Too Broke For Sturgis

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ABATE of AZ's annual fundraiser, Too Broke For Sturgis, again took place at Mormon Lake Lodge. A lot of people wondered how pulling the date back a month, to June 19-22, would go over. Well, we heard lots of positive feedback. Yes, US included ☺ In years past, we had good times in spite of the rain. This year was dry; but there were spells of wind instead. Most everyone agreed that the wind was preferable. Overall, the weather was some of the best we recall experiencing during Too Broke.

We got out the door the morning of Wednesday June 18. Blue sky, cool temps, a beautiful morning ~ a great way to start!! We reached MLL around 11:30am, picked a spot, set up camp, and went for a *ride*. Riding up around Mormon Lake is beautiful… I can't imagine ever tiring of it.

Every day more people arrived to make camp, from around the state and points further as well. We met lots of new people and caught up with old friends. I love this banner we saw... "Camping ~ an excuse for adults to have drunken slumber parties." Dry conditions required fire restrictions, so no wood fires allowed. BUT we visited several campsites which were burning propane-fueled fire rings. We are totally getting one of those!!

What a difference a month makes! It was colder at night than we'd expected it to be. Fortunately, first thing Thursday morning, we were in the right place at the right time to meet the right people and we received the loan of some extra blankets to make the rest of the nights on the mountain quite cozy. Thank you Mikah & Lee!!

There were more than 20 Vendors set up, plus food trucks and organization support booths. Among them were our sponsors Law Tigers, Hog Wear, Purple Slice, and Grease Slinger Cycles.

All of the official / planned activities started on Friday afternoon. Announcements by Paul Hassinger, the weekend's emcee, kept everyone apprised of what was going on.

The **Poker Walk** takes place in the Vendor area, to support the vendors & familiarize attendees with their shopping options. There was a 5-way tie of 51 points for high hand. When the tie was broken, the winner was Lisa Bowers. She won $50. Dana Vaung had 18 points & received $25 for the low hand.

The ground crew for the **People Games** included Clyde, Lisa, and Don. There were a lot of players. Spectator turnout was low in the bleachers at times but watching from the shade of the tent was popular. **The Helmet Toss** had about a dozen competitors in both the men's & women's contests. The winners were Patty Peyree and Jack Eddings. The **Plank Walk** was won by the team of Denise Smith, Kevin Wilkes, Dee Devore, and Kelly Lunt. **Pole in the Hole** was won by Kim Davies and Lynn Betran. The women's **Tug of War** was won by the 'Barefoot Bitches of San Tan' Shari Zondlewski, Toni Promenzano, Beth Sheese, & Katie Convissar. The men's **Tug of War** provided some close contests. In the end, the Sons of Hell MC team of Donnie, Mark Sr, Mike, & Mark Jr retained the title of ToW champs for the 5th year.

The **Ms Too Broke For Sturgis Contest** was handled differently this year; rather than by audience decibels. There was a panel of judges, selected from among the event registrants from out of state; to offset concerns of bias & ties to the contestants when choosing the winner. It seemed like a positive way to handle the competition.

Contestants are required to be female residents of AriZona. Ten women vied for the title. Each were asked questions pertaining to motorcycling in general, ABATE in particular, and some random questions. The title of Ms Too Broke includes a responsibility to represent ABATE through the year and promoting the upcoming Too Broke event. The winner received a prize package with items donated by each of the vendors. Lil Bit ~ Susie Grimmer-Potter was crowned Ms Too Broke For Sturgis 2014, and was very proud of the honor.

The **Tattoo Contest** was next. Charity organized the contest & was one of the three judges. There was, as always, some beautiful ink on display. This year's winners were: Men's b&w = Good Times, color = Lil Daddy, & realistic = Joel Selvey. Women's b&w = Catherine, color = Dawn, & realistic = Nicole. They received custom trophies created by Clyde.

Music Friday & Saturday night was by the band 'Snake Burner'. They had a diverse play list including James Brown [including a brass section], Country selections, Iron Maiden, Huey Lewis, ZZ Top… BUT it seemed like they were playing their 33s on a 45 turntable. For those of you too young to understand that reference ☺ pretty much each song was played faster than originally intended. There was talent on the stage but the music sounded 'off'. I thought it might just be us. But in chatting with others, they noticed it too. So it must just be their gimmick.

