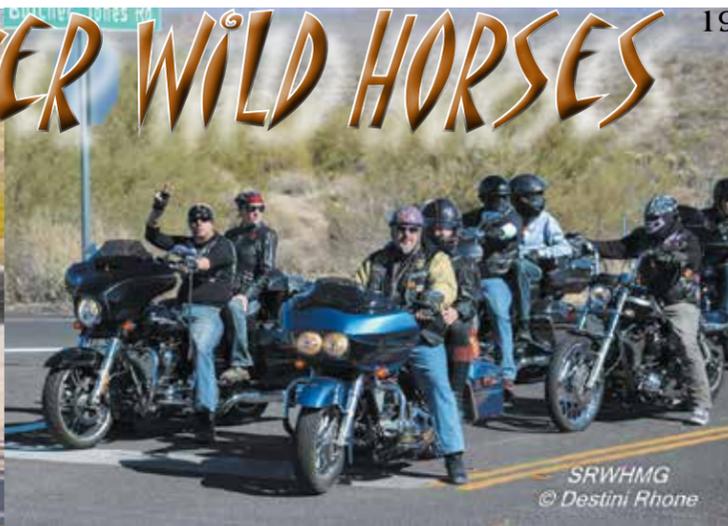


RIDE FOR THE SALT RIVER WILD HORSES



January 27, 2018 was the day for the 3rd annual Ride for the Salt River Wild Horses. This is a fundraiser for the Salt River Wild Horses Management Group. Thank you to our friend Skeeter, a SRWHMG volunteer, for sharing details from the day. It was a beautiful Saturday with 'Goldilocks' weather to enjoy the ride.

A record number of iron horses rolled out on behalf of their wild forebears. In addition to the many area riders, bikers came in from Tucson in the south, Estrella in the west, and Mayer in the north parts of Arizona. An estimated 525 riders departed from the American Legion Post 58 in Fountain Hills and headed out on their self-paced ride. The unescorted nature of the trip allowed participants to take their time as they rolled along Bush Highway thru the Lower Salt River, in the scenic Tonto National Forest.

Butcher Jones Beach {on Saguaro Lake} and Coon Bluff are suggested stops along the ride. When we got to Butcher Jones there was a bunch of riders there. We saw many more on the road along our ride.

There were no horses at Butcher Jones while we were there. This seems likely to be because there was too much activity going on at their traditionally tranquil territory. But some were seen in the desert wilderness along the ride.

Superstition Harley-Davidson sponsored the end stop; with an estimated 700+ people coming out to support the cause.

Activities included comments from Simone Netherlands, President of the Salt River Wild Horse Management Group. The National Anthem was presented along with a Flag Ceremony. Everyone was invited to participate in taking a group photo. Music

was provided by the Moonshine Voodoo Band, an area favorite.

There's no game attached to this ride, but there was a grand prize drawing. John JR Rowland was the winner of a Dave Mann 5-piece artwork wall hanging. There was a table full of raffle items as well.

Vendors included event sponsor Law Tigers, plus Express Yourself Fashion, 'Customs by Hero' Pinstriping / LEDs, Apache Junction's VFW Post, Discount Biker Supply, Clip Man, Red Feather Trading Post, a Girl Scout Cookies booth, & a photographer's display. There was apparel, jewelry, accessories for bike & bod, leather goods, educational booths & more. Three food trucks filled people's bellies. Superstition HD also had a 'Loading Dock' Sale going on.

Donations totaling \$8220.25 were raised for the Salt River Wild Horse Management Group {www.srwhmg.org}. Their mission is to ensure the protection and humane management of the Salt River wild horses. Programs include Fence Maintenance, Salt River Rescued Babies, Wild Horse Education, Scientific Research, Environmental Clean Up, and Birth Control.

Skeeter sent along this message, "I want to thank Simone Netherlands, President for the Salt River Wild Horse Management Group and the 100 volunteers for their ongoing dedication to protect the wild horses. They work long hard hours to ensure the safety and awareness for the public, documenting the Salt River wild horses family band behaviors, fence mending along the Bush Highway and working with the Tonto National Forest and others on trash cleanup programs. " She followed with thanks on behalf of SRWHMG to, "Tammy Poole

with Poole Tax Services for sponsoring the ride pins; and Law Tigers, Bob Moellman, and Jeanine Stone for sponsoring the Apache Junction Mounted Rangers and advertising; Superstition HD for sponsoring the venue, permits, beer garden and music by Moonshine Voodoo band; John Weedo President for ALR and John Schwab Commander American Legion Post 58 for hosting the start location; Lori Slattery for sponsoring the radio advertising at KAZG 92.7; Len Novin with the 90.7 The Goldmine radio station for advertising; Mike McFadden and Shannon Lorange with AzTrailRiding.com for presenting the Colors; Michelle Colby of American Legion Post 2 Auxiliary & rider for singing the National Anthem, and Pamela Barnes for designing our awesome Ride logo."

She also sent along this important piece of news, "As of January 1, 2018 the Wild Horse Protection Law for the Salt River wild horses passed, making it illegal to harass, shoot, kill, or slaughter a Salt River wild horse. Thanks to our Governor Doug Ducey." Outstanding!

I'm writing this piece in February, the month of our beautiful state's birthday. These horses have been a part of Arizona before Arizona was even a state. It is heartwarming to know that these horses, which have been a part of AZ history since its earliest times, are receiving the recognition and protections that they need and deserve.

We are very glad to have learned about the SRWHMG and the Ride For the Salt River Wild Horses. Learn more for yourself via their website <http://saltriverwildhorsemanagementgroup.org/> and on Facebook at [/saltriverwildhorsemanagementgroup/](https://www.facebook.com/saltriverwildhorsemanagementgroup/) Donations and volunteers are always appreciated!

Betsy & Bruce

