

Paul Douglas Stuart ~ 'Waldo'

October 2, 1955 - May 4, 2007

On Friday May 4 we got one of those phone calls that you never like to get... News that a friend has died. In this case the loss would be felt far and wide; Waldo, an anchor within Arizona's motorcycling community for so long. Cause of death has yet to be determined. His close friend B-Bob, of the Loners MC, found him in his office, at his computer.

His final instructions included 'No Funeral', but of course there was a gathering of friends and loved ones to say goodbye. A service was held on Wednesday evening May 9 at Phoenix Memorial Park. There was a HUGE turnout, 700+ people attending. SO MANY MORE wished they could be there. The chapel was standing room only and overflowing with people coming to pay their respects and extend condolences to Charity and the rest of the family. Such an integral part of the community, and respected by so many; riders representing many facets of the motorcycling community were there, club and non-club. People were invited to bring tokens to put into Waldo's coffin in preparation for his cremation. It was very moving and heartwarming to see so many items; each holding a special memory. Waldo stories were shared... anecdotes from different time frames of his life; bringing a bitter-sweet mix of laughter and tears.

Waldo loved to party and have fun. Following the service, there was a wake / party in honor of Waldo, at his favorite

watering hole, Hardtailz.

I saw a bumper sticker that really relates to the biker community. It said, 'You don't have to be blood to be family'. While being 'family' doesn't mean that everyone always gets along with each other, within the biker community we're hard-pressed to think of anyone who didn't get along with Waldo.

He was friendly to everyone. Whether you're a club member, a RUB, a newbie, he'd talk to you, introduce you to his friends; make you feel welcome and part of the riding community. Even if you did not know him, you are possibly familiar with him, as he spent a lot of time at events working at the AIM {Aid to Injured Motorcyclists} booth.

We've known Waldo for thirteen years or more. Not as close as some, closer than others. We started thinking about when we met Waldo... It's been a long time. Charity was a tyke, now she's a grown woman.

Waldo was one of AZ's true Freedom Fighters, constantly urging bikers to join their local Motorcyclists Rights Organization, and be involved in the MRO movement. So, on his behalf, we will remind you again to get involved. Remem-



a CHARMER. I believe he truly could sell ice cubes to Eskimos. He asked me to help distribute flyers for an event he was working on. It wasn't until after I said 'yes' that he mentioned he also needed me to MAKE the flyers.

☺

Waldo has been a friend and also a colleague. For our first edition of *AZ Rider*, in September 1999, he wrote an article about ABATE's Too Broke For Sturgis. After that he wrote for us off and on; including sharing his 'Desert Smoke' column. More recently he returned to being a regular contributor to our pages.

He was such a good writer. It could get funny, in a frustrating sort of way. We'd give him a target size for an article of around five to six hundred words. Sometimes he'd come in with 1200-1800 words, telling us to "just cut what you want..." Well the thing is that the whole story would be so good that of course it was next to impossible

to edit anything out, and we'd start looking for other items to adjust or hold until another edition....

Thinking about Waldo as I write this makes me smile and tearful at the same time. He will be missed by SO MANY. There's always more that can be said, but

ber, each state has *at least* one MRO, plus there are national level organizations. If you do not know how to reach the SMRO in your home state, search the web for [motorcycle rights](#). You'll find pages of listings from different states. Also, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation {MRF} [www.mrf.org](#) or the National Coalition of Motorcyclists {NCOM} [www.aimncom.com/ncom/](#) can direct you if you're still in search of information.

Waldo's love of biker journalism is pretty much legendary. He was a freelance writer whose work has been seen in many publications, plus his event calendar has been a resource to many for years. Since starting out on Arizona's *The Outsider*, Waldo has been involved at one time or another with every biker-oriented rag this state has ever produced. Plus his work has been in regional and national mags like *Thunder Press*, *Outlaw Biker*, and *Easyrider*. He'd attend numerous events in one day, and we're not talking stuff down the street from each other, either. He and Charity piled on the miles, riding ALL OVER the state and beyond. For their dedication to the biker community, he & Charity received the Silver Spoke Award for Media, from the National Coalition of Motorcyclists.

Waldo was a colorful character... with lots of wit and charisma, and a mischievous twinkle in his eye. I remember my first project with Waldo... He was such



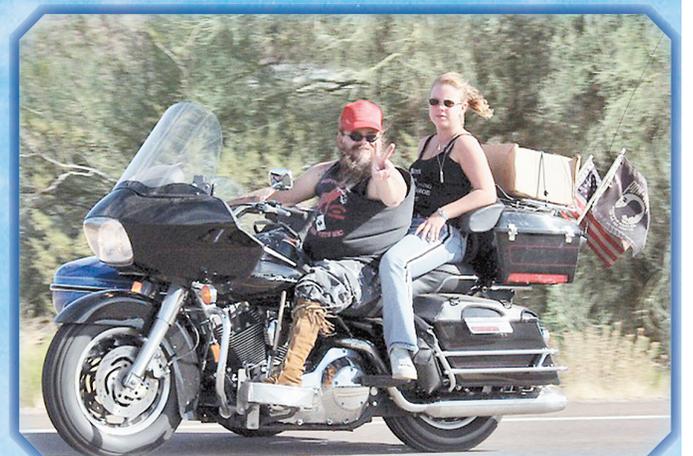
we'll leave it at this.

So at long last the age-old question can be answered.... *Where's Waldo?* He's in the hearts and memories of all who have known and loved him.

Ride free, friend...

Blue Skies to you.....

Betsy & Bruce



On Saturday June 23 there will be a Memorial event for Waldo . Details TBA. -- AZRiderSouthwest.com will have more info as we receive it.

Mountain Madness 1995



A Tribute to Waldo

We are collecting photos to include in a video tribute to Waldo, which we'll be working on with Tombstone Frank of 520 Productions. If you have a / some favorite pix of Waldo that you'd like to send along for inclusion, that would be great.

We have to have everything collected no later than June 15. Please send pictures directly to Tombstone Frank at frank@520productions.com. Please put "Waldo Tribute" in the subject line.

If you are sending pictures from a digital camera, please do not reduce them. We'll re-size them. We can take emails up to 10MB without trouble. Otherwise, if you are sending multiple pictures you may want to break them up into more than one message.

If you are sending photos which have been scanned, they should be scanned at a minimum of 150dpi. Please do not send original photos through the mail. If you do not have a scanner, your local Walgreens, Kinko's, or WalMart can usually scan photos & put them onto a disk for you.

Upon completion, this tribute will be posted for viewing on [AZRider-Southwest.com](#). Contact Betsy at 480/921-0244 or Tombstone Frank at 520/241-7087 with any questions.