Saturday's **Bead Run** took riders to stops at various ABATE Business Supporters 1] Historical Journigan House, Payson; 2] Buffalo Bar & Grill, Payson; 3] Moose Lodge, Star Valley; 4] Spur Bar, Star Valley; and 5] the Flying Grizzly, Strawberry. Brian Park collected 11 points & won $100. Tanya Tamayo collected 49 points & $250.

There was a good turnout of bikes to vote for in the **Bike Show**. Trophies were sponsored by Thomas Bishop Automotive. Winners were: Metric Stock- Joseph Terrazan; Metric Custom- Ron Newcomb; British Stock- Alan Lyons; British Custom- Mike Marica; American Stock- BJ Krzywicki; American Custom- Lupe Aguayo; Trike- Nativeman; Rat- Harry Lorts; Best in Show- Jack Shit. In addition to the trophy, Best of Show also received some Dusty Road Rags plus a complete Purple Slice Bike Cleaning Kit which was presented by Mark from Purple Slice.

There was great participation in the **Bike Games**, with lots of spectators. The ground crew included Wade & Kate, Clyde, Sweet Pea, and Jean Cooper. The **Slow Race** winner was Daniel Tumey. **Road Kill** winners were Jack & June Eddings. They picked up 3 critters in the first heat. The **Weenie Bite** winners were Patty & Brad. They were the only pair out of some 20 teams to get of piece of the weenie. The **Drag Race** is possibly the MOST hysterical game to watch. Riders race their bikes to the end of the field where there is a trashcan filled with articles of ladies' clothing. Each player must don a wig, bra, and panties [each worn appropriately] and then race back to the start/finish line. Two fellas played this to the audience and had everyone ROARING! You had to be there! The Drag Race winner was Steve Navis of the Red Dragons, for the second year.

Congratulations to all the winners of both days' games. And *Thank You* for providing some excellent entertainment for the fans.

Once the games concluded, the awards announcements commenced. Before the distribution of trophies, ABATE President MaryK greeted everyone. She recognized fellow Officers, thanked the Event Sponsors, and presented Muskrat with a TBFS VIP award for his years of service to the event. There were also 2 cash drawings ~ Jim Salem won $100 when his name was drawn from among the new ABATE members who signed up over the weekend. Jim M from Tucson won $50 when his name was drawn from those who renewed. How cool is THAT?

Another very IMPORTANT announcement that was made is the date for NEXT YEAR'S Too Broke for Sturgis. #24 will be held at Mormon Lake Lodge **June 11-14, 2015**. This gives everyone PLENTY of time to put in for vacation time, sick leave, etc to attend one of the BEST & most fun biker campouts hosted in our great State.

After the announcements, it was time for the **Wet-T Contest**. Eighteen women ventured onstage. This year a rule was set that pants must stay ON. There was a mix of store-boughts and naturals to vote for. ABATE's State Safety Coordinator Jim Silk got the 'job' to dispense the water. He was a happy man ☺ Cameras were held high. The DJ queued up some rockin' music to back these gals as they danced & strutted their stuff for votes from the audience. When all was said & done, Tracey was the winner. Congratulations!

The **50/50** was drawn right after this. John was the winner, collecting $900. Good for You! The rest of the night's entertainment at the arena was again in the hands of 'Snake Burner'.

Everyone we asked about the weekend said they had a good time. Attendance was a bit lower than normal. Organizers acknowledged that the date change affected people being able to plan for time off, which is why they were happy to announce the 2015 date already.

MaryK, ABATE President, asked us to thank these Too Broke For Sturgis sponsors: Brown & Little Criminal Defense Attorneys, AZ ATV Rentals, Law Tigers, Chuck Franklin, Thomas Bishop Automotive, & Monkey Butt Radio. Thanks also go to the more than 30 motorcycle clubs and riding associations that attended. Excellent!

Sunday morning was all about breaking camp, saying goodbyes, and heading down the mountain toward home. Next year will be here before you know it, so start making your plans now. You don't want to miss #24. See you there!

Bruce & Betsy