

Whiskey Runners RC Chili Cook-Off



The Whiskey Runners RC's 2023 Chili Cook-off took place on Saturday February 11 at the Tin Top Bar & Grill in Tonopah on Salome Highway. It has become a favorite event in the West Valley over the years.

The Whiskey Runners is a riding and off-road club. There are about 35 members plus spouses & additional volunteers who put this event together.

There were 15 Vendors, offering a variety of goods. Event sponsor Law Tigers had an information booth set up.

Music for the day was provided by Mary Jane's Rocket... The band sent out a message, "Thanks Whiskey Runners RC for having us out for the second year, and all the folks that sang along and the Dancers for kicking up the dust on the dirt floor! We had a blast!"

But of course, the CHILI is the main event. The categories were Hot, Mild, & Wild. The Wild category is for cooks who like to use wild game meats or other non-traditional ingredients.

There were 15 contestants; with 18 different chilis presented. Judging is by a panel of secret judges. Only the contest coordinator and her husband, who is a patch member, knew who they were. A \$200 prize in each category was on the line. Congratulations to each of the winners!

Along with announcing the winners of the Chili contest, there were raffle drawings, a 50/50 drawing, and their 2nd

Amendment Raffle. WRRC does a 2A raffle at each of their events. This time, that included a Ruger AR and a 9mm hand gun.

Harve Pettigrew, Whiskey Runners RC Charity Vice President, sent a message of thanks to their event supporters & donors The Tin Top Bar and Grill, Ingersoll Rand of Phoenix, Austin Companies in Phoenix, Mr. Good Ink in Goodyear for the T Shirts, and American Fidelis Guns and Ammo in Buckeye, AZ. He added, "We absolutely love putting on this event. We would like to thank all who came out and participated and supported us again this year. We hope to see you all in the fall at No Passports Required." Thanks also go out to the vendors and local businesses that donated items to the raffles.

While there wasn't an exact count at the time of this writing, attendance was estimated at close to 600. Harve was able to share that, "This event produced a total from raffle, t shirt, 50/50, and entry donations around \$10,000 after all is said and done." Nice job!

These monies will be put to good use in the community. Harve explained, "This event primarily helps us with our annual Tonopah Valley High School donations. Our donations to TVHS for the 3 skills clubs, and two scholarships are a total of \$6500. The skills clubs are Construction, Robotics, and Graphic Arts. The scholarships go to students

who are going to school for a skilled labor trade. Those students don't get a lot of support much of the time and we like to help them with tools for the trade, tuition, etc." He continued, "We will use some of the donations to get ready for our next event and also we support other local 501c3s and have helped several local families in need throughout the year." Additional organizations they help include the VFW Homeless Veterans Fund and 'Relay For Life' to benefit the American Cancer Society. You can [learn more about the WRRC at their website](#). You can also [find WRRC on facebook](#). "We do our best to help. Our clubs are about riding, having fun and helping these and other organizations and families when needed."

As mentioned above, the Whiskey Runners RC is also the host of the annual No Passports Required, held in mid-November. This event is for those motorcycle riders who don't head to Rocky Point; as well as for the WRRC off road club supporters. It will be held at AJ's CO-OP Bar and Grill in Arlington Arizona. There will be live music, poker runs, & more. {Editor's note: Once confirmed, the date will be added to the *AZ Rider* calendar.}

Thank you Harve Pettigrew for your help with this article! Congratulations to Whiskey Runners RC for another successful event and for all you are accomplishing in your community!

