

In Memoriam of Ben "ZZ" McLachlan

November 6, 1942 - September 22, 2009

What could have been worse yet remains a tragedy is the loss of the highly respected president of the Mountain Motorcycle Association of Arizona. "ZZ" and two other members were struck by lightning the afternoon of Sunday September 20th having stopped during a torrential rain and hail storm. They were standing on the shoulder of the road between Overgaard and Show Low. Along with "ZZ", his lady Betty Haroldson and "Boxcar" Charlie Kissinger were also struck and were hospitalized as was "ZZ". Unfortunately "ZZ" was struck in the head. Thankfully, he most likely never knew what hit him. Betty and Boxcar were released

two days later. "ZZ" didn't survive.

"ZZ" and I were best friends... We never think of "why???" someone is our best friend until times like this. We had spent countless hours together riding, socializing, and being involved in the motorcycle association. When I was running the show he backed me and when he was running the show I backed him. We never questioned why... We only appreciated one another in many ways. "ZZ" had a way about him. I never saw him get overly excited or emotional under stress. He kind of "walked softly and carried a big stick". I admired the way he could defuse a touchy situation. We had agreed to disagree with one another but stick together. I was the one who tagged him with "ZZ" because of his signature long white beard.

Within two hours of this tragedy the emergency waiting room was overflowing with family, both personal family and motorcycling family. More showed up and we filled the parking lot. I and others cried when "ZZ" was wheeled to the helicopter which departed for the Maricopa Medical Center Burn Unit in Phoenix. From the information available at that time the majority of us knew that the outlook was bleak.... but true to human nature we all hoped for some miracle.

ZZ was a resident in the White Mountains for 27 years. It's easy to understand after living in Southern California previously. He loved the White Mountains. He operated Show Low



Roofing and was extremely good at the trade. ZZ also taught Taekwondo and won the Arizona Senior Competition in the early 90s.

He is survived by two sons, Tim and Chris, his long time lady companion, Betty Haroldson, and several grandchildren. He also has two step children.

"ZZ" is yet another friend that will leave a footprint on all of our hearts.

Dick Tush
White Mountains, AZ



We have known ZZ for many years, and have always enjoyed riding and visiting with him & Betty during our trips to the White Mountains. We would like to extend our deep condolences to Betty and to ZZ's sons, Tim & Chris.

Sincerely, Bruce & Betsy



ZZ's Memorial Ride & Gathering will take place Saturday October 10. Meet 8am at Branding Iron, 1261 E Deuce of Clubs; Show Low. Starts 9am sharp. Ride stops include The Cabin {Overgaard}, Winners Circle {Holbrook}, Ranch House {Snowflake}. Last stop Show Low Motorsports. Donation of \$15/pilot, \$10/passenger includes memorial patch. Food will be provided at the stops. FMI: Tush 928-242-5892