

ADDISON'S RIDE

The First Annual Addison's Ride took place on Saturday May 10, 2014. Sign-in was at Chester's Harley Davidson, 922 S. Country Club Dr in Mesa from 8:30-9:30am. This event was a fundraiser for Addison's Army Against Melanoma, an organization dedicated to educating and spreading awareness about melanoma (commonly known as skin cancer) through materials, lectures, and community events. Thank you to James Cox, founder of Addison's Army, for sharing details and photos from the day.

About 60 riders took the run. After departing Chester's, they headed toward Saguaro Lake, then up to the Beeline Hwy through the Fort McDowell area. They rolled through Paradise Valley and Carefree. There was some pretty desert landscape with plenty of turns and straight roads for the different riders. Last stop was at Harold's in Cave Creek for lunch, music, and a silent auction.

Addison's Army Against Melanoma grew out of a tragic turn of events. James' wife Brianna was diagnosed with stage IV melanoma in the summer of 2011; shortly after giving birth to their daughter Addison. Despite doctor assurances that mother-to-fetus transfer of the cancer was highly unlikely, the doctors were wrong, and the child was also diagnosed with Stage IV metastasized malignant melanoma. Brianna was taken on February 12, 2012, with little Addison following her on August 8, 2013.

The mission of Addison's Army is to carry on Brianna's dream of creating awareness about melanoma skin cancer; so they are developing various means of education. In addition their website, AAAM sets up booths at events to spread information and awareness about sun safety, especially for children. They also have a coloring book campaign to educate elementary school aged chil-

dren.

This day's gathering raised about \$2000; with the funds going toward educational materials, the website, and the coloring book campaign.

Learn more about Addison's Army Against Melanoma at <http://addisonsarmy.org>

For you golfers out there, the next fundraiser is a golf tournament on September 6 at the AZ Biltmore's Adobe Golf Course. Details about that are on the website as well.

Addison's Army wants to thank Harold's in Cave Creek for the use of their place, the food, and music. Thanks also go to Chester's Harley-Davidson in Mesa for the starting point and for assistance planning the event. Thank you, too, to everyone who came out for the ride and made it such a success.

