

Thursday June 11 – Sunday June 14, 2015 ...

Pix & story from Bruce & Betsy...

for more photos, visit our AZ Vision page

This is one of our mostest favorite events to attend ☺

We were fortunate to be able to arrive at Mormon Lake on Thursday. Over the years more & more people are taking that longer weekend, coming in on Thursday to enjoy a little extra getaway.

The official activities start on Friday, with registration opening at 9am. Activities begin in the afternoon and as the song goes... once that train starts rolling, there's no way to slow down. ~ lol.

Vendors: included Grease Slinger Cycle, Hog-Wear, HoggDoggs, and Law Tigers. The vendors offered a variety of apparel, jewelry, information & support booths, bling, hats, patches, stitching, collectibles, & more. WolfSkin's Mobile Tattoo Studio was up and running. Wreaths Across America, AZ was an interesting program to learn about. Wolfskin is a sponsor, and they were set up right alongside. Please read the separate article about this effort, elsewhere in these pages. Another representative we spoke with is from the AZ Citizens Defense League. We hope to be sharing information from this organization in our future 'Did You Know...' columns.

As in years past, Friday afternoon activities included a **Poker Walk** through the Vendor Area. This year's stops were at The Sons of Hell MC support booth, the Knife & Scissor Sharpening booth, CCC Knives [here from Hemmett, CA], Robinson Biker Stuff, & Coyote Rose Jewelry & Gifts. Hi/Low Winners were: Matt Jakus collected \$50 w/ 53 points & Brian Gaunt won \$25 w/ 12 points.

People Games also take place on Friday. Participation was excellent!

The **Helmet Toss** had twice the contestants as previous years. There were 45 participants, 28 men & 17 women... all trying to toss a motorcycle helmet into a trash can. It's not as easy as it sounds. The winner in the Women's competition was Tracy McQueen with 3 scores. The Men's contest had a 2-way tie with 4 scores each for David Rouse & Postal of the Hooligans MC. Postal earned the trophy in round 2, with 1 helmet landed for the win.

The **Plank Walk** winning team was Lil Daddy / Aaron Morris, Kim Davies, Jessica Bond, & Robert Morris. This one is all about coordinated team work.

Pole in the Hole was cancelled, due to time constraints.

Tug of War... The Sons of Hell MC took a hiatus from the games, having retired as multi-year Champions of the Tug of War. They chose not to field a team this year, but brought back their winning rope to lend to the competition.

The women's Tug of War was won by the team-work of Michelle Wolf, Beck Redden, Angeline Manchess, & Gina Matzdoff.

One of this year's best ToW matchups was the Mixed Breed Team vs the Hooligans. But in the end, the Vendors Team ~ comprised of Jubel Dean, Manny Blanco, Reg Clark, & Daman McDonald ~ won the ToW.

Ms Too Broke For Sturgis Contest... This year the organizers stayed with the panel of judges for the selection process. 5 judges were randomly chosen ~ Annette, Jason, Caveman, Austin, & Harley. This was Austin's 1st TBFS & his 20th Birthday.

The duties of Ms TBFS include representing ABATE through the year and promoting the next year's Too Broke event. She also receives a gift bag with items donated from the various vendors. There were a dozen ladies in the competition. Emcee Paul asked a series of questions, regarding ABATE specifically, motorcycling in general, and other topics. The judges brought the lineup down to 4, and then made their final selection of Vogel, attending from Deer Valley. It was her first TBFS & she was very excited to win. Last year's Ms Too Broke, Lil Bit, presented Vogel with her tiara & sash.

Tattoo Contest: There were 5 judges, including Charity who organizes the contest. There is always some great artwork to see in this contest. The winners of each category were: Men ~ Best Single Color = Mr Good Times, Best Color = Mike Bushong, & Most Realistic = Brutus; Women ~ Best Single Color = Sydney, Best Color = Dorothy, & Most Realistic = Dawn.

Entertainment for the rest of the night came from the band Phat Bastard. We listened for a bit, got some late dinner, visited in the camps, and hit the sack ☺

Saturday morning about 11am we saw the clouds coming in, rain on the horizon, & lightning in the distance. Thankfully the rain was less severe than the lead up implied. Once it passed, the rest of the weekend was clear.

Of course, by then many had departed on the **Poker Run**. So yeah... it's good to keep the rain gear onboard. It was scheduled as a 3-hour ride ... covering about 134 miles. This year's stops were at Mr. Smokes on 4th St in Flagstaff, Sultana Bar in Williams, Bellemont Harley-Davidson, Lake Mary Country Store in Flagstaff, and then back to Mormon Lake & the TBFS Safety Booth. The winners were Gary Nadler, Low Hand & Mark Fitzer, High Hand.

The **Bike Show** had 32 contestants. Winners were selected by people's choice ballot. Winners were: Metric Stock #9 Bojie Barrett, Metric Custom #11 Kent Gary, British #31 Herman Roush, American Stock #13 Robert Miller, American Custