

Troll's Teddy Bear Run

Troll's 3rd annual Teddy Bear Run took place on Saturday December 1, 2018. While the actual RIDE took place on that date, it is far more than a 1-day get-together. People have literally been collecting bears & other plushies for this drive since the after-Christmas sales kicked in for 2017. That's a lot of love ☺

94 riders gathered at American Bike & Trike in Gilbert for this Family-friendly day. The self-paced Poker Run had stops at Brick & Barley in Tempe, Airport Tavern in Casa Grande, and River Bottom B&G in Florence, before arriving at the final stop for the run party at Wahoo's Restaurant & Bar in Gold Canyon.

The run party included Door Prizes and Raffle Prizes all made and or put together by "A Creative Touch" along with a 50/50. The winners of the poker run were 1st Place Les Jarvis, 2nd Best Hand Dean Riding, and Worst Hand Howard Clem.

The main thing about this day of course was the kids! These bears are donated to Mesa Family Advocacy Center, Mesa & Gilbert PDs, and Mesa First

Responders. They are given to the kids when they are caught up in a traumatic situation... a fire, domestic violence, auto wreck, etc. What might seem like such a simple item can be a calming influence in the midst of their ordeal; giving the little ones something to hold onto until their life can return to 'normal'.

The final count was 782 bears & other plushies. There were 429 from early donations and 353 from the run itself. Wonderful!

Troll sent along thanks to, "Bob & Jay with Law Tigers Arizona for sponsoring the event, helping out with the flyers and promotion of it. Thanks also to American Bike and Trike for allowing me to start it at their shop; Airport Tavern for the donation of the giant Teddy Bear; Wahoo's Restaurant & Bar for giving us their giant side yard for the after run party and for donating 75 Teddy Bears and stuffed animals; East Valley HOG for their donation of 60 Teddy Bears from the group itself and for showing up with 30+ riders and their donations; The Zeria Foundation and Missy Hughes for their huge do-

nation of Teddy Bears; the Templar Crusaders for their donation of over 60 Teddy Bears and stuffed animals; Donna & Rich Kempf for their donation of over 100 Teddy Bears and stuffed animals; my wife, Cindy Hughes for the tons of hours she spent creating the Door and Raffle prizes through her business "A Creative Touch"; and of course all the folks that helped out with parking, signing everyone up, handing out the prizes... Steve Lopez, McFreckles & Jodi Cicirello to name a few."

Troll added, "So many wonderful people came together to help out this worthy cause benefiting the Mesa Family Advocacy Center, Mesa Police & Fire, Gilbert Police, and Helen's Hope Chest. I am looking forward to next year to grow it some more and help out more kids with more Teddy Bears and stuffed animals." Please remember the first Saturday in Dec next year for the 4th Annual Troll's Teddy Bear Run!

Congratulations on another very successful day!

Betsy

For online readers, click title to see more photos.

Richard is the picture of male self-confidence ☺ His bike broke down just prior to Troll's Teddy Bear Run. He accepted his friend Cheryl's invite to ride bitch so he could support the day & cause.

