

Bikes For BioFuel

This fundraiser was held on August 21 on behalf of the Cottonwood Oak Creek School District. All funds generated will be used to buy a biodiesel processor for the school buses.

Event organizer Mike Rogers is also the Founder and President of Biodiesel U.S. Inc. He started this project because of his 3 children: Natalee 7, Zoe 3, and Colton 1. Their school in Cornville was being considered for shut down due to budget cuts. School bus routes were consolidated. It was taking his daughter 1 1/2 hours to get home. Teachers were getting laid off because of money, causing classes to grow to absurd numbers, and students to lose one on one time with teachers.

His personal interest regarding the use of Biodiesel led him to ask, "What if the schools made their own fuel for the buses?" His research showed that if the school could make at least 20% biodiesel for themselves, that would save around \$15,000 a year. The Restaurant Waste Vegetable Oil from the city of Cottonwood could provide 100% of the buses' fuel needs. If that is done, as much as \$80,000 + a year could be saved. As Mike noted, there are many benefits of using biodiesel, including Ecological, Economical, and Patriotic.

52 bikes signed in at the Grasshopper Grille in Cornville. The local school district bus drivers helped with traffic. A last minute change meant that riders rolled dice but did not draw cards. Stops were at

Clint's Well, Mormon Lake Lodge, and Sedona Sundowner; finishing at the Old Corral Bar in Cornville. It was about a 124-mile ride in the pines. High roll winner was Paul Dunnaway collecting \$150; low was Denise Collins for \$75.

Around 200+ people enjoyed the post run activities at the Old Corral. The music lineup was Solace, The Mods, The Help, and Chris Berry and the Retrofitters. A car bash raised about \$250. The Keg Toss winners were Jared Cameron and Skyla, who donated their prize monies back; another \$100 to the cause. The silent auction offered Harley mirrors, a Joe Beeler painting, hats, T-shirts, jewelry, spurs, etc. The 50/50 winner was one of the bus drivers that helped with the event. She gave some back and paid her tab!

Raffle items included gift certificates from Stromboli's, Brandie's Kitchen, Cliff Castle Casino hotel, The Gatherings, a \$300 dollar package donated from Cliff Castle, tanning and massage sessions; plus shirts, hats, patches, art, pottery, etc.

Vendors included local artists with jewelry, Outlaw Image screen printing, Silk's embroidery, Blocks Designs, Flesh Cover Clothing, Biker Babes and Beyond clothing, Cameron Financial, and a kissing booth. Sally's BBQ provided the food.

Verde Biofuel brought a BioDiesel Processor to show the people what this is all about. It is a mobile refinery, a class-

room. They offered some basic demonstrations and answered questions.

Mike extends Special Thanks to Beth Eckels for providing BUS Inc with all the help setting up the run. She worked her butt off! Thanks also go to all the Cottonwood/ Oak Creek school district bus drivers, Tim McClellan from Verde Biofuel, Jason Rogers with Studio 89a, The Old Corral Bar, The Cowboy Club in Sedona, all the community shops that donated raffle items, Outlaw Images for the T-shirts, and most of all, his Wife Lora for supporting him in this project.

Times are tough right now and money is hard to come by, so everything that was donated was much appreciated. Today's event raised \$1400 toward the cause. This is an ongoing campaign. You can learn more about biodiesel and upcoming fundraisers at www.biodieselus.org/ or follow them on Facebook.

The school district will not pay a dime for its processor. BioDiesel US, Inc plans to pay for the processor and then donate its use to the school. Since the school will not pay for the equipment, their financial benefit will be seen right away. Kudos to BioDiesel US, Inc!

We hope that more communities and school districts will take a lesson from this green effort under way in Cornville. Thank you to Mike at BioDiesel US, Inc for sending the photos and helping us to follow up on this important event.

Fallout

