

Tour of Duty Ride 2021

The Tour of Duty Ride to benefit MAM ~ the Military Assistance Mission took place on Saturday November 6, 2021. This was a family-friendly event. My thanks goes to Madison of Aint Nick's Tavern for her help with this article.

From the MAM website <https://azmam.org/> Military Assistance Mission provides financial assistance and morale aid to struggling Arizona military and their families. 56% of enlisted families report financial difficulty with basic needs. MAM strives to provide financial assistance each year to 120 Arizona active duty, guard & reserve military service members. Each year approximately 4,500 military members and families benefit from MAM's morale/event programs such as Operation Holiday Open House, Seats for Soldiers, Back 2 School and Baby Bundle Bash.

Riders bought a punch card as a fundraiser and then collected stamps from participating businesses around the Valley. A unique idea was to give riders a 2-week window in which to collect those stamps. Rather than racing around to all of the stops on one day & having little time to spend at any of them, you could ride at your own leisure ~ get a stamp, drink, eat, and listen to music at all of the ride stop locations. Pretty cool!

Ride stops included Aint Nicks Tavern, both Kimmyz, Arena, Upper Crust Pizza, and Tavern On The Creek; plus

the DAV in Scottsdale, Elks Lodge #2148 in Scottsdale, American Legion Posts 27 {Apache Junction}, 90 {BCC}, and 117 {Phoenix}; On the Green Sports Grill, Tap House, and the Road Runner.

Here's how it works... If you collected all 13 stamps, you got a chance to win the Grand Prize of \$500.

If you collected a minimum of 5 stamps, you were eligible to win the high-hand prize of \$200 or the low hand prize of \$100. Seven stamps gave you 2 bonus cards toward your hand.

On the official ride day, November 6th, about 75 riders participated. It was a beautiful day for a ride. They dropped off their stamp cards that morning at American Legion Post #90 at 34801 Velda Rose Lane in Black Canyon City. Then they headed off to the Road Runner in New River for the end party. There were auction items, raffles, the Booze Wagon drawing, and a raffle drawing for an AR-15 donated by MMP Guns.

There were many prize winners. The pick-a-prize raffle had a lot of nice choices; including some beautiful gift baskets, adult beverages, a grill, a variety of gift certificates, numerous hand-made crafts, and more. The drawing for the AR-15 built by MMP Guns was a separate raffle. So ... you might be asking about the Booze Wagon????? This is a custom-built wagon filled with adult beverages plus goodies for serving them.... mixers, bar goods, and other such appropriate items.

Madison shared that there were between 30-50 bottles of various sizes included. Tickets cost \$5 each. It's the third time they've done this and it has become their biggest fundraiser.

The band Bad June performed. This is the official band of the Tour Of Duty Ride.

On behalf of the Event Committee, Madison sent along these messages of Thanks. "The Roadrunner did a wonderful job working with our committee! A big thank you to Mo Money Pawn, Sound Art, and Margy Bonds for your generosity, commitment, and service to our community. Thanks to Rick Measles for building and painting the Booze Wagon. We'd also like to thank Beaver from Beaver Bar for going above and beyond." Madison also mentioned Margy and Michael Adam – to acknowledge their sacrifice and generosity that transcends tragedy as they to continue to serve and honor Arizona's servicemen and women.

The final total of donations was not available at the time of this writing. All proceeds go to Military Assistance Mission (MAM), which is the only Arizona charity that helps active duty personnel e5 and below. If you would like to learn more about the Military Assistance Mission or make a donation, visit their website at <https://azmam.org/>

