

2023 Run to the Rez Rally
and Veterans Honor Run:

celebrating 20-years of rally history
“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood
I took the one less traveled by
And that has made all the difference.”

- Robert Frost, *The Road Not Taken*

Most motorcycle rides, rallies, and events focus on the tangible elements, or the things we can see. And while all roads, even the pock-marked and dusty trails that we may curse in between the splatter of bugs on our windshield or our face, could lead to a rally or motorcycle event, taking the less traveled road to San Carlos makes all the difference.

The road less traveled by is the one leading to San Carlos. It's the one that takes us to encounter the intangible or unseen. I look for these roads, and when I find them, I open the throat of my bike and the heart in my body to engage with a six-gear drama, a multi act theater, a school of a thousand other learners, and an entertainment community made up of Veterans and non-Veterans, musicians and non-musicians, bikers and non-bikers. A community that is inclusive and built around the rumble of a motorcycle in a tucked-away corner of the globe.

Descriptions of motorcycle events focusing on the tangible will address the usual questions: Where did you ride, what did you do, who organized the ride, what was accommodation like, and how many people came?

But it's the intangible aspects surrounding every gathering that make or break the experience because no matter what we do or see, a rally is a gathering not just of machines and their destinations, but a gathering of people. The intangibles create underlying currents that define every ride and it's true of Run to

the Rez. A writer from this publication once called it “the most spiritual ride in Arizona”.

This description is accurate, I think. I've noticed an unusual mood among participants in that past and this year too. Run to the Rez is imbued with the generous and giving spirit of the Apache people, hosts for the run. With massive giveaways, raffle and game winning opportunities, meals provided as part of the registration fee, the Veterans Honor Program and opportunity to learn a small amount of the Apache culture, and other registration gifts along with music and social time, the Run to the Rez is all about learning and honor. These qualities are found on the road less traveled.

This year's Run to the Rez and Veterans Honor event highlighted 20 years of gathering for fun and to honor Veterans. Headquartered at the newly remodeled Apache Gold Casino and Resort on Geronimo Springs Road in San Carlos, everything is conveniently located which provides a familiar springboard for launching on group and individual rides. The rides seemed like other years but this year was warmer than most. Some would say it was hot.

Riders connect with one another through the bike, and together we stagger formations, wave our respect to one another, and enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of riding in groups. If we're lucky, we take the divergent road – where navigating is easy, almost automatic. We steer with our eyes and mind, the cars and other caged vehicles seem to disappear, and where there is space and time for reflection on our good fortune we take in a little bigger breath of fresh air.

When those moments happen, we are in the zone and everything is easy. We sink into the saddle and become at ease too where it's natural to feel grateful. In those moments, our motorcycles seem to drive themselves and we are along for the ride.

When this happens, it's because organizers and leaders of the ride have prepared for months for the event. Every mile in the high powered mechanical and spiritual experience is fueled by planning, care, and compassion. Evidence of

this compassion is everywhere, but for those not knowing where their registration money is going, consider that last year (2022) Run to the Rez donated over \$20 thousand for Veterans and community assistance programs. The same amount, or more, will be shared this year with some assistance going to programs in Globe and surrounding small communities.

Run to the Rez is found by taking the road less traveled. It's the perfect ride with all you need of food - both tangible and intangible - all you need of community, all you need of family, a place to lay your head, all you need of entertainment, a chance of luck, learning, and more.

Yogi Greg

Editor: Congratulations to Dr John and his team on a job well done as they coordinated the 20-Year Anniversary of Run to the Rez! The gathering took place October 19-21. More than 600 motorcycles participated in Saturday's parade from AGCR to San Carlos. Quinton Case won the Run to the Rez 2023 motorcycle giveaway. He bought just one ticket! He said he was going to give it to his son. There were SO many positive comments and notes about the weekend. If you've never attended, you owe it to yourself to check it out.

Organizer Dr John shared this message, “I want to thank all our Sponsors for the 2023 Run to the Rez. Our two main sponsors are the San Carlos Tribal Council /Tribe and the Apache Gold Casino. Without their help- the event would not be possible. We also received donations from Superstition Harley Davidson, SCATUI, R-100 Tribal Herd, Titla & Parsi Law Firm, Viking Bags, Tim Stevens, and the Latin American Motorcycle Riders. I also want to thank my staff at Peridot District, my family and friends who worked non-stop for 3 days to make this a successful event. Thank you Eddie Hunter -- our graphic designer and webmaster. Thank you San Carlos Police Department for helping us on the Run. We look forward to the 2024 Run to the Rez. We intend to make a sizable donation to local Veterans in our community. Thank you Riders near and far to make this one of the best motorcycle events in our state.”

Pix from Yogi Greg and Dr John

