

Too Broke For Sturgis #31

ABATE of Arizona hosted its 31st Too Broke For Sturgis Rally the weekend of June 9-12, 2022 at Mormon Lake Lodge arena & campground. If you weren't there, you missed a terrific time! Brothers and Sisters of the wind sharing laughs and stories, making new friends, and catching up with old ones. Camp started filling up on Wednesday as people chose to stretch their TBFS fun as much as possible.

There was so much enthusiasm for the weekend! The weather was wonderful. There were riders coming in from the Valley, Tucson & Southern AZ, Prescott, White Mountains, Yuma.... No one was missing the 110+ degrees down in the flatlands. I met a group of gals who rode in from New Mexico. Other riders were there from California. Where did you come in from? Post a note to the @TBFS page & let us know ☺

Each morning the CMA camp hosted coffee & breakfast, with donations appreciated. Sunday morning included a worship service at the arena for those who wished to attend. CMA {the Christian Motorcyclists Association} feeds the

body & the soul of our biker community. The person who said they'd bring the sound equipment ... didn't. SO... a HUGE thanks goes to Mormon Lake Fire Chief Shawn Western. Turns out, he's also a DJ! He brought his PA equipment up and stepped in as needed to help out. Awesome!

Thursday night's band Last Train to Juarez did a good job of getting the weekend started. It was hard to keep your toes from tapping ☺ Friday night's band backed out at the last minute. Saturday night headliner Skarlett Fever stepped up and took on both nights; to make sure there'd be entertainment for all. The fans were all good with that! Kudos to you!

Friday's Poker Walk through the Vendor Village was sponsored by AZ's Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs {ACMC}. Stops were at the I Drip Duo, the Diva Cave, Ms Conception Paint, & Dirty Biker Shit. Congratulations to the winners! Theresa E's high hand won her \$75, while Vince T collected \$25 for low hand.

The Too Broke committee came up with some fresh ideas to change things up

a bit. New games introduced were popular and a lot of fun.

Guys or Gals could play the Swinging Balls game. I captured some video in the case you missed it. It was a hoot to watch, had good participation, and looked pretty fun for the players too! The People Games also included the Helmet Toss & Tug of War. The winners names were not available at the time of this writing. Congratulations to each of you!

Friday afternoon's Ms Too Broke For Sturgis contest was sponsored by Law Tigers. Ms Too Broke is chosen to be a spokesperson for the coming year on behalf of ABATE-AZ and to help promote the next TBFS. Congratulations to Lei Cayson and runner up Suzanne Jensen. It looks like ABATE-AZ and TBFS will be well represented by these ambassadors!

Some beautiful work was on display in the Tattoo Contest, with a good turnout of contestants. Tattoo Mark Matheny of Dozer Ink was among the judges. Categories & winners were Best Black & Grey: Reaper ; Best Color: Ruby

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; Most Visionary: Trog ; Most Realistic: Saraya ; and Most Patriotic: Steven Franklin. Steven is the Commander of VFW Post 1433 in Glendale, AZ. Cobbie collected the trophy for Best of Show.

Friday night up at the Arena had a great bunch of people enjoying music, dancing, laughter, camaraderie, & catching up.

Saturday's Bike Show, sponsored by Rick Ferguson's Ferguson Approach/Coldwell Banker Realty office, was extra special to me. It's been named the Bruce 'Meltdown' Newkirk Memorial Bike Show. Redbone donated some great looking trophy plaques. I was invited to help present the trophies to the winners. There were about 34 bikes in seven different categories. An electronic update to the balloting system, thanks to East Valley Chapter member Clem, meant that the votes could be tallied much faster... allowing the winners to be announced while the bikes were still in the arena. The People's Choice for Best in Each Category were: Vintage: Ruben Palma ; Rat: Kurly Armijo ; Ladies: Haley Pilsbury ; Custom: Lonn Haberman ; Bagger:

Ron Judge ; Metric: Michael Bleichroth ; Trike: Pat Leeper ; and Best of Show: Amanda 'Ms Conception' Beland.

Time was taken to acknowledge the ABATE-AZ personnel who run the organization, and the Too Broke For Sturgis committee who bring this event together each year. They all put in a lot of hours and effort ~ mostly behind the scenes. It was good to see them get some of the recognition they deserve! You ARE appreciated!

