

NATIONAL ARMED FORCES FREEDOM RIDE

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May 21, 2016 marked the 7th annual National Armed Forces Freedom Ride. Skeeter is the driving force behind this gathering. Her passion for supporting the Troops is unwavering.

200 riders signed in at American Legion Post 2 in Tempe. After opening ceremony activities, the ride departed. Stops included Jugs & Stokers, Florence; Galloping Goose, Coolidge; Post 9, Florence; & What the Hell Bar, Mesa.

The last stop was at Desert Wind Harley Davidson, 922 S. Country Club Drive, Mesa. Participants started arriving at about 1:15p. An additional 100 or so gathered here without having taken the ride.

Music for the afternoon was provided by the Unknown Associates. Band member Robert also emceed... using his gift of gab & good humor to encourage lots of ticket sales & donations. Members of American Legion Riders Post 2 grilled burgers in the cook shack for lunch.

Vendors offered apparel, jewelry, patches & stitching, candles, & more. There were information & support booths hosted by EV HOG, MovesThat-Matter.org, Devoted Dolls, and Military Assistance Mission, www.azmam.org/.

More than 20 items were in the raffles, including H-D goodies, adult beverages, gift baskets, decorative blankets, & more. One fellow bought \$200 worth of raffle tickets. His name is Tim and he's a US Navy Veteran. Thank you for your Service and for your support of this event!

They had to do tie breakers for both high & low scores. High score winner was Ironbutt from Post 91. His 51 points earned him \$125 & a trophy. Jackie Moody had the Low score of 17. She collected \$50 & a trophy. Cindy Sullivan received the Better Luck Next Time trophy & \$25. The Shared \$\$ Pot had \$142 for the winner. The winning ticket holder is Werner, but at last report the prize has gone unclaimed. Sounds like a Donation ☺ Congratulations to you all.

Desert Wind HD is very supportive of this event. In addition to hosting this day's final stop, DWHD also sponsored a 'Party on the Patio' dedicated to this ride on April 16. People could pre-register for the NAFFR, have lunch, & enjoy music by Backstage Crew.

Along with many Independent riders, numerous organizations were represented including American

Legion Riders, Green Knights MC, HOG, Riders USA, and the Sons of Liberty. Skeeter shared that the Green Knights MC has been supporting this event since 2010 and she is very appreciative.

She also wants to thank Two Gals Events, Chuck Franklin Law, KFNN 1100 Talk Radio, Desert Wind H-D, & Unknown Associates Band for their support.

The day's beneficiary was MAM ~ Military Assistance Mission, www.azmam.org/. Donations collected reached \$4500. MAM's Mission is "To provide financial and morale aid to our current Arizona active duty military, their families, and wounded warriors regardless of overseas deployment status." [from their website].

The 8th annual National Armed Forces Freedom Ride will take place on Saturday May 20, 2017. Details will be posted to the event website <http://azfreedomride.webs.com> and to our calendar.

Thank you to the members of our Armed Forces for your Service to our Country. And thank you Skeeter for your efforts to help everyone Honor them on this day.

Betsy & Bruce