

# Christmas Wrap

Starting in November and rolling straight on through to the Christmas finale, the Holiday Season makes for a huge number of events taking place around our state, hosted by various groups. Whether it's feeding the hungry, honoring our Veterans, or ensuring that kids have gifts at Christmas... these are things that bikers do so well. Some gatherings are large, others small. But they each have that same big beautiful biker heart at the center of it all. We realize there are more happenings going on than we could share here. We are very proud to be able to share news with you about some of this Season's events.

*Betsy*



## Birds On Bikes

The 35th annual Birds on Bikes sponsored by the Modified Motorcycle Association of AZ took place on Sunday November 18, 2018. It has always been held on the last Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Cindy Gates, Secretary & Board Member for MMA-AZ's Leather-Eagle District, has been organizing this benefit for about 19 years now. "It is my favorite event of the year. I love giving back to our community." This year was set up as a friendly East vs West-type competition to bring out the generosity in people.

Riders from the West Valley meet up at Charley's Place in Glendale, while East Valley folks gather at the Chandler Elks Lodge. They all travel to St Vincent DePaul's central kitchen, located at 420 W Watkins in Phoenix to drop off turkeys, non-perishables, and cash donations.

Cindy estimates that there were about 200 riders this year. Additional riders & supporters who met up with the group at St Vincent's included Chuck Franklin in his big yellow truck. There were some clubs, as well... Spartan Riders MC comes every year, CMA {Christian Motorcyclists Association}, Brothers of the Third Wheel {trikers}, ABATE, American Legion Riders, and 2 HOG groups... one from the east and one from the west ☺ She noted that support was "almost even all the way until the very last minute. We got a rush and they put all their donations in the WEST SIDE."

Altogether, 200 turkeys + 1400# of non-perishables were collected. Excellent job!

Cindy sends thanks to KNIX Radio for announcing this event in the week beforehand to help get the word out. Also, she thanks everyone who came out.

She hopes that next year will be even bigger & better. Her plan for next year includes a trophy with a turkey on top for the

winner ☺

Here is part of her post-event Facebook message. It sums things up nicely... "I want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone that came out for Birds on Bikes. We had a great time. We got to feed quite a few families this year. From the Bottom of my Heart I love you all my Brothers and Sisters."

Well done Cindy! Thank you for being the driving force behind his annual tradition for so many years.



## Marine Toys For Tots Annual Ride

The Marine Toys For Tots Annual Ride staged at Harley-Davidson of Scottsdale on the morning of Saturday November 24, 2018. This year's organizers and hosts were the Broken Wings Foundation & Templar Crusaders MC. This event benefits the children of Maricopa County.

219 riders and several cages left HDoS on this self-paced ride. The ride included a dice game, with stops at Pistol Parlour, Tortilla Flat, and At Seasons End Mortuary before ending up at What the Hell Bar & Restaurant in East Mesa. Big Sexy won the \$200 prize. Congratulations!

An additional 390 or so people skipped the ride & went straight to the last stop to support the cause.

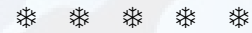
The end party was family-friendly and included 14 vendors as well as a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus. There was music by Stomp Box outside in the venue and 74th Street Band played inside the bar. There were many raffles and prizes.

We learned from Christina 'Morticia' Duwel of the Templar Crusaders MC that they were able to donate \$6,013.81 in cash plus two 24-foot trucks full of toys to the Maricopa County Toys For Tots program. How about THAT!

She also sent along thanks to event supporters "One Hour Heating & Air Conditioning, Chuck Franklin Law, Discount Biker Supply, and all of our stops! Amazing people!" She added, "Toys for Tots is such a great event. There are several groups that support them throughout the year."

The Templar Crusaders MC will be at the Skin and Steel event coming up January 19 at American Legion Post 2 in Tempe. See our calendar for details. Ask them about the Broken Wings Foundation and how you can support their mission to support families of fallen riders.

Thank you Morticia for your help with this article. Congratulations on such a successful endeavor!



## Independent Riders Toy Run

The 17th annual Independent Riders Toy Run took place on November 3 up in Globe, AZ. About 50 bikes came out. Ride stops were at Roosevelt Lake Lodge, Bernie's [in Globe], the Copper Bistro, and the Huddle, before landing at Jammerz Bar for the end party. All proceeds raised go toward helping local families during the holidays. Four families were adopted this year. Al Nader shared that, "We made sure all families have good beds & bedding; shoes, clothing, & jackets. We also gave gift cards for Fry's & Walmart... Even back rent & some car repairs." They get family referrals from local government agencies such as CAP (Community Action Program) and Head Start.

A donation was also made to a fund for victims of a shooting that recently took place in the area.



sign-in at Drift Inn Saloon, Globe

