

Too Broke For Sturgis #32

Takin' It Easy in Winslow Arizona ~
July 27-30, 2023

Let's be real... It was hot. It was dusty. It got windy sometimes. And ... it was GREAT weekend!!

Everyone I spoke with was having a fun time. People were open to giving a new place a chance. The town, as well as Lonny Gose the owner of the property, were very accommodating.

While many Too Broke For Sturgis attendees opted for rooms in town this time; the onsite camping at Winslow Rodeo Grounds was home to a lively mix of RVs and tents. A notice was posted at registration letting campers know that free showers were available in town. I recall that service in Sturgis as well. Very cool!

Everything kicked off on Thursday afternoon, July 27. Time was spent exploring the new venue, greeting friends, enjoying dinner from one of several tasty food trucks, and dancing to music provided by 'Perfect Storm'. Band member Jose commented, "I had such a good time playing Thursday night, so chill. Everyone that I have been meeting all weekend has been so cool and friendly. All Great vibes!!!! I am glad you folks hosted this event."

Some things may change, but the CMA's support of Too Broke remains a constant. Friday morning, and each morning of the weekend, kicked off with breakfast at the Christian Motorcyclists Association camp. They also presented Saturday's Bike Blessing and Sunday morning's Worship Service. CMA feeds the body AND the soul of our biker com-

munity.

Friday's Poker Walk introduced visitors to the Vendor Village. Card stops were at Vanity Trash Creations, Mama T's food truck, Ms Conception Custom Paint, and the Navajo taco food truck; with the last stop & turn in at the ABATE-AZ merchandise booth.

Additional vendors & information booths included AIM, BMXteme Cigars, Hassayampa Music Festival, MRF – Motorcycle Riders Foundation, MCR Biker Jewelry, NRA Grassroots – NRA/ILA information, Patriot Printing & Promos, & Sassy Crue Creations. A variety of food trucks offered Asian-style eats from the Bento Guy, plus bbq, hotdogs, tasty Navajo tacos, and of course... desserts ☺ The Uno Mas Cantina served up adult beverages & had a covered sitting area with misters... a popular hang out ☺

Andrew won low hand in the Poker Walk with his 10-high hand & received a motorcycle seat air cushion. High hand was 4 Kings, held by Hazard of the Brotherhood MC. He received a Big Ass Cup Holder.

There was no Ms Too Broke For Sturgis contest this year. Ms Lei Cayson of ABATE's East Valley Chapter will continue her reign and doing an excellent job of representing TBFS and ABATE-AZ.

The Fantastic Facial Hair / Magnificent Mustache Contest took place on Friday. It was sponsored by the Elks Lodge #536 of Winslow. The Longest Beard trophy went to Rex for the 3rd year running, Kiven won Best Groomed for the 2nd year, Jeff won Best 'Freestyle', and Best Mustache went to Dyno.

The Tattoo Contest judges were MK, Lori, & Bubbles. The winners were: Best Black & Grey to Caution, Best Color to Amber, Most Patriotic to 12-Volt, and Most Realistic to Heidi. Most Visionary & Best of Show both went to Amanda, for two different tats.

The band Friendly Jesture brought their Classic Rock cover skills to the Main Stage for Friday night's party.

Thank you ABATE business member Jack Estes & his Dirty Dogg Saloon for sponsoring the TBFS Bike & People Games this year! They were fun to watch and there was a good amount of enthusiasm & participation. Congratulations to all the winners.

The People Games were held on Friday. Those winners were:

Plank Walk = The Unholy Family, Helmet Toss = Nolan Steed, Tug o' War = Nolan's Knuckleheads.

Thanks to ABATE business member & TBFS sponsor Matt Brown & his Tombstone Brewery, there were plenty of beer cans available for the Swinging Balls Contest. People were happy to empty some. You know ~ to help set up for the game. ☺ This game was introduced last year and is a hoot! Swinging Balls ended up with 3 gals as finalists. Pandora took the trophy.

Downtown Winslow hosted a concert by Perfect Storm on Saturday from 10a-1pm. The street was closed off... offering people the opportunity to get their Standin' on the Corner photo ops before returning to the rodeo grounds for the

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rest of the day's activities.

The Bike Games were on Saturday, after the Bike Show concluded. This year's games included the Slow Race, Keg Roll, and Road Kill. Unfortunately, those winners' names were unavailable for this writing. The Weenie Bite was won by Begay & Galaviz. This was her first time playing the game AND she was the only one to get a piece of the weenie.

