tattoo & Motorcycle Show, presented by American Legion Riders of Post 2. 10a-4pm at American Legion Post 2, 2125 S Industrial Park Ave, Tempe. Rain or shine. Free admission. Music by Moonshine VooDoo Band. Vendors & more. FMI: Kaleen 480-599-5681, www.skinandsteelaz.com/

1/27 {Sat} Ride for the Salt River Wild Horses. Sign-in 10-11am at American Legion Post 58, 16837 E Parkview Ave, Fountain Hills. \$10/pp. Take an unescorted Ride on a scenic route where the wild horses call home thru the Lower Salt River on Bush Hwy in the Tonto Nat'l Forest. Last stop Superstition H-D, 2910 W Apache Trail. End party {11a-4:30pm} includes live music, beer garden, food, vendors, educational booths, & raffles. Benefits the Salt River Wild Horse Mgmt Group to continue protecting & keeping these Horses Wild & FREE. Sponsors include Law Tigers. <http://saltriverwildhorsemanagementgroup.org/>

1/27 Retirement Party for Joanna at Steel Horse Saloon, 1818 W Bell Rd, Phoenix. FMI: 602-942-8778, www.facebook.com/steelhorseaz/

2/2 {Fri} Motorcycles on Main Bike Night in Downtown Mesa from 6-10pm. Live Music by Moonshine VooDoo band. Beer Garden, vendors, & more. Park & show your bike. Eateries open. Takes place every first Friday between September & June. Vendors call Courtney 480-890-2613 <https://facebook.com/MotorcyclesOnMain>

2/10 {Sat} Red Iron Run for the Children. Poker Run begins at Steel Horse Saloon [602-942-8778]. Register from 10a-noon. Benefits children of the AZ Burn Fndn. Hosts Red Iron MC & Original 13. FMI: www.facebook.com/events/914191808743574/

2/11 {Sun} 35th annual Florence Prison Run. FMI: onepercenter@hotmail.com

2/17 {Sat} MMA'S 25th Annual Freedom Beach Party at Jakes Corner from noon-5pm. \$15/pp. First 200, meal included. Live music by Frozen Fire. Ugly Hawaiian shirt contest, Hula dance contest, people games, 50/50, raffles and tattoo contest. FMI: Vine 928-978-2850

2/18 {Sun} Bikers Soar For Wildlife. Sign-in 8:30a at AZ Game & Fish Dept Hq, located at 5000 W Carefree Hwy, Phx 85086. Pre-reg until Feb. 5th = \$25/sgl, \$35/2-up. After 5th, add \$5 to fees. Raffles, auction, & more. Supports Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center Auxiliary. FMI: bikerssoarforwildlife@hotmail.com

3/2 {Fri} Motorcycles on Main Bike Night in Downtown Mesa from 6-10pm. Live Music w/ Unknown Associates. Beer Garden, vendors, & more. Park & show your bike. Eateries open. Takes place every first Friday between September & June. Vendors call Courtney 480-890-2613 <https://facebook.com/MotorcyclesOnMain>

3/4 {Sun} AMSAF {AZ Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation} annual Riding For the Long Haul will be at El Zaribah Shriners Auditorium in Phoenix. Sponsors include Law Tigers. FMI: www.amsaf.org

3/17 {Sat} Hogs For Dogs Car & Motorcycle Fun Run to benefit Casa Grande Valley Humane Society No-Kill Shelter. Register 8:30am at the Wonder Bar, 310 W. 2nd St, Casa Grande, AZ. No Registration Fee— Tickets sold at each stop! Breakfast Burritos will be Served! 10a KSU. FMI: Roxanne 520-494-0309, DeWayne 520-251-0762

3/17 Hooligans MC Deer Valley's annual Luck O' the Irish St. Patrick's Day Party from 6-11:30pm. Food, special drinks, vendors, music, & a great time! \$10/sgl, \$15/cpl. FMI: www.hooligansmcdeervalley.com

3/24 {Sat} 3rd annual Dakota's Run, organized by the Green Knights MMC Chapter 28. Benefits the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (www.lls.org/) Starts/Ends at Go AZ Motorcycles Peoria. Register 8-10:30a. \$25/sgl, \$35/2-up includes lunch. Last Bike Out at 10:30a, Last In at 2pm. Music, food, vendors, silent auction. PRE-registration includes FREE t-shirt. Each year we get together to Battle Toward Victory over blood cancers & to celebrate as Dakota continues her cancer-free reign! FMI: www.lukegreenknights28.org | www.lukegreenknights28.org/ridesevents/

