

Rick 'Animal' Henry

April 30, 1956 ~ August 9, 2011

Rick Henry, aka Animal was born on April 30, 1956 in Pittsburg, PA. He died on August 9, 2011 ~ shortly after having been diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer.

It seems like he started out as a shit disturber... and just carried on from there. He hitchhiked cross country twice before he was 18. He met up with a group of bikers and lived with them for several days before they sent him home. Likely that's where his love of bikes was kindled.

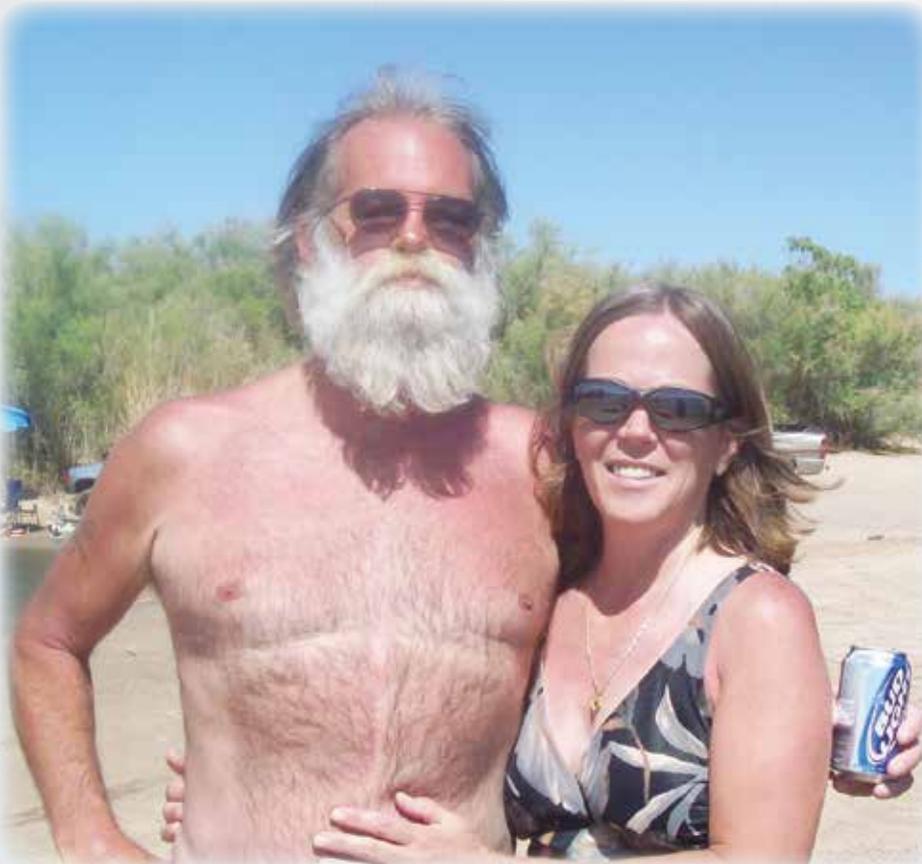
He rode a motorcycle beginning as a teenager. In his younger years, he rode from PA to Texas on a 400 Honda. While in the Army and stationed in Hawaii he rode a Goldwing. Once he got his first Harley, he put over 70,000 miles on it.

Rick completed his service to the Army in 1985. After that he worked as a draftsman/designer. Many of us are familiar with his company 'Mugs and Things' which he's owned for the past 4 or 5 years.

He and his wife Karen were married in 1983. In those 27 years they had two children. Eric & his wife Stephanie have two little ones, Marek and McKenna. And Gramps was "there to help a child get into mischief they hadn't thought of yet". Their daughter Emily is a full time college student who consistently makes the Dean's List. He is also survived by his sister Deb and mother Eileen.

An avid champion of motorcyclists' rights, Rick joined ABATE of PA in the late 1980s, and has been an active member ever since. He was also a member of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation {MRF}. We were first introduced to Animal many years back, although we didn't realize it at the time. It was during our MMA years and we were reading articles from a fellow MRO activist – a real firebrand from a group called the Sons of Liberty Riders. He was also a founder of BOLT - Bikers of Lesser Tolerance, in PA. It wasn't until later, after he'd made his way west and we had the opportunity to meet and talk that the dots connected.

He moved to Arizona in 2001, with his family following a little while later. Here in Arizona, he was active with ABATE. Work took him to San



Diego for five years '04-'09 and he was active with ABATE there as well.

Since his return he renewed his participation within the East Valley Chapter. He has been serving as a Board Member representing the EV Chapter and the Webmaster for the state website. He assisted with the Motorcycle Awareness Program [MAP] taught in area high schools to help teach new drivers to be aware of motorcycles. He recently accepted the job as AZ State Rep for the MRF. He was also part

of AZ's TEA Party.

Animal had a passion for motorcycles and politics... but it is easy to see that his true driving force was his love of family.

A Celebration of Life was held in his honor on the evening of Saturday August 20. Members of the Patriot Guard Riders stood tribute as people arrived. The many locals in attendance were joined by distant friends and family; including his sister Deb and riding buddy of 20 years, Gator. A slideshow sharing photos taken throughout his years was set to music meaningful in his life. There were stories, tears, and laughter. A balloon release of black, orange, and white balloons concluded the service, which was followed by fellowship and the opportunity to pay respects to the family.

As we've all seen so many times, Animal was another of 'those bikers' who, under the traditional gruff exterior, had a big heart.... He was a good Brother who was always thinking of others. He knew how to tease and how to inspire. He

leaves behind many people who will miss him greatly and a strong family who knows they were well loved. A line from one of the songs played wraps it up well, "Let me die knowing my loved ones were proud of me..." No worries there, Animal.

With love & respect,

Betsy & Bruce

