

# Saddle Up for Kids

The AZ Bike Week 5th annual “Saddle Up for Kids Ride” took place on Friday April 7, 2017. It is organized by HOGZ United Charities, Inc to benefit AZ’s ‘Camp Courage’, a summer camp for youth burn survivors. My thanks to HogzUC President Ken Gray for his help with this report.

300+ riders gathered at H-D of Scottsdale for registration & breakfast, included in your ride fee and hosted by the Waffle House. While this isn’t specifically a ‘Family-friendly’ event, there are parents / grandparents who sometimes have minors riding with them. They are welcome to come along.

The day’s ride offered two options, a longer ride of about 235 miles, or a shorter ride of about 100 miles. The same map was provided to all riders, so there is no distribution available as to how many took which route. It was a self-paced poker ride, with the understanding that you had to be at the last stop by 5:30 to get in on the raffles and prizes. A \$300 prize to the high-hand winner & \$200 to low hand were good incentive ☺

The long run went up into the mountains and

had stops at Jakes Corner in Payson, Sportsman Chalet in Strawberry, then to Camp Verde south on I-17 to Peaks & Valleys, with the last stop at WestWorld for AZ Bike Week activities.

The short run stayed more in town. This option was appreciated, because sometimes there are riders who wanted to support the cause but don’t have the time needed to take the whole ride.

Stops were at Tavern on the Creek {Cave Creek Rd}, Waffle House in Deer Valley, Peaks & Valleys, Hideaway in Cave Creek, and WestWorld. Ken commented that because it is rather challenging to get into Cave Creek on Friday during Bike Week, that next year’s route may take another direction.

The principle charity for HogzUC is Camp Courage, and they’ve distributed \$10,000 to the Camp already this year. Since 2012 HogzUC has donated nearly \$60K to the Camp. In addition, HogzUC supports veterans in need, and the Yarnell Food Bank.

Ken explained that this organization is a 501c3 and all of their board members are volunteers. No salaries means all monies donated go to the cause...

Nice!

Their event sponsors are very appreciated as well. They have a good support team with Harley Davidson of Scottsdale and the Waffle House {Phoenix Area}. Thanks also go to Law Tigers Motorcycle Lawyers, Sportsman Chalet – in Strawberry, Renick’s Family Market, Peaks & Valleys Restaurant, Hideaway –Cave Creek, Wind & Fire MC – Phoenix, Universal Water Service, Inc., Ahern Rentals, Tavern On The Creek – Phoenix, Designed In Ink T-Shirt Shop, Rid-A-Bird, LLC – Pest & Termite Control, Jake’s Corner Bar, The Bryant Family, Charlie and Becky Miles, and Scottsdale H.O.G. Chapter 3160.

If you’d like to learn more about Hogz United Charities, Inc, visit their website at <http://www.hogzuc.com/>

*Photo left: taken in front of H-D of Scottsdale – Volunteers, Wind & Fire MC and Hogz U.C. folks. Photo right is at the presentation to Camp Courage*

