

Lost Dutchman MC Christmas Angel Toy Run

The Lost Dutchman MC's 16th Annual Christmas Angel Toy Run took place on Sunday December 13, 2020. Riders start gathering in the morning at Mesa's Clubhouse; as well the Peoria & Queen Creek Clubhouses. From there they rode en masse to the Mesa CH, in time for the noon departure. This group ride ended at the Walmart on Dobson in Mesa; where the Salvation Army's Angel Trees were waiting.

Each year, riders come out and shop to fulfill wishes of kids they don't know... Giving of themselves to extend the Christmas Spirit to those who are less fortunate. The Angel Tree program is not government funded. It is funded by good-hearted people of communities nation-wide. For those who may be unfamiliar with the Angel Tree program, here are some bits from the SA website, "The Salvation Army Angel Tree is a needs based program meant to serve the neediest families with small children during the Christmas season." The program "provides new clothing and toys to more than one-million children and

families in need each year."

Shoppers pick an ornament from an SA Christmas Angel tree, purchase the gift requested, and go out to the awaiting truck to turn it in. It's THAT easy! As scooter folk waited in line to drop off their purchases, the sounds of goodwill & friendships were abundant. There were even shoppers who are non-riders who saw what was going on and added their donations to the cause. Very cool!

We observed 15 organizations represented; plus many independent riders. Thanks to everyone's participation, 250 wishes were granted. Walmart had set up a cash register dedicated to this event. The receipts totaled \$12,400. The donations of Christmas gifts went to local families in the Mesa / Apache Junction area. An additional \$1200 in cash donations went to Sunshine Acres Children's Home in Mesa. Outstanding!

While there isn't a ride or 'after party' when the shopping is completed, attendees were welcome to return to the Clubhouse to continue the camaraderie & Christmas

cheer.

Bill Bracken of the LDMC sent this message, "Although we do believe the 'Political Virus' did have an effect on many events throughout the year as people were (and still are) following our new leaders guide lines, the decent people that are determined to give to others in need is stronger than the wall Politicians can ever build around us. It was inspiring to see the out-come of this Motorcycle Club hosted Toy Run, as well as the others we witnessed and attended this Christmas season. We have made a contact with Coca Cola so next year we hope to achieve new goals with the Co-operation of Walmart."

People speak highly of this event & we understand why. For some, it's their favorite of the Season... and a surefire way to get into the Christmas Spirit. If you've never attended, you might want to check it out next year. Thank you Lost Dutchman MC for the good that you do in your Community!

Betsy & Bruce

