

8th ANNUAL SKIN & STEEL



The 8th annual Skin & Steel took place on January 20, 2018 at American Legion Post 2, located at 2125 S Industrial Park Ave in Tempe. This is one of the first events of the new year, featuring Tattoo & Motorcycle contests, music, & vendors. This year's sponsor was At Seasons End Mortuary of Apache Junction, AZ.

It was a grey and chilly morning with light rain as we departed for the event. The venue itself was under heavy skies but had no significant rain. This is posted as a rain or shine event. By 3pm the sun was starting to break through.

The event offers free admission, with monies raised through contest entry fees, raffle & 50/50 ticket sales, sponsorships, and the like. There were around 300 bikes and a little over 800 attendees throughout the day.

Music by 'Moonshine VooDoo Band' provided entertainment while visitors toured the parking lot full of vendor booths. We learned that only two vendors were lost to concerns over the weather. Vendors included sponsor At Season's End Mortuary, ABATE, Law Tigers, Desert Wind H-D, Discount Biker Supply, Fat Daddy Jerky, Stunning Defenders {self defense items}, Origami Owl {jewelry}, Zonie Custom Crafts, American Bike & Trike, Breyer Law, Farmers Insurance, The Clip Man, Gold Can-

yon Candles, Patch Works, and Lady Aces Massage offering chair massages. Items available included apparel, jewelry, hats, patches, vests, & more.

There were two tat shops set up indoors: Skin Lab [Tempe] and Wolfskin {Phoenix}.

Raffle items included apparel, helmets, adult beverages, gift baskets, and vendor goods. The 50/50 prize was \$160 to the winner.

The Best Biker Babe Boots contest offered a prize of two tickets to the upcoming Backstage Biker Bash event hosted by Shadow Mountain ABATE at Desert Wind HD. Ms. Tracy was the winner. Congratulations & have fun!

Trophies for the Bike Show Winners went to Best Street Sport = Heffa, Post 35; Best Paint = James Doughton; Most Unique = TC Calawa; Best Street Cruiser = Justin McDevitt {spelling?}; and Best Dresser = TeeKay.

The Tattoo Contest was emceed by Ty & she did a great job. There were more than 20 contestants in the Tattoo Contest. Plaques for the winners went to ... Kevin ~ Best Black & Grey and Best Back Piece; LeAnn ~ Best Color; Tina ~ Best Sleeve; Josephine ~ Best Leg; and Cat Woman Lady ~ Best Portrait. A new category 'Worst' tattoo was won by Jeff.

Proceeds of the day benefit Post 2's American Legion Rider Programs. These programs assist Vet-

erans and their families, motorcycle safety programs, along with helping the American Legion and the American Legion auxiliary programs. A little over \$2000 was raised for the cause.

Organizer Kaleen sent a message of thanks to, "...our main sponsor 'At Seasons End Mortuary' in Apache Junction, who helped with setting up for the event the day before and the morning of. We also had donations from Law Tigers and Desert Wind Harley in Mesa. Willie Itule's produce donated all the produce for our lunch and Pepsi donated the drinks. And I want to thank our band this year Moonshine Voodoo for donating their time and hope to have them again next year. They did awesome!" She continued, "Despite the weather we had an overall great event. I really enjoyed putting this event on and meeting every one that was involved. If it is wasn't for Riders and every who volunteered their time to help, this event wouldn't have been possible. I consider the riders my family and they really put in a great amount of their time and effort to help me put this event on. I hope to have a bigger and better event next year."

It was a good day, despite its dreary beginnings. We're very glad we could be there and share this story with you.

Betsy & Bruce