4/6 {Fri} Motorcycles on Main Bike Night in Downtown Mesa from 6-10pm. Live Music. Beer Garden, vendors, & more. Park & show your bike. Eateries open. Takes place every first Friday between September & June. Vendors call Courtney 480-890-2613 <https://facebook.com/MotorcyclesOnMain>

4/6-7 {Fr-Sat} Backstage Biker Bash at Desert Wind H-D to benefit ABATE-AZ Shadow Mountain Chapter. Music Festival featuring Local & National Acts, + Vendors. 4/06 Doors at 4pm. Music includes 74th St Band, headliner - Mark Farner fmrlly of Grand Funk Railroad. 4/07 Doors at 12noon. Music includes Skarlett Fever. Headliner - TBA. Weekend = \$35+ or Sgl day = \$20+ credit card & online processing fees. No Refunds - Rain Or Shine Show, Children 12 & under FREE. At 922 S. Country Club Dr., Mesa 85210. FMI: 602-549-1044, mike@squarepegpromos.com, 480-894-0404

4/11-15 {Wed-Sun} AZ Bike Week at WestWorld of Scottsdale. FMI/tickets: www.azbikeweek.com, 480-644-8191

4/11 {Wed} Wednesday Ride for Kids. Join Phoenix HOG 93 for a 250-mile ride through beautiful Northern AZ. Ride begins at Buddy Stubbs Phoenix H-D, ends at the Road House in Cave Creek. PRE-reg by 3/22/18 = \$30/pilot, \$20/passenger; after add \$5. Proceeds go to Camp Courage Burn Camp for Kids; which benefits AZ kids who have been affected by fire by allowing them a week to just be kids. Sponsors include Law Tigers. FMI/register at www.wednesdayride.com | hog93.com/wednesday.php

5/4 {Fri} Motorcycles on Main Bike Night in Downtown Mesa from 6-10pm. Live Music by Chris Kane Trio. Beer Garden, vendors, & more. Park & show your bike. Eateries open. Takes place every first Friday between September & June. Vendors call Courtney 480-890-2613 <https://facebook.com/MotorcyclesOnMain>

5/4-6 {Fr-Sun} Wild in the Weeds with ABATE-AZ High Country Chapter. Old School Bike Rally @ Punkin Center Bar & Grill - Mile Post 262 SR 188 Tonto Basin, AZ. FMI: FMI: CC 928-476-1955, <http://wildintheweeds.com/> | www.facebook.com/AbateHighCountryChapter/

5/5 {Sat} 11th annual International Female Ride Day ~ all makes, all models. FMI: <https://www.facebook.com/Arizona-International-Female-Ride-Day-1012427218847417/>

5/19 {Sat} 3rd Annual Sinners & Saints Fight Against Diabetes Party, presented by the Hooligans MC Deer Valley & the Silent Saints MC at the Hooligans MC DV Clubhouse in Phoenix from 6-11:30 pm. Benefits awareness of & the fight against diabetes. Good food, cold drinks, music, vendors, & a great time. \$10/sgl, \$15/cpl. FMI: hooligansmcdv@gmail.com

6/1 {Fri} Motorcycles on Main Bike Night in Downtown Mesa from 6-10pm. Live Music. Beer Garden, vendors, & more. Park & show your bike. Eateries open. Takes place every first Friday between September & June. Vendors call Courtney 480-890-2613 <https://facebook.com/MotorcyclesOnMain>

6/7-10 Too Broke For Sturgis annual ABATE-AZ party weekend! ALWAYS a good time! Adults ONLY party at Mormon Lake Lodge. www.facebook.com/Toobrokeforsturgis/



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2017 was the 6th annual ACMC Christmas Toy Run. This year's event was held on Sunday December 17th. It is a family-friendly activity, welcoming the general public to participate in addition to all motorcyclists. My thanks to ACMC Secretary Marcus 'Moe' Vincent for sending along news of the day.

Representatives of at least 31 member organizations {Motorcycle Clubs, Rider Clubs, & Motorcycle Associations} gathered at the Wal-Mart at Bell Rd. & 19th Ave from 7-Noon. Marcus noted, "We do not have a count of actual participants, as this is an 'open to the public event' that draws support from within the motorcycle community, & from the general public and shoppers at Wal-Mart. I would estimate around 400+ participants & supporters."