The Bruce 'Meltdown' Newkirk Memorial Bike Show took place Saturday afternoon. It was sponsored by GWR, LLC. There were about 35 bikes in the show, separated into 6 categories. The trophies were made by Dennis Willis. The winners were: Best Custom = Dying to Ride ; Best Rat = Dennis Meyers ; Best Trike = James Nelson ; Best Cruiser = Gunny Marshall ; Best Street Bike = Zeria Smith ; Best Bagger = Jerry Babie ; and Best of Show = Matt Vance.

After the Bike Show was the Bike Blessing & the Revvvv Up ... in memory of riders who are Gone But Not Forgotten. The bikes made a joyous rumbling roar... carrying thoughts of our loved ones to the Heavens.

The Dunk Tank was a new attraction this year and a big success. It became very popular ESPECIALLY when some of the ladies agreed to get in the 'hot seat' if sufficient donations were raised. Birth-day girl Sandra and Jamie of the Diva Cave were good sports and a big draw ☺ YES ... they along with others were definitely DUNKED ~ all to the benefit of ABATE-AZ.

The Wet-Tshirt Contest, sponsored by Blue Collar Customs, offered up a \$300

prize, a trophy, and bragging rights to the gal who could win over the most enthusiastic responses from the audience. There was a big turnout of contestants – including a mermaid ... AND a huge audience of fans to watch & cheer their favorites on. What ...? You weren't at the Arena for it? You missed one hell of a show ☺ Each gal got her time center stage to strut her stuff. It was a close call... Congratulations to Laurie on her win!

Saturday night's party at the arena with music by BadJune was another good time, with a lot of dancing & fun-filled carrying on. There was some brief rain but it didn't really dampen many people's fun.

Raffle tickets were drawn during a band break, as well as the 50/50. Raffle items to win included a variety of bike accessories, a \$300 gift certificate from Ms Conception Custom Paint, knives, bar signs, adult beverages, apparel, jackets, vests, a t-bag, & more. Sherri left with an extra \$327 in her pocket. Very cool.

Once again this year, Camp Jell-O Shot was in the house. Crystal & Alan enjoy giving back to the biker community and adding to everyone's fun with their annual Jell-O treats. ☺ Afterwards they posted this message, "We were impressed with the hospitality of Lonny Gose and the entire crew that made it happen. Us diehard Too Broke patrons appreciated what you all did to make it happen. We were truly impressed with the turnout all things considered."

The TBFS committee sends out thanks to sponsors ACMC, AIM, Blue Collar

Customs, D&D Discount Motorcycles, Dirty Dogg Saloon, The Diva Cave, Law Tigers, Tombstone Brewery, and Viking Bags. TBFS event coordinator Sandra sent along this message, "Even though we had a short amount of time to plan the Rally and the weather wasn't the best overall, we had a great time. Attendance wasn't as high as years past, but we still had a great turn out."

Yes, there was smaller attendance than hoped for, but that is not unusual to happen under the circumstances. With the event coming together later than normal, people had already made other plans. Also, events often show a drop in attendance upon a change of venue, and then bounce back. Numerous comments acknowledged that the importance of supporting ABATE-AZ and the work it does on behalf of motorcyclists OUTWEIGHED any first-year drawbacks.

Those who made the trip had fun, heard some very good music, spent time catching up with old friends and made new ones. They also understand WHY we all gather at Too Broke each year... That is, to SUPPORT our Motorcyclists Rights Organization in its efforts to protect bikers' rights and provide education to safely share the road.

The Volunteers of the TBFS Committee put a lot of time & effort into bringing this event together each year. This year's team overcame significant obstacles. Congratulations on a job well done! I and others are already looking forward to next year!! Mark your calendars for June 20-23, 2024.

Betsy



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ABATE-AZ is a Watchdog for Profiling & Discrimination Against Motorcyclists

ABATE-AZ Legislative Director Mike Infanzon sent this message in regard to Too Broke For Sturgis and in response to comments about the law enforcement presence during the weekend.

“TBFS went well. The City and residents of Winslow were fantastic to all of us who spent the weekend there. One drawback of the whole weekend was the presence and ‘harassment’ of motorcyclists by the Gang Task Force officers who were in town just for the rally. I spoke to a few of them and informed them that it was a PRIVATE party. They had set up what seemed like profiling the motorcyclists in town. We spoke with the Mayor and Police Chief. After explaining the situation, the harassment seemed to settle down except for a few random incidents.”

Editor: Being a biker can include profiling & discrimination by law enforcement. This weekend was no different. It became necessary for ABATE’s State President Jim and Legislative Director Mike to each spend time reminding our ‘boys in blue’ that we were on private property and that discrimination based upon attire or mode of transportation are illegal.

If you were harassed by LEOs during the weekend, you are encouraged to contact ABATE-AZ so that these incidents can be included in the ongoing efforts to curb such profiling and discrimination activities. Contact ABATE-AZ Legislative Director Mike Infanzon at Mike@ABATEofAZ.org

