

YUCCA TOY RUN & FOOD DRIVE

AZ Rider



The Yucca Toy Run & Food Drive, sponsored by Soldiers For Jesus MC Havasu, took place on Sunday December 9, 2018. My thanks to SFJMC Havasu P, Mark Donnell, for sending details from the day.

This year there were two starting locations. The Desert Road Riders MC opened their Club House in Golden Valley. Plus, Desert Thunder Motorcycle Shop [Randy and Dolan] in Lake Havasu helped out and had a lot going on for the riders with the Undercover Band. Dustin Otterbach brought out

his Rocket and provided some morning start up food.

The rides from both start locations were a short 35 miles out to the event location at the Yucca Fire Station. It seems that Yucca Fire Station is a central hub of support for the families and kids of the Yucca area. Mark explained,

“Yucca Fire Station is a story of its own. They are so much more than just a local Fire Station. They open up the Station for our event and fly the biggest American Flag of the area, off one of their ladder trucks. It is cool.”

At the Fire Station there was a photo booth to take pictures with Santa and to talk over Christmas plans with him. There was a raffle for some .45, 9mm, and .223 Ammo; plus a 50-50 to help raise money for the program. “This year we streamed Christmas music and had a great turn out, keeping the focus on the kids and not just on a party for the riders.”

It is estimated that there were between 350 to 500 attendees. Over 350 were fed. There was 100 lbs of chicken cooked up for street tacos, plus sodas and water were available ... all at no cost. “The women of the

Yucca community brought out the desserts and made everyone’s day with all of the sweets.”

There were a number of local businesses that helped out as drop off points for toys and food. Plus, a number of supporters donated funds to help with the cost [of the event] and to help with the donation to the Yucca School Kids Program.

Mark shared this information regarding donations, “I am not sure about the totals at this time but we had over 20 turkeys, 20 Christmas trees donated, over 3000

pounds of non-perishable food, and all of the toys. At this point we will be able to donate over \$2,000 to the Yucca School for the kids programs.”

Mark described the distribution system. “The food is donated to and given away through the local Food Bank. The toys are sorted out by the local women that know the kids and they’re wrapped up. The School put a program on for the kids on December 12 and the toys were given to the kids. There are also some of the older kids in the high school that are taken care of. The Fire Dept also contacts the families living out in the Yucca desert areas to help support them at this time of the year with food and gifts. Santa shows up on a fire truck!”

Mark was gracious & modest as he shared this day’s story, wanting it be about the event rather than his Club. And I get that. But his reminder that everyone has the opportunity to help out those that need a little support and encouragement, is one to keep in mind... at this time of year and year ‘round for that matter. “We just want to encourage those that feel that they can help, to go out and help.”

I’d say, from what I learned, that this event allowed people on both the giving and receiving ends to be blessed in the glow of good will this Christmas Season.

Betsy