All donations from this day benefited Andrea's Closet at Arizona Children's Center. "Final count on toys & donations was close to 1200 toys, items, & bicycles. This included 57 bicycles with helmets, and \$500 in toys, that were donated to the event directly by the ACMC. All of this in roughly 4 hours of activity in front of the Wal-Mart store." Well done!

After the Toy Drive concluded at noon, there was an after party at the Road Runner Saloon in New River. It was a self-paced ride of mostly motorcycle clubs, rider clubs, plus general public supporters. Marcus explained, "It is not a poker run so no games, stops, or prize on this ride. Our main focus is to generate toy donations for the kids at the Arizona Children's Center so we do not promote any sales or revenue associated with this event. To us, in regard to this charity event, the only 'winners' should be the kids." He continued, "The Road Runner Saloon serves as a good destination for a short ride where everyone can gather for lunch, listen to the live band they had playing on the patio, and reflect on the wonderful event of the morning. From here, those that would like to, are led by Santa Claus on a ride directly to the Arizona Children's Center, along with the truck full of toys, to present them to the hospital. Once there, the toys are presented to the children by Santa Claus and his 'elves'. Santa and his elves allow children at the hospital [to] come outside where

they are able to pick out any toy or bike they want & take it home for Christmas right then. After that, they took wagons full of toys, room by room, & let those children pick out toys as well. Once this is done, the remaining toys are stored in the hospital's Andrea's Closet store room, nearly filling it to the ceiling."

When asked about event supporters to be thanked, Marcus stated, "This is the ACMC's main holiday charity event every year, and thus, our focus is to make it as big and successful as possible... This would not be possible without the help, support, and generosity of many key motorcycle clubs, rider clubs, businesses, organizations, and individuals. Really, too many to thank. However, in all of this, there are a few that we would like to mention in appreciation. Thank you to the AZ Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs and ALL of its members & associates that continue to participate & support this event every year, rain or shine. Thank you to the Hooligans Motorcycle Club that organizes, sets up, & helps to facilitate this event each year. Thank you to Kenny & everyone at Andrea's Closet who continue to do an amazing thing for the children in all of our Arizona hospitals. Thank you to Josh, Trey, & all of the Wal-Mart family at the store on Bell Rd. & 19th Ave, whose help & support of this event every year is integral to its success. Thank you to Kyla & all of the amazing staff at the AZ Children's Center who are, without a doubt, *angels in scrubs* doing amazing things every day. Thank you to the Road Runner Saloon for always hosting our lunch and entertainment for this event. Thank you to All My Sons Moving for allowing us to use their truck for collection & transportation of all the amazing toys each year. Thank you to our Santa Claus who rides in on his Harley sled, in full Santa dress, ready to spread good cheer & smiles to as many kids and adults as possible, regardless of how cold or rainy it might be. He is truly amazing and connects with the children to bring big smiles on all of their faces. It is a heartwarming sight to behold. Finally, Thank You again to each & every person that donated big & small to this event. We would have people driving by in their car, walking into the store, riding by on their bike, just wanting



to help, to be involved, to spread Christmas cheer. People came with shopping carts full of toys to donate & left with nothing in return but the knowledge that they helped bring a smile to a child's eyes this Christmas. These are the real heroes here and their compassion and generosity is truly moving."

In conclusion, Marcus commented, "This year's event started with a little bit of rain, cold temps, and continued with partially cloudy skies throughout the morning. Although it was another great success in terms of donations, I believe the weather hampered our overall participation just a bit. In addition to the weather, the lack of local news media support is a bit disappointing. Our local news stations were notified, but failed to send coverage this year. I feel they missed a great opportunity to show how strong & involved the motorcycle community can be when all the clubs & riders come together with the local community to focus on a greater cause. That's OK. We will be back again next Christmas, collecting toys for the children, getting the word out, & trying to improve on the previous year's successes. All that said, the children are truly the focus here & it is our honor to be able to do something for them again this year at Christmas."

Kudos to the ACMC & its members for their efforts on behalf of the kids at AZ Children's Center {www.mih.org/arizona-childrens-center/}. Learn more about the AZ Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs {ACMC} via their website www.azcmc.com/

more pix on page 15

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Christmas Wrap

Christmas and the entire Holiday Season generates a calendar full of benefits on behalf of the less fortunate around our state. Groups host events to help feed people at Thanksgiving, ensure that kids have gifts at Christmas, and honor our Veterans. These are things that bikers do so well. Whether the events are large or small, the same big beautiful biker heart is at the center of it all. We are proud to share news here about some of this Season's events.

