

Hard Ass Run

Hosted by East Valley ABATE of AZ

Greetings from the East Valley Chapter, after one of the best ever rides we can do. As you may know, the HAR is the most secretive poker run as well as the longest ever done. It goes way back, to the good ol' days when Jack Batty and Redbone came up with some real winners. The biker gloves have come off and the challenge has been on ever since.

We started out at the What the Hell Bar & Grill in East Mesa on a cool Saturday morning; October 4. The organized help came riding in from Joe Silk, Tim Zennick, Larry & Tammy Keim, and yours truly.

Selling a huge arm full of fifty-fifty tickets as well as raffle tickets for a cool quilt donated by Mary K Donnay; the day started well. Did ya know it's 'all ya can eat and two free drinks' for breakfast there? And dang good!

Off to the next card stop manned by Richard Dalton and Cheryl Vasquez at Jake's Corner in Payson. They've got a dollar biker breakfast there. Then the ride took a cool twist as we headed up to Globe to the Drift Inn Saloon. We met Dawn Parker-Steed and her hubby Nolan for a card draw there; plus had a green chili smothered burger for a lunch stop. The run headed up to Winkelman, then back down to Florence to the River Bottom Bar with the card stop handled by Mike Shearhart and his lovely wife Willy ~ there with her cool truck! Following the pack was the sweep truck with Shorty Owens and his grinning Grandson to keep him company. I am sure Michael was close behind for Dad duties too! We ended up at American Legion Post 138 in Tempe, for a total of about 275 miles; with a re-

cord turnout of 75 riders! Next year's ride will be better than that.

Winning the top hand prize of \$250, with three kings, was Howard Rudd. He smiled all day after that. Second place was won by the sexy smiler herself, JoAnne King; with three 10's, for a hundred bucks. Worst hand ever went to Kelly. Those who finished the ride were awarded a collectible T-shirt.

Tho' their belt broke on the ride, Steven and Trish Lindroth signed up as new members and got a ride home, safe and sound.

Now complaining and a whining from the day before... didn't get a good card... it was hot out... too many miles... where's my gatoraid ... was James R Hammond. We made him buy an arm full of fifty-fifty tickets and next thing ya know he wins the 50/50!!

Son of a beach!! All smiles, we took his new membership money from him and he joined! What

a story to tell about Jim Hammond over many beers later.

Larry and Tammy Keim were gifted the quilt by the winners Mary Ellen and Mac McMakin!!! Total class act by those two! That's what bikers do!!!

Huge thanks go out to the riders who made the route happen... Jeff Albers, Courtney Coder, and Bridgett Loli. They spent the day enjoying adult beverages and keeping the stops secret... just like Jack and Redbone woulda wanted. Jennifer Hutt was texting us to "go fast" from Portland. Missed ya, baby! Huge kisses and biker hugs go out to Shannon Levy of 93.3 KDKB who had us on Ruby's Rides. It's a great site to see where the good rides are and hear kick-ass rock and roll tunes!! The T-shirt design from Mike Turngren rocked and Michael Schneider's

crew at Square Peg Promotions kicked ass on the style and color. Those shirts were taken care of by Matt Brown's generosity; of the Brown & Little P.L.C super attorneys of law. Thanks again Matt!

Next year, let's do this ride again everyone told me... But with a twist ~ heh, heh, heh. It ain't yer grandpa's poker run! Ride safe! See ya!

Jim Silk

see more photos at ABATE's FB page /AbateofAZ

