

# White Mountain Bike Rally AZ Rider



Hon-Dah Resort Casino & Conference Center in Pinetop, AZ held their 9th Annual White Mountain Bike Rally on June 22 & 23, 2018. My thanks to Karan Jordan, the resort's Media Coordinator, for sharing details of the day with our readers.

We learned that this year there was a total of 1282 registered riders (on approximately 1000 bikes). That is a record for this event. Congratulations! In addition to AriZona riders, others came from 9 different states: New Mexico, Colorado, Michigan, Florida, Oregon, Texas, California, Utah, & South Dakota. Karan commented, "So many of our riders are people that come back every year. We love seeing them and catching up with them. They are all great."

Karan specified, "We want everyone to know that this a family event for all ages." She continued, "Every year kids ride with their parents or grandparents and compete in the poker run if they are the passenger. One little boy, about ten, almost had the high hand in the poker run. There are no extra activities for the kids. They participate in everything the adults do. I think I only saw about 6 kids this year. I saw the kids out there dancing to the DJ we had and enjoying the Apache Crown Dancers that performed. I got a kick watching them dance at the concert to Tommy James & The Shondells. (We know they probably had no idea who he was). We want to always keep it family-friendly. I even vet the vendors to make sure their items are appropriate for all ages. I've turned down vendors who were selling 'adult only' items." All good stuff to know!

The Poker Run, held on Saturday, was about a 3 ½ hour self-paced ride. The route visited Molly Butler's in Greer, Trail Riders Restaurant in Eagar, Ye Olde Tavern in Alpine, Hannigan Meadow Lodge, with the final stop at Big Lake Tackle and Supply. The ride, which reaches elevations up to 10,000 ft., is through beautiful Ponderosa Pines, Blue Spruce Trees, and the beautiful White Mountain Apache Reservation. Karan shared, "We hear nothing but wonderful things about the people at the stops. These businesses go above and beyond to accommodate our riders and make them feel welcome. All of them graciously give of their time & we could not do this event without their support."

The Poker run paid \$1000 to the High Hand rider and also to a co-rider holding the High Hand. Those winners were Russell McCoy of St. Johns, AZ and Deborah Katzman of Show Low, AZ. Low Hand pays \$500 to a pilot and also to a passenger. This year's winners were: Andrew Armijo of Las Cruces, NM and Lynda Van Haren of Show Low, AZ.

When the Riders returned from the Poker Run, there was a presentation by the White Mountain Apache Crown Dancers. Karan explained, "We wanted to show our guests something unique to the White Mountain Apache Tribe and also something that not very many people have had the pleasure to see."

Additional activities included DJ music, 24 vendors to shop, and a Bike Show.

The show had 5 categories, with a panel of judges determining those winners: American, Metric, Vintage, Custom, & Trike; plus the People's Choice. 1st Place won \$250, 2nd Place \$175, 3rd Place \$125, and People's Choice won \$250.00.

Congratulations to all the winners: Metric: 1st Brian Waggoner of Safford, AZ | Vintage: 1st Kevin Bakken of Snowflake, AZ; 2nd Tom Garlow of Eagar, AZ | American: 1st Jerry Foster of Star Valley, AZ; 2nd Rob Randall of Lakeside, AZ; 3rd Gail Roby of Show Low, AZ | Trike: 1st Robert Ybarra of Eloy, AZ; 2nd Kevin Bakken of Snowflake, AZ; 3rd Arther Martine of Ramah, NM | Custom: 1st Tina Deeb of Star Valley, AZ; 2nd Diana Merino of Safford, AZ; 3rd Roy Leon of Eloy, AZ. This year Arnold Lehman of Pinetop, AZ won People's Choice.

After a grilled ribeye dinner, the riders went to the concert by Tommy James and the Shondells. Karan noted, "I have to say they were amazing!"

There were many positive comments on the concert and the event overall. Next year's Rally will be held June 21st & 22nd, 2019 and they hope to see you there.

Hon-Dah Resort Casino & Conference Center is owned and operated by the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Heading to the White Mountains? Learn what Hon-Dah has to offer by visiting their website <http://hon-dah.com/>

*Betsy*