

Fountain Hills American Legion Post 58 Ride-In Bike Show

Held in Memory of Kimmy Chapman

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The 3rd annual Fountain Hills American Legion Post 58 Ride-In Bike Show was held on Saturday March 24. This year it was dedicated to the memory of Kimmy Chapman, founder of *Biker Information Guide*; who was killed after leaving last year's event.

This day gave everyone an opportunity to stop & remember Kimmy; taken from us by yet another Right Of Way violation. Many people there were wearing orange ribbons in Kimmy's memory. A modest \$1 donation per ribbon was collected to help Tapper with his on-going expenses & treatments related to injuries he sustained in that fateful wreck. Pinwheels were also available, with the intent of having people stop by where the wreck happened, at 43rd Ave & Bell, & plant them in the ground. A cheerful remembrance, to brighten a corner filled with sad memories, for a lady that made so many people smile {:o}

35 vendors displayed leather goods, travel info, jewelry, pins & patches, headgear, apparel, art, eyewear, tattooing, cosmetics, bling & accessories for the

ladies, custom painting, kettle corn, Team AZ info, plus American Legion support items.

The silent auction offered 20 or so items to bid on including sporting-related goods, collectibles, jewelry, apparel, a neon sign, and travel opportunities.

The raffle had 50+ prizes up for grabs. There were gift certificates from a broad range of businesses, plus apparel, jewelry, accessories.... Just too much to list. I can say, whoever did the work of gathering and organizing for the raffles & silent auction did an admirable job.

Post 58 was also a stop for the 'Born 2B Wild' fundraiser for Liberty Wildlife Fndn. They had an impressive & interesting collection of birds on display. We don't have space enough to tell you about their ride & cause this time; but will include it in next month's edition.

Our friend Robert Shinn of Evil Twin Custom Cycles served as emcee. The band UNKnown ASSociates provided the music for the day. The Whisker Wars and Ink Wars got everyone clapping & cheering for their favorite contestants.

A large poster of Kimmy & Tapper was displayed where people could write messages on it. During a band break there was a Remembrance for Kimmy. Kimmy's daughter Kelly & Jim Moore, both of *Biker Information Guide*, spoke; and within their comments thanked everyone for their support.

Although we usually focus on reporting the news rather than making the news, Bruce was happy to participate when

asked to be one of the celebrity judges for the Bike Show. Along with him were Robert of Evil Twin, Jim of *AZ Biker Information Guide*, and 2 fellows from Tucker Rocky [sorry I missed your names].

44 bikes competed in 7 categories. There were excellent examples of beautiful paint, creative styling, attention to detail, and imagination. Congratulations to you all:

Women's Only 1st Kim Deathford, 2nd Sharon DeRosa; Stock H-D 1st Mike DeRosa, 2nd Ron Smith; Metric 1st Sam DiMarco, 2nd Robert Gonzales; Antique 1st Greg Watkins, 2nd Mike Foster; Bobber 1st Todd Fritch, 2nd Steve Ruppert; Modified H-D 1st Greg Crooks, 2nd Pete Stevens; Custom 1st Eric Fisher, 2nd Claude Burcea. People's Choice was Eric Fisher's Custom, built by Evil Twin Custom Cycles. And before anyone starts thinking too hard about this... Robert recused himself from the judging of the Customs Class because his shop had built a bike in the competition.

According to organizer Ken Couture, attendance is estimated at around 1500. He let us know that \$3,894 was raised for American Legion Charities: the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. Another \$300 was raised for Kelly Hemphill, Kimmy's daughter and Tapper. Ken also sent along some thank-you's on behalf of Post 58. "We need to thank all our Corporate Sponsors who provided financial contributions to help in supporting this event and Veterans causes: McMahon

RV, Mesa, AZ; Meridian Bank, Fountain Hills, AZ; Mid-First Bank, Fountain Hills, AZ; Great Escapes Travel, Fountain Hills, AZ; Jim & Judi Bieschel, Fountain Hills, AZ; Greg & Bridgit Watkins, Fountain Hills, AZ; Phil's Filling Station Restaurant, Fountain Hills, AZ; and Tap House Bar, Fountain Hills, AZ.

"We would also like to thank: The Liberty Wildlife Fndn for including us as stop on their run and wonderful display of birds; Robert Shinn, Evil Twin Custom Motorcycles, Mesa for his on-going guidance, support, and participation in each and every year's bike show; *AZ Rider SW* for their generous assistance in helping to promote this event and Bruce for being a celebrity judge; *AZBIG* for their assistance in helping to promote this event, Jim Moore for being a celebrity judge, Kelly and crew for making it possible for Tapper to attend, and their gracious attendance; and the American Legion Riders from the following AZ Posts that generously volunteered their time to assist in Security Details: Post 2, Tempe; Post 26, Mesa; Post 39, Gilbert; Post 91, Chandler; and Arcadia Post 138, Tempe."

There was a lot planned for this day, and everything appeared to go off without a hitch. The American Legion Riders & Sons of the American Legion put together an outstanding event, and we were glad to be a part of it. We hope to see many of you there next year. Learn more about American Legion Riders Post 58 at

www.alr58.org

Betsy & Bruce

