

# Tortilla Flat 'Wind Therapy' Ride

The 4th annual Tortilla Flat Wind Therapy Ride took place on Saturday March 13, 2021. The host, Roadblock, started this ride 4 years ago so that people like himself could meet other riders... Independent, organizations, RCs and MCs. "I cannot think of a way to meet a better group of people who enjoy riding as much as I do."

Riders in the East Valley gathered at Superstition Harley-Davidson in Apache Junction. West Valley riders met up at the QT at Camelback & I-17 and then headed to SHD in AJ for the group ride to Tortilla Flat. After leaving Superstition H-D it was a straight shot to Tortilla Flat, about a 30-minute ride. This was a self-paced ride. Riders are encouraged to ride within their abilities and exercise safe practices.

Roadblock explained, "At Tortilla Flat, Chris the manager had the back patio open early for us and had the live band there at 10am instead of 11. We had full access to food and drinks on the patio as well as the restaurant." For those who may be unfamiliar, "Tortilla Flat is a small town next to Canyon Lake. They have a souvenir store as well as general store that sells homemade fudge and has amazing ice cream."

The final tally was 78 riders. A lot more had planned to attend, but weather really factored into this day. It was cold and rainy in the Valley. Riders who would normally attend from the Payson and other northern areas were faced with snow & ice and chose to stay home. Roadblock commented, "We were very pleased with this outcome as the weather was chilly for an Arizona day. It had rained quite a bit the day before & there was still a 40% chance of rain that day. When leaving Tortilla Flat a small group of riders were hit by a shower that also had hail."

This is a free event to participate. There is no beneficiary. There is no game or contest as part of the ride. It is simply a ride to get to know new people and make new friends. It is also family-friendly.

Roadblock sent along this message, "We would like to thank Chris and all the staff in Tortilla Flat for being so awesome to work with. We would like to thank all the riders who came out to enjoy the ride, make new friends and see how beautiful that ride is." He continued, "I was so shocked and surprised at the response for the ride. There were over 3,000 interested and 300 stated they were going. If the weather were better, I am sure we would have been more riders. This was the largest one to date. Even with 78 riders showing up. Last year we had around 70."

Roadblock has a small shop that he is working to grow. Right now, he's only working the shop on weekends. He was about to go more full time when pandemic restrictions were being enacted, so he decided to leave it part time. His goal is help others with keeping up the maintenance on their bikes.

His shop is called Liberty Motorcycle Garage and you can reach Roadblock via email at roadblockaz16@gmail.com

Plans for the 5th annual are already being discussed. Roadblock will create a Facebook event when details come together. "We may be adding a stop or twisting things up a bit since it will be the 5th year." It will be added to the *AZ Rider* calendar when we are notified.

Betsy

