

Tragedy Strikes on Carefree Highway

A memorial tribute to the downed riders

On Sunday, March 28th, I had the unique opportunity to sit down and interview one of the survivors of last week's multi-death motorcycle crash.

Tod Faasse was at the Roadrunner during the fundraiser with his fiancée. He had crawled away from his wrecked Harley, and was still wearing the scars on his face and hands. But what you couldn't see, even though he was limping from a twisted spine, were the emotional scars of losing some near and dear friends in a fiery blaze, of melting metal and flesh. Tod continued his story about that day, telling me the only thing he remembers is that someone yelled, "Watch out" and then all hell broke loose. He looked back at the scene, and all he could see were his friends trapped under the truck and he watched helplessly, as it all caught fire.

If anyone out there understands his loss, pain and suffering, and the emotional scars that will be with him forever, please, share with him and the families of those who will no longer ride the Arizona Highways again, and donate to their cause.

"Bereavement is the compassion we feel in our hearts, for the loss of the souls we knew and loved."

To all of the Brothers and Sister riders who came out to help those we mourn, me and all the others who ride with the wind in our faces, and enjoy the "Biker way", I applaud your efforts. And personally, I send my condolences to the families for their loss and to the victims who survived, and thank the whole community at large for their participation in raising money for those we've lost. This event has touched us all in a way, that I'm proud to recognize and be a part of.

There's a Benefit Fund set up at the Roadrunner Bar and Grill, where all those riders came to consider a home base. I spoke to the owners, Eric Carlson and Mark Starr, who knew all the victims well. They have set up this fund for all those Victims families and survivors from this horrible calamity that took so many lives, and left the rest to remember. And we ALL should.

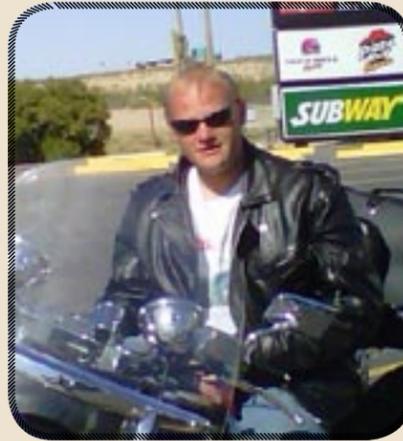
This type of accident reminds us all how fragile life is. You can be riding along with your friends one minute, and lose them the next. Be vigilant, and have your head on a swivel, and even then it may not be enough. You never know when tragedy will strike. Remember the Fallen Brothers and Sisters everyday. Ride hard, be safe and enjoy this life God has given to us. Later, Urah....

"Beaux" Marks

Here's the latest....

As most of you have likely heard by now, the wreck on Carefree Highway that took place on March 25 has claimed 4 lives.

Clyde R. Nachand {below}, Stephen Punch, and Daniel L. Butler {center} each died at the scene. Dayle Veronica Downs-Totonchi {right} passed away at the hospital.



This is what we've learned so far regarding some of the survivors.

Phoenix Fire Captain Ernie Lizarraga remains in the hospital in critical but improved condition. When his meds are lowered he responds to instruction. The Doctor is positive that he is aware so he was told where he is and that he had been in a bad motorcycle accident.

Tod {pic below} you'll read about from Beaux.

Jason is recovering at home.

Julie is hoping to be released Friday morning, Apr 2.

Terry thought he was getting out Friday also, but might still need a skin graft so that means another week to week and a half. He was up in a wheel chair twice on Wednesday, and has started therapy.



Will was on his first ride with this group. He's home and fine.

We wish all of them the best, as they begin the healing process.

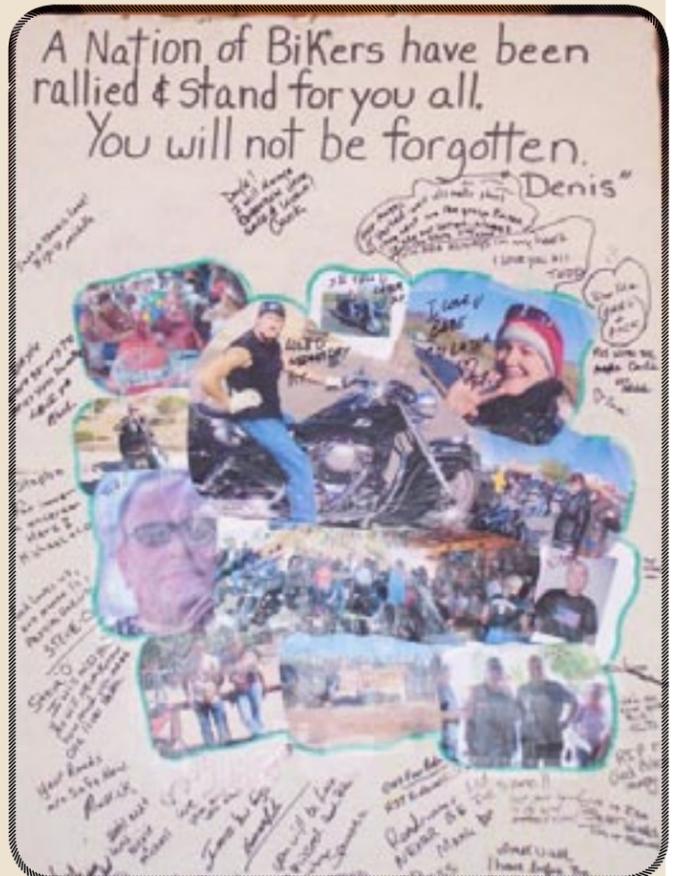
As a tribute to our fallen riders, bikers are being asked to tie a black bandana around your left front fork now through the end of AZ Bike Week. If you are not comfortable with that placement, some are tying them around their handlebar.

Members of Phoenix M.C. Kruzers have set up an account at Wells Fargo Bank, under the heading FMVF (Fallen

Motorcycle Victims & Families), account # 3598879181. All the donations they receive will be disbursed among all the people and the families of the victims that were on that ride that day.

For those of our readers who are out of the area and so may not be up to speed on what happened, we've included a brief recap, based upon information we received from the Phoenix Police Department:

On Thursday March 25, 2010, at around 1pm, Phoe-



nix Police, Phoenix Fire Department and the Daisy Mountain Fire Department were dispatched to 2700 W. Carefree Hwy in response to a horrific accident with several injuries. When first responders arrived they noticed 8 motorcycles and 5 vehicles were involved in the accident.

According to investigators the driver, 46-year old Michael J. Jakscht, of Blue Sky Sanitation Company, operating a 1996 Volvo dump truck, was east bound on Carefree Highway. He failed to control his speed and collided with the rear of the eight motorcycles and four other vehicles that were in front of the motorcycles.

As new information comes in we will post it to our Forum page <http://azridersouthwest.com/Forum.html>

Bruce & Betsy