Special recognition of Deb Butitta, taken from us by a left-turning truck on June 4th, was particularly emotional. Her contribution to the motorcycling community... here in AZ, as well as at the National level... is well recognized.

The Revvv Up made a joyful noise in the Arena as the traditional finale to the Bike Show and the Remembrance Ceremony in honor of our fellow bikers who have departed on their Long Ride since last year's Too Broke. That righteous roar of the bikes was like a wave that could carry all the way up to Heaven itself. This gesture, dedicated to the so very recent loss of Deb Butitta, and to

my Bruce, as well as to the others we've lost this year ~ made it a very moving demonstration.

Once the bikes were clear of the Arena; contestants gathered for the Magnificent Mustache & Beard Contest. Congratulations to the winners... Best Groomed: Kiven ; Best Freestyle: Silverback ; Best Mustache: Michael West ; and Rex still has the Longest Beard ☺

As usual, the Bike Games were fun to watch. The winners were... Road Kill: BJ & Kurt ; Weenie Bite: Tanya & Webb ; and Slow Race: Craig.

And who would have thought so many people have hula hoop skills? The new Hula Hoop Contest, sponsored by the Dirty Dogg Saloon, was open to gals and guys. No bikinis required ☺ There were about 25 players including some half-dozen fellas. Thanks guys for being great sports! It was super cool of you to join in! There was a small contingent of the mammary-obsessed who lamented the replacement of the Wet T Contest by the Hula Hoop Contest. But everyone else was too busy having fun. The winners were Tammy and Dusty.

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Poker Run, sponsored by Grand Canyon HD & Legends HD. The ride window was opened up so you could do the Poker Run on Thurs, Fri, or Saturday; as long as your game card was turned in by 2pm on Saturday. Stops were at GCHD Bellemont, the Pine Breeze in Flagstaff, & Parks General Store. Anthony LaRoach's Ace high straight earned him the High hand prize of \$75. Bonnie Judge had Low hand & collected \$25. Congratulations to you both!

The 50/50 drawing winner collected \$745.... Woo Hoo! Nope ~ not gonna publish her name... But she was sure one happy gal ☺

People who held 50/50 tickets were also in for some additional prizes. A gentleman donated his Dad's coin collection to the evening's drawings. Ed Mason was a Veteran who passed away last year. Five lucky winners received some uncirculated sets. There was also flag pole set, a gift basket from Mormon Lake Lodge; and 3 different gift certificates from Dwn-n-Out Motorcycle Sales & Service.

In addition to the mentions above,

Thank you's from the Too Broke For Sturgis committee also include attorney Russ Brown for sponsoring all of the weekend's music, Redbone of RB & P Enterprises for the custom trophy plaques, the Sons of Liberty Riders MC for their 'above and beyond' volunteering, and Franke Estes at Dwn-N-Out Motorcycles for his generous giveaway donations. My apologies if I missed anyone.... There are a LOT of supporters who come together to make this weekend happen! Additional sponsors included AIM, AZ's Hometown Radio Group, Diva Cave, Dobson Lakes Family Chiropractic, Husband & Wife Law Team, Law Tigers, Tombstone Brewing Co, and Tortilla Flat.

About 20 different organizations were observed being represented, along with all the many independent riders. We met a lot of newcomers to the event, which was great!

Anyone who attends Too Broke can be sure that their money is going for the benefit of motorcycling in AZ. This weekend is the only fundraiser for ABATE-AZ's state operations & activities... including maintaining their website,

publishing the MasterLink newsletter, and supporting riders' rights & education programs. If you aren't a member of ABATE or showing support through merchandise sales or event attendance, then you are 'Riding On Our Gas'! Think about that when the Lane Filtering Law goes into effect, when you want to add those insanely high apehangers to your custom bike, or when you're sitting in line on your bike at the emissions station... Oh *RIGHT!* You DON'T have to do that anymore!! *Thank You ABATE-AZ* ☺ You can learn more about this Motorcyclists Rights Organization {MRO} by visit their website <http://www.abateofaz.org/>

Sunday morning brought the sounds of people breaking camp & prepping to head home. It's sort of bittersweet as you're saying goodbyes ☺ BUT it's only until next year ~ when we get together again!

The 2023 dates will be Thursday June 8 – Saturday June 10 {home Sunday}. Hope to see you there!

Fallout

