

AZ Burn Center's Double Header Benefit

In conversation with Harold at Chandler Custom Cycles, we learned of a benefit taking place for the AZ Burn Center at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix. This event was actually a 2-in-1; with the kick-off taking place on November 6, and the follow through on November 22.

Sonya Boncore and her husband Carl Boncore started this event last year; along with her group, the Devoted Dolls. Their son Gionni was burned on the stove at grandma's house in 2009, when he was 1 ½ years old. He was admitted to the burn center with 3rd degree burns from his finger tips to his elbows. He was there for a little over a week for treatment and Sonya describes the staff as "above and beyond amazing in every way." This event is their way to say 'thank you'.

Nicantoni's Pizza located at 1430 W Warner Road in Gilbert hosted a special Bike Night on November 6. 50% of your tab went to the Burn Unit at the AZ Burn Center. Donations of toys and children's books were also collected. These will be provided to children admitted into the Burn Center for treatment. Gilbert Fire Dept. & staffers from the AZ Burn Center were there. There were games for the kids and raffles. The evening was described as a "huge success" by Sonya. In addition to the \$1300 in cash collected this night, the representative from

AZ Burn Center filled up her Suburban with toys for the kids. "The Burn Center staff was very, very grateful for all the toys they received."

Then on November 22 there was a ride starting at Nicantoni's. Bikes & hot rods gathered for a scenic ride which ended at The Road Runner in New River. This was the first year that the hot rodders had been invited. An estimated 60 riders went on the run; plus about 7 rods. The route covered back roads from Gilbert to New River, with a good portion of highway travel. An additional 10 or so bikes came out to support the event at the Road Runner.

Entertainment was Rockabilly music, provided by the Jamie Waldron Trio and the Rhythm Dragons. They played this event last year as well.

Tony Sousa with Bonehead Pinstripping was on-site pinstripping. Daisy Mountain Fire Dept. was on hand with personnel & equipment, ready to share information about fire safety. There was a kids section with a jumpy castle, face painting, & kids tattoo area. They held a Peoples Choice bike and car contest. Winners received trophies donated by Thunderbird Trophies. There were 40+ raffle prizes, plus a separate raffle for the children. Sonya expressed great appreciation for the donations of the raffle items & trophies.

From the combined efforts of these two gather-

ings, the AZ Burn Center received \$2900 plus 10 boxes full of toys, books, and games for the children. Sonya was pleased to note that this was an improvement from last year. All the monies collected through this event go to the Burn Center at Maricopa Intergrated Health Systems. According to Sonya, this year the money will go toward an inpatient warming unit. This keeps the body temperature of severely burned patients at a safe level; to help prevent them from going into shock.

Arizona Burn Center is the ONLY burn center for all of Arizona; plus also receives patients from many surrounding states and Northern Mexico. It is the second largest facility of its kind in North America. For more information about the AZ Burn Center visit www.azburncenter.org.

Thanks to Vic of Nicantoni's Pizza and Sonya Boncore for their help in bringing this article together. The Devoted Dolls are a group of Vintage pin-up girls dedicated to community service. Learn more about them and see lots more photos from this event at their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DevotedDolls>

Betsy

Photos by Carlos Arturo Velarde, and other anonymous shutterbugs



Devoted Dolls



Rhythm Dragons