* * *

For nearly 30 years, **Birds on Bikes**, sponsored by the Modified Motorcycle Association of AZ, has been helping the St Vincent DePaul kitchens feed people for Thanksgiving. It's a family-friendly event held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving; this year **November 19**. Scooter folk are invited to strap a frozen bird onto their bikes & ride with the MMA flock. Organizer Cindy Gates, member of MMA's Leather/Eagle District, sent along some details.

Riders departed from Charley's Place in Glendale and the Chandler Elks Lodge. It is a direct ride to St Vincent de Paul on Watkins in Phoenix ~ with no stops. Additional rider groups met up with the flock at St Vincent's for a total participation estimated at about 250. "We have quite a few groups that come on their own each year. We get HOG groups,



Spartan Riders MC, CMA {Christian Motorcyclists Association}, and Bikers for Christ to name a few." All-in-all about 300 turkeys, 200# of non-perishables plus about \$1000 in cash were donated.

Cindy added this note, "I always want to thank all that came out to support this cause. We did have News Stations 3, 5, and 12 this year. Channel 12 always does the Turkey Tuesday. I told the guy this year [we] would love to compete with the news station. Hopefully that would bring a bigger crowd. I think that would be fun. I know the station usually gets about 20,000 birds and a lot of cash. But I think it would be fun!!"

Thank you to Cindy for your 18 years {and counting} dedication to this event and also for sending news of this day for us to share with our readers.

* * *

The 31st annual **Casa Grande Toy Parade & Auction** took place on Sunday **December 3, 2017**. Our thanks to organizers Kacy Stoneburg & Barbie Rebenstorf for your help with this report.

Sign-in for the Parade takes place at Dave White Park. This year approximately 350 people participated in the parade; with about 259 motorcycles being counted. There were also a few classic cars and trucks, a Casa Grande fire truck, and an AMR ambulance.

Kacy explained, "This is an organized, parade-style route escorted by The Casa Grande Police Department and volunteers from the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. Our parade route was disrupted this year due to road construction on Florence Blvd. Usually it is important for us to parade through well traveled parts of the city. It is a well known event each year and we love for our participants to be seen (and heard ;-)) by the citizens of the city. Initially we did have some issues with rerouting the parade. Michael, the owner of The Property, was able to talk to the Mayor of Casa Grande and get us back on track with an extended Parade route the took the group through town. Because it is a parade-style run the speed is around 15mph and took around 45 minutes. People

from the city camp out at places on the route to wave and wish us well."

Last stop again this year was 'The Property' on Gila Bend Highway, for lunch, music, a raffle, and live auction. Kacy added, "This year we served 283 lunches, ran out of food and almost filled up all the seating. Last year after filling up the seating at The Property they added additional tables for us this year and we almost surpassed that!" What a great turnout!

The band, Mogollon performed at The Property. "We consider them part of the family and they have been performing at this event for over a decade!"

They had a large 'harvest-style' raffle. Participants purchase tickets and place them in buckets for items they are interested in winning. Items were donated from local merchants, restaurants and even the local Funeral Home. "This part of the event is critical in raising funds to purchase toys and adds to the fun for our participants. This year we had over 60 items. In addition to the raffle we have a live auction for items of higher value. For instance this year we had an electric guitar donated by Mogollon."

It was clarified that, "This event is adults-only. We love the idea of continuing the event *for* children but *by* adults!"

The toys are distributed by Casa Grande Salvation Army. "This year we were able to provide the Salvation Army with 1,200 toys for distribution. Each year we try to surpass the year before. Last year we were able to give just over 1,000 toys so this was definitely a successful year." Congratulations!

Saying thank you... "Because this event has grown to the size it has it is near impossible to recognize everyone that helps make this event amazing. That being said we have a few that go above and beyond each year from donating items, services or time: On-Site Shooting in Casa Grande provides us with firearms at cost that we use to raffle off. This is a widely successful portion of the event now that raises a lot of funds for us. International Minute

continues on page 15

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continues from pg 14

Christmas Wrap

Press donates flyers each year and assists us with banners, raffle tickets and more. They give us a great rate and they are able to print the products quickly. They have been assisting in this event for many, many years. Budweiser via their local distributor, Hensley donates money to us each year and its goes a long way to pay for what little overhead we do have. Some other notable donors are: Casa Grande Fire Department, IAFF Local I-60, Airport Tavern, Cotton's Wonderbar, J. Warren Funeral Services, AMR, Tucson Harley Davidson and The Roughnecks Motorcycle Club."

