

20th annual Jester Memorial Run

AZ Rider

The Jester Memorial Run, Ride in Peace for Lost Brothers and Sisters is an annual event that takes place throughout the Verde Valley of Arizona. The event is hosted by Modified Motorcycle Association Verde Valley District. The inaugural run took place in 1996 and was dedicated to Fritz "the Jester" Heirich, and this was the beginning of The Jester Memorial Run. The runs stops are held at a variety of local businesses. The businesses host either a poker hand or a dice roll. The scenery has always been beautiful even though the run stops have changed from year to year. The run routes are self-paced and they have taken riders through the stunning red rocks of Sedona, through wine country and up the windy roads of Mingus Mountains.

On May 2nd 2015 Modified Motorcycle Association Verde Valley District hosted the 20th Annual Jester Memorial Run. It was a beautiful day for a ride to honor our Lost Brothers and Sisters, with a turnout of 125 registered riders.

Every year the Jester Run is dedicated to a rider that has fallen. This year's run was dedicated to Lynn J Harding II, owner of Wiccid Sickles in Phoenix. Lynn was an honored Veteran with the United States Army. Lynn owned a motorcycle mechanic shop and was very well known and respected in the motorcycle community.

The event began at Auto Motion in Cottonwood, AZ with a ceremonial reading of names of Brothers and Sisters we lost in the past year. The ceremony consisted of



ringing the bell after each name was read and a plaque was presented to family and friends. We then had a police escort of the 98 bikes to Kactus Kate's located on Main Street along Historic 89A in Old Town Cottonwood, named for the beautiful Cottonwood trees that grow along the Verde River. Riders rolled the dice and after run stop cards were filled out we rode off to the red rocks of Sedona and found ourselves at Olde Sedona Bar and Grill, enjoying stunning views of Coffee Pot Rock from their balcony. We traveled from Sedona to the Village of Oak Creek and viewed Red Rock Crossing and Cathedral Rock on our way to PJs Village Pub. We enjoyed a drink and rolled more dice, then we rode along Beaverhead Flat Rd to Old Corral and Up the Creek in Cornville/Page Springs which is located on the banks of Oak Creek. This area is becoming well known for the wine grapes that grow in this region and the many vineyards that have sprung up. Finally we arrived back in Cottonwood for the End Party hosted by The Chaparral Bar.

The end party had live music by the band Rewired, drink specials, raffles, games, 50/50 and a great time was had by all. Winners of the high and low roll were announced. T-shirts were available for purchase and sold out. Sadly, over the past 20 years we have lost over 200 brothers and sisters and the shirt was running out of room, so the names were retired. If you wish to have a loved one or a friend remembered during the 2016 run please send email to mmaverdevalley@yahoo.com. Jester Run patches are available for \$5. To place an order send email to mmaverdevalley@yahoo.com. Other merchandise is available such as rockers and run pins.

This year's Jester Memorial Run raised \$3000 with the proceeds benefiting Motorcycle Safety/Awareness and Down Riders Fund. Down Riders Fund is a fund that is available to help Modified Motorcycle Association members or riders in time of need. Join us in May 2016 for the 21st Annual Jester Memorial Run.

For more Modified Motorcycle Association information visit our website at www.mma-az.org.

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Lizzy Dickens, Activities Director
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