

SAHR MC's 20TH ANNUAL BIKER RODEO



The Southern AZ Harley Riders MC held their 20th annual Biker Rodeo over the weekend of October 16-19, 2014. The Arena Bar in Benson, AZ was the place to be to get in on some beautiful riding, the games, the music, and even a trip through Helldorado Days in Tombstone.

This year's Rodeo was dedicated to Sidekick. Before her passing in June '14, she reported on this event for *AriZona Rider* for years. It was one of her most favorite events to attend.

The official schedule started on Friday the 17th. The gates opened for registration, with riders arriving throughout the day & into the night. The camping area was filling up.

The bike show had 20+ competitors on display. The winners were: Pro Custom- Chuck, Antique- Fingers, Rat- Ron Seavers, Trike [factory]- Melinda Clemenson ~ this was her first award ☺ Bagger Custom- DH Vanderpool, Bagger Stock- Ronald H, Cruiser Custom- Mitchell Busbee, Cruiser Stock- David Braun, Sportster Custom- Rusty Hernandez, Sportster Stock- David Pastica. Best of Show went to Ron Blehill. Law Tigers sponsored the trophies.

Most of the vendor booths were outdoors. In addition to the food truck & cook shack, there was a 'Spa Shack'. You could also shop for head wraps, jewelry, scented oils, eyewear, hats, tee shirts, and other accessories. There was an onsite stitcher as well. 'Shades of Grey' Tattoo was set up inside the bar.

Additional activities for the day included a Tattoo Contest, a round of the LCR dice game, and an evening of music & dancing. Winners of the Tat Contest were Best leg/sleeve- Chuck, Best Back Piece- Shaylene, & Best Color- Bobby. Prizes were gift certificates from Shades of Grey. After announcing the various winners, DJ Mata kept the music spinning until the band 'Restless' took the stage to finish off the night. They had a good play list.

Saturday morning had a clear sky, no clouds, warm sun, & a cool breeze ~ wonderful for riding.

There were 2 'Have-A-Clue' Ride stops planned for

Tombstone, so riders could stop in on Helldorado Days. We pointed our front wheel toward Tombstone. There were a lot of people walking around town ~ some in vintage costume & others not. The day was filled with skits, storytellers, music, & re-enactments; in addition to the usual tours. But this time, we had other places to be ☺

After checking in at the Tombstone Meat Company and Johnny Ringo's Bar, riders continued on the route to Rookie's Bar in Sierra Vista, Buddy's Bar in Huachuca City, and the Mescal Bar in Benson before the last stop back at the Arena Bar. There was a question to be answered that pertained to each stop. Everyone who answered all the questions correctly was entered into a drawing.

About 200 took the ride. The winners were 1st place- Jay "Guns" Johnson [won \$100], 2nd- Dan Hatchett [\$50], & 3rd- Denise Boyd [\$25].

While some were out on the morning ride, others stayed at the Arena. Activities included the Little Biker Games, for the youngsters in camp. Adults could draw cards for a poker hand. High hand earned Caroline \$50. Low hand prize of \$25 went to Bill Ramber. Afternoon entertainment was from the band 'Limelite'.

The Grownups Games included some standards... the Slow Race and the Weenie Bite. Mike won the Slow Race. Dane & Heather won the Weenie Bite. They were the 1st & only pair to succeed in getting a piece of the weenie. It measured 3". The timed events were the Barrel Push & the Barrel Race [w/3 barrels as with horse riding]. Ron won the Barrel Push with a time of 10.9 seconds. Dane won the Barrel Race in 29.2 sec.

Less familiar was the Water Race. This is for 2-up. The passenger balances a board & bucket of water on their head. The fastest time to the finish line without spilling the water, wins. Rick & Michelle won this in 3.02 sec. Shoot the Hog is a solo game. The pilot takes 3 passes by a steel 'pig' & shoots at it with a pellet gun. Ron won with 9 points. Ron Seavers won the 'Overall Winner' rodeo-style belt buckle.

Saturday also includes a live charity auction. There

were helmets, leather goods, apparel, collectibles, parts & accessories, and more. A guitar was donated by Jacob's Music Shop of Sierra Vista. It was then autographed by Saturday night's headliner, Rowdy Johnson Band.

Rowdy Johnson Band announced that they had just signed a recording deal. Congratulations! They have a fun playlist which includes a good mix of originals & covers. It was a beautiful night and dancers were on the floor. Some of their originals offer thought-provoking lyrics. Their performance provided the soundtrack to 'a night nobody will remember' as the front man would say ☺

During a band break, the last of the weekend's three 50/50s was drawn. \$100 was donated back to charity. SAHRMC President Allen included in his remarks that any rumor that this was the last year of the Rodeo was ONLY a RUMOR; asking everyone to squash any such talk they might hear going around.

After the last set, the night wrapped up in the camping area with an after-hours bonfire.

We learned afterwards from SuziQ that overall attendance was 800. Charity donations went to Verhelst Recovery House in Bisbee [www.verhelstrecoveryhouse.org], Committee For Child Abuse Prevention, and Community Food Pantry of Benson.

SAHRMC thanks their 2014 sponsors ~ Arena Bar, Budweiser, Dunn Insurance, Law Tigers, Buddy's Bar, Tombstone Meat Co, Johnny Ringo's Bar, Mescal Bar & Grill, Rookie's Sports Bar, Uptown 3 Theatre, JT Auto Sales LLC, Fast Tax, Morning Star Café, T.J's Bar & Grill, Braun Building Concepts, Chosin Cycles & Firearms, Rutherford Development, Spur Western Wear, & Christian Motorcyclists Association.

We're glad we could be there. Kudos to SAHR MC for their many years of service in their community. As soon as details are set, we will have next year's event posted to our calendar.

Until later ~

Bruce & Betsy
add'l photos from El Monte