This event always takes place on the first Sunday in December, so you can go ahead and mark your calendars for it. You can also find CGTP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CGtoyparade



Lexi's Legacy Toy Ride is a new event this year, taking place on Saturday **December 9th**. It was organized in memory of Lexi Schultz who died at 13 years old. From what we've read about her, even at such a young age Miss Lexi had a strong feeling of right and wrong; standing up for kids who were victims of bullying.

Biker Ernesto Najar organized the ride. Taryn Schultz explained, "Ernie and I met when Channel 15 did a news segment on Lexi and how she died; and how her last breaths were at Phoenix Children's Hospital after the entire ICU floor kept her alive by compressing her chest. He is a cameraman and after shooting the story, said he is from San Diego and they used to do a toy ride for a boy who passed there. And he is a biker. Would I be interested?"

In Lexi's name, this event supports the Phoenix Children's Hospital annual Toyland fundraiser. It was requested that toys donated specifically to be of a non-violent nature.

We learned from Taryn that "There was approximately 20 bikes and a few cars..." There were toy bins at Majerle's Sports Grills at Chandler Fashion Center and Desert Ridge in the week preceding the ride; where several people added their donations.

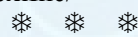
Riders enjoyed coffee & muffins at Papago

Park before riding out. Participants received a remembrance patch. Traveling as a group, the riders departed Papago Park and headed to Phoenix Children's Hospital to drop off the toys. Organizations represented on the ride included American Legion Riders, Gentlemen of Justice LEMC, and Phoenix Gentlemen MC. The staff met the riders to accept the donations and speak about their programs. About 70 toys were delivered.

Once the delivery was made at PCH, riders who gathered at Majerle's Sports Grill at Desert Ridge were given discounts for their participation.

Taryn sent along this note, "The riders (all strangers to Lexi) were so kind and generous showing up in her honor. There was a Dad who told us about Gracie, his daughter who had passed at Phoenix Children's Hospital as well. It was his first time back and when seeing a post, knew he needed to participate. Another Dad lost his son two days prior and would be flying out for his funeral but had committed to coming to Lexi's Legacy Toy Ride so he did. There was a biker who was supposed to work but wanted to participate so her teenage daughter filled in for her. The list goes on and on. Each and every one of them truly amazing people. I'm so grateful as Lexi's mom that they took their Saturday AM to come participate in a total stranger's daughter's honor." She continued, "I was overwhelmed with the kindness and support of the bikers who took time out of their weekend, and money to purchase a toy, and came to honor Lexi's legacy. Truly humbled. It was my complete pleasure to meet people like each of the bikers."

Thanks go to Sailor Cakes, My Realtor Kelly, and Majerle's Sports Grill for their support. To learn more, visit Live Like Lexi, Inc online at <http://livelikelexi.com> and/or www.facebook.com/LiveLikeLexiInc/



December 16, 2017 was the day for the nation-wide annual **'Wreaths Across America' Wreath Laying Ceremony**. This is a coordinated wreath-laying ceremony; held at Arlington National Cemetery as well as over 1,200 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad.

From the WAA website, "A person dies twice: once when they take their final breath, and later, the last time their name is spoken." As the



wreaths are placed, the volunteers are encouraged to say the Veteran's name aloud; reflecting a moment on their life and service.

WAA in Arizona honors our departed Veterans at cemeteries throughout the state. At Phoenix National Veterans Cemetery, the ceremony hosted several hundred more visitors than in years past. We learned this from their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/pg/WAAPHX/ ...

"Just received our final wreath count for the 2017 ceremony... The number is: 7,110!! A full thousand over last year

and as always our best to date. There is no way to express fully how exciting this is!! Each year the program grows. Each year we get closer to the ultimate goal of 65,000. Enough to have a wreath for every veteran interred at our location (a number that also continues to grow). THANK YOU every single person, company, community group, school and organization that has helped with fundraising activities. Stay the course and keep that momentum for 2018!!! There are many more photos of the ceremony on their page as well.

If you have any questions about Wreaths Across America Phoenix, contact Tarra Matyas, 602-487-0970, tarramatyas2@gmail.com. She can guide you to information about WAA elsewhere in our state.

Learn more about the nationwide Wreaths Across America program at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/

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Kudos to those of you who hosted and participated in these events. You can be sure that you made a memorable difference in people's lives this Christmas Season.



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