Rocktoberfest 2014

Chester's Harley-Davidson hosted their Rocktoberfest 2014 on Saturday October 4th. The headliner was Dennis DeYoung: The Music of Styx.

The United Food Bank was the beneficiary of the event's fundraising activities. We learned that the UFB serves 51,000 meals per day. For every dollar donated, they are able to provide 5 meals.

Before the main event, there was a lot going on; including visiting the vendors that ringed the venue and listening to music by the 74th Street Band and Johnny Anonymous. Earlier in the day, there was a Tire Toss Challenge. Jeannie Arnold won the women's competition; launching a front motorcycle tire 35', 1". The men's competition was won by Troy Seavers, who tossed a rear motorcycle tire 34', 1". They both received a free set of tires.

Emcee Jim Moore got the opportunity to make a lot of people very happy, as he called out the winning names to some serious giveaways, sponsored by Chester's H-D. There was a 60" TV to Tim O'Connell, an LED light system to Sheryl J, and a free 10K service & detailing to Paul Jones. Riding Academy classes went to Bill Crook, Kim Roberts [Gold Canyon], & Rich Martin [Mesa]. Robert Robinovsky won a 3-day Rental. Beautiful bracelets courtesy of HogWear went to Julie Nicholas and to Kathy Specker. A black onyx ring, also from HogWear, was collected by Helen Sava. And then it was time to pull out the luggage…. There were Las Vegas trips for Randall Schiller and Derek Taylor, a Mexico Getaway to Cancun or Puerto Vallarta for Rick Quinn, and a Hawaiian Getaway for John Hyatt. Wow!

An autographed guitar from Dennis DeYoung, along with a 'Meet & Greet', was auctioned for $1000. Shortly thereafter, it was announced that a second guitar was also autographed, which went for an additional grand. Very cool.

As the time for the headline show drew closer, more people were arriving. There was a lot of excitement in the place. Quite frankly, it can be hard to know just what you'll hear when you go to a concert featuring artist[s] whose rise to fame was 20+ years ago….. We've heard some performers who still do a great job… and we've heard some who deserve to retire & enjoy the admiration of the fans they have earned over the years.

As the lights reset and the music began, camera phones were held high and The Grand Illusion was revisited. From the first song to the last, the performance of Dennis DeYoung and his fellow musicians pulled the attention of the full audience. Fans were standing deep at the fence line. People were singing along to their favorites. Attendees further back in the venue, who might otherwise be shopping, visiting, kicking tires, etc ~ were engaged as well…. Paying attention to the stage & taking photos. It was an excellent show and we're glad we could be there for it.

Chester's Harley-Davidson, located at 922 S Country Club in Mesa, is a family-run dealership which is well respected in our community. They are very active in hosting events, large & small, to assist local charities. This one day's event raised over $5,000 for UFB. Learn more about this organization by visiting their website https://unitedfoodbank.org

Chester's calendar always has something going on…. The monthly 'Party on the Patio', free demo rides, specials in departments around the store, and more. Want to keep up with what they've got happening? There's a link to sign up for their newsletter on their website http://www.chestershd.com. You can also follow Chester's on Facebook at /ChestersHD or you can check in the old-fashioned way by calling 480-894-0404.

Please mention you read about them here in *AriZona Rider*.

Bruce & Betsy