

Hamsters 'Dry Heat' Charity Run

The Hamsters USA 'Dry Heat Run' has become a tradition of the Arizona Bike Week event lineup. It is sponsored annually by Paul Yaffe's Bagger Nation. This year's ride, #11, took place on Friday April 8. Hamsters USA is a custom motorcycle group which includes leaders and celebrities of the motorcycling industry.

600 riders gathered for a scenic loop of about 75 miles, with a lunch stop at The Preserve in Scottsdale. This is a self-paced ride with no game attached. The point is to just relax & enjoy the ride! There were about 100 Hamsters members, creating a traveling custom bike show wherever they stop ☺

The ride concluded at Arizona Bike Week at WestWorld in Scottsdale. Attractions there included the vendor expo, stunt shows, a bike show, & performances by local musicians; all topped off with the headline concert by Rob Zombie.

Phil Locke of Paul Yaffe's Bagger Nation sent along this message, "We appreciate all the support and are thrilled to celebrate our 11th annual event. 100% of our proceeds are donated. All expenses are privately underwritten. Over \$38,000 was donated to Lifescape Children's Care from the proceeds of the Dry Heat Run 2022. We couldn't do this without the generous support of Arizona Bike Week, Hilton Hotels, as well as Hamsters USA." He added, "The Hamsters love Arizona Bike Week and are grateful that the Dry Heat Run has become their flagship event kicking off their charitable efforts for the year. The Hamsters raise approx. \$500,000 to \$750,000 each year for the children of the Black Hills!"

The Hamsters USA group holds their annual banquet & silent auction at the Holiday Inn in Spearfish SD each year during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. 100% of the proceeds from that event are donat-

ed to LifeScape Children's Care as well. Donations that Hamsters USA collects throughout the year are also presented there. Phil shared that One Million Dollars was raised and donated between the 2021-2022 events. Outstanding!

The beneficiary of this run, Lifescape Children's Care Hospital, is a medical facility headquartered in Rapid City, South Dakota. Over the past 17 years, Hamsters USA has focused its charitable efforts here. Lifescape's mission reads, "Empowering people to live their best life." You can learn more about Lifescape online at <https://www.lifescapesd.org/>

My thanks to Phil Locke of Paul Yaffe's Bagger Nation and to Lisa Cyr of AZ Bike Week, for their help in sharing this story.

Betsy

