

# Bikers Soar For Wildlife

AZ Rider



Great Horned Owl



Golden Eagle



Harris Hawk



Turkey Vulture



Desert Tortoise

The annual “Bikers Soar For Wildlife” motorcycle ride took place on Sunday February 15, 2015. Sponsored by the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center Auxiliary (AMWCA), this is the 10th year that bikers have been coming out in support of this cause. All proceeds go the rescue, rehabilitate, & care for the hundreds of animals that come to the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center each year. Thanks to the efforts of the AMWCA volunteers and supporters, they are able to successfully return 70% of the injured animals they care for back into the wild. Wonderful!

I was happy to once again work with event organizer Sharon Ehrlich of the AMWCA to prepare this report for you. She’s been a volunteer at the Center since her retirement in 2004. Conversations with her are always interesting & informative.

This year’s ride staged at Chester’s Harley-Davidson, located at 922 S Country Club Dr in Mesa. The weather was great, and there were 277 riders who came out to participate. This is an above-average turnout, for which the organizers are very appreciative.

Each year the goal is to plan a route which includes as much desert scenery and as little highway as possible. This year’s ride was about 120 miles. It was the first time that the run took off from the east side of the Valley. After leaving Chester’s, the bikes headed up Ellsworth/Usery Pass Road to Saguaro Lake Marina.

This is the first year that SLM was a stop, and it was great. Sharon sent this note, “I would like to give a tribute here to the Recker Family. Barb Recker managed the Marina for many, many years. She was most supportive of BSFW using the Marina as a stop. Unfortunately Barb passed away about a month before the ride, so she didn’t live to see the event come together. Her son, Ben Recker, stepped up to honor our agreement and could not have been more helpful, even in his time of sorrow. They are a most caring family. Barb loved the Arizona wildlife she saw each day at the Marina, and we were happy we could

honor her by dedicating this stop in her name.”

The riders then went south on Highway 87 to Safeway in Fountain Hills. BSFW has used Safeway as a stop before and always has great support from the management here. After Safeway, the route went west on Fountain Hills Blvd/McDowell Mountain Road through Rio Verde. The MPH in this area is low, the area is quiet, and there is a lot of greenery. From there to Dynamite Road with more open spaces and what’s left of our desert; to Cave Creek Rd, Sonoran Desert, and eventually to The Helmet Center on Lake Pleasant Parkway in Peoria.

The final stop was the Salty Seniorita in Peoria, also a first for BSFW. They were most gracious and seemed to appreciate what the event brought to the venue. There was no band this year, just the music from the Salty Seniorita sound system.

The ride winners’ names were unavailable at the time of this writing, but they won some pretty neat stuff. The High Hand prize was 2 tickets for the Dolly Steamboat & a \$40 certificate to Tortilla Flat. The Low Hand winner received a Year Pass to Arizona State Parks.

Each year, Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center volunteers bring a display of animals to the event’s last stop, so riders can visit and learn about who they’re riding for. This year there was a Golden Eagle, Great Horned Owl, Black Crowned Night Heron, a couple hawks, a falcon, a few non-poisonous snakes, and some desert tortoises.

The raffles & auction also took place here, with an impressive collection of donations to bid on. Items in the raffle included a Limo Ride from Lux Rides, passes to Boyce Thompson Arboretum, a Cabela’s Ridgeline backpack, a home brew package from What Ale’s Ya, and tickets on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad of New Mexico/Colorado. Destination packages included Tickets on the

Verde Canyon Railroad + One Night Stay at Pine Motel [Cottonwood] + \$35 Certificate from Manzanita Restaurant; Karchner Caverns + One Night Stay at Days Inn in Benson + Palatiano’s Restaurant certificate [Benson]; and One night at the Gadsden Hotel [Douglas] with a Lavender Jeep Tour [Bisbee]. This year’s auction included Phoenix Int’l Raceway Full Weekend Passes to the NASCAR races and a Family Membership to Shooter’s World, among others.

Sharon apprised us that, “This event grossed over \$4,000 thanks to all those wonderful people who ride. You just cannot say enough about the generosity of the motorcycle riding community. The money we raise helps care for the animals that come to Adobe for medical care and rehabilitation. Food, shelters, vets - it all adds up quickly but the success of the Bikers Soar for Wildlife run ensures we can help meet those needs.”

Sharon extends thanks to this year’s Sponsors... “Once again we received an extremely generous donation from the Dodds Family in memory of Robert T. Dodds who passed in 2013. The Dodds have supported Adobe in many ways over the years and we are honored that they continue to believe in what we do; Law Tigers – it’s always great to have Bob Moellman with us; Premier Graph-

ics, and Crazy Trees & Weeds.”

She continues, “I have to thank the small group of Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center Auxiliary members who gave hours and hours of their time over almost 6 months to organize our event. This may not be as big as Bike Week but our members put in just as much effort to give our riders the best time we can. Spouses, children, jobs all get a little less focus during those last few weeks; especially as we pull the final details together. Thanks to all the businesses [see below] who donate to us as well as those who allow us to utilize their parking lots for our ride stops. We do not receive monetary donations from our stops, but they support us by allowing us the use of their spaces. And thank you to all those folks who ride with us each year. There are many other worthy causes and many other events throughout the Valley and we are more than humbled by the support they give us year after year.”

In addition to the businesses mentioned above, BSFW wants to acknowledge these sponsors for their donations to this year’s event: Henry Dupere Studios, Oggi’s Pizza & Brewery, Beverley’s Massage, Arrowhead H-D [Peoria], Black Bear Diner [Bell Rd, Phoenix], Bikers Bay, TEAM Arizona, AZ Hair Company, Betty’s Nosh, Bisbee Mine Tours, Bobos, Cheese Cake Factory, Chileans,

Conrad Stora Books, Crescent Moon Cycles Prescott Valley, The Dump [Cave Creek], Elephant Bar, Fry’s Grocery Stores, Light House Tattoo, McFadden’s, Mormon Lake Lodge, Native Grill, Porters Restaurant [Superior], The Shady Dell [Bisbee], Tilted Kilt, Whiskey Rose Saloon, Wildflower Bread Company, & Yuma Landing.

The AMWCA is a 501c3 organization. Donations are always welcome and appreciated AND they’re tax deductible. Visit their website at [www.azwildlifecenter.net](http://www.azwildlifecenter.net) for more information about their work and how to make your donation. Non-monetary donations are also welcome & you’ll find more details about that there as well.

The Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center Open House will be held Nov 21 & 22, from 10a-3pm. This is the only time that the facility, located at 2800 W. Pinnacle Peak in Phoenix, is open to the public. Stroll around the compound, sit in on educational presentations, and see the animals that live at Adobe and serve as ambassadors for their species. There will be activities for all ages. Admission & parking are free. FMI: Sandy 623-582-9806, [adobe@azwildlifecenter.net](mailto:adobe@azwildlifecenter.net)

When next year’s BSFW date is announced, we will post it to our calendar.

Betsy

## ADOBE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE CENTER AUXILIARY