

East Valley Biker Rodeo

The 3rd East Valley Biker Rodeo, hosted by the Rough Riders MC Longbow Chapter, was held on Saturday October 2, 2021. It took place at the Lost Dutchman MC Queen Creek Chapter Clubhouse in Apache Junction.

I want to thank Blackout of the Rough Riders MC Longbow Chapter and Shaun Claseman of the American Service Animal Society for your help with this article.

“Just like Veterans come from all walks of life, so do motorcycle riders. Whether you’re on 2 wheels, a member of a Motorcycle Club, or neither; this Rodeo is for anyone who wants to attend and support a worthy cause. We owe the Veterans of this great nation a debt of gratitude. Local Organizations like the American Service Animal Society help Veterans right here in our community. These types of organizations require our support so they can continue to help our local Veterans in need.” *Blackout, RRMCMC*

The beneficiary of this event is the American Service Animal Society, aka Dogs4Vets. The more we learn about this organization, the more impressed we become. The Dogs4Vets Training Center is in Chandler. ASAS has been training

these Service Animals since 2006 and has become one of the largest training services in the USA. The organization is volunteer-driven, allowing for 91% of donated dollars to go toward the actual training of the students. The program is open only to Veterans who have a service-connected disability. Veterans who have physical disabilities as well as those Vets who deal with unseen but all too real disabilities including PTSD, Depression, and Sensory Overload are candidates.

The Dogs4Vets program trains a Veteran’s own dog to become a certified Service Dog. If a Veteran has no dog, he or she is encouraged to adopt a rescue dog. 80% of the dogs in the program are rescues. This new Veteran/SD partnership essentially saves 2 lives at 1 time.

Unlike some service dogs that are trained to a specific set of useful tasks, THESE dogs are trained individually, to the specific needs of their Veteran partner. Shaun explained that it costs approximately \$22,000 per student to complete the ASAS program, BUT it is free to the Veteran. Classes start in March & September each year. There are about 100 Vets per year in the program. It typically takes about 9-16 months to complete

the ASAS program, depending on tasks needed. There are Veterans who choose to relocate to AZ to be able to participate in the program. The Veteran/SD Team receives lifetime support, training, & certification as needed, for free.

There were an estimated 250 attending the event throughout the day. It was a kid-friendly gathering. Along with the many independent riders we saw there, we observed more than 17 Clubs and other Organizations being represented.

Fifty-four contestants participated in one or more of the five rodeo events. The games were fun to watch. Congratulations to the winners!

Slow Roll: 1st - Joshua ; 2nd - Timbur ; 3rd - Redneck

Keg Push: 1st - Audrey ; 2nd - Joshua ; 3rd - Timbur

Keg Toss [guys]: 1st - Toro ; 2nd – David ; 3rd - Spaz

Skillet Toss [gals]: 1st – Siss ; 2nd – Rebecca ; 3rd - Amy

Dog Bite 'King and Queen of the Rodeo': 1st - Steel Knievel & Christen ; 2nd - Redneck & Siss ; 3rd - Yogi & Amy

Blackout explained that the Chapter Members make the Trophies. Every-

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one helps out with construction of them where they can. The motorcycle parts used in the construction this year were donated by Eagle Eye Customs.

The Rodeo raised \$4,000 dollars for the American Service Animal Society (ASAS).

Blackout sent along this message of thanks, "As you can imagine, putting on events such as this takes people and costs money. This event would not have been the huge success it was without the help of the Chapter's Ol' Ladies Teri, Alice, Anna, and Rebecca. They as always were amazing, jumping in to help where needed. We also owe a thanks to Rick, Bubba, Jeff, and Allie who are all friends of the Longbow Chapter. Rick, Bubba, and Jeff smoked the pork for the meal we offered. Allie was the events photographer. Another thank you goes to the LDMC Clubhouse neighbors 'All Rock Supply', for the use of their parking lot for the games.

"The Rough Riders M/C is a non-profit organization, so we actively seek sponsors to help with the cost of hosting the event. This way, every dollar made at the event can go to the Charity we are supporting. We put their Logos on an event Banner and on a event shirt to showcase their support in helping us help Veterans. This year's rodeo would not have been possible if it were not for the generosity of the following organizations / businesses: Post 27 Sons of the American Legion, Spartan Shade Systems, Affinity General Contracting, Semper Fi Heating and Cooling, Caswell's Shooting Range, Nash Powersports, Dynamic Dog Training, Lash TNT, Roosters Bar, Garland Signs, Discount Biker Supply, Diamond Body Art, Eagle Eye Customs, Laser Creations, and The Papago, Prison, and Wildhorse Chapters of the Rough Riders M/C. We are especially grateful to the Lost Dutchman M/C Queen Creek Chapter for allowing us to have the event at

their clubhouse."

Shaun commented, "I would like to add how lucky we are to have the continued support of the Rough Riders and everyone attending these events."

You can learn more about the American Service Animal Society at <https://dogs4vets.org> including how you can donate to support this outstanding cause. In addition to donation options explained on their webpage you can select the American Service Animal Society as your beneficiary of choice as you shop via AmazonSmiles.

The 4th East Valley Biker Rodeo will be held around the same time in 2022. When the date has been set, we'll include it in our calendar.

Congratulations Rough Riders MC Longbow Chapter on a fun and successful day!!

*Betsy & Bruce
add'l pix from Allie*

click title online for more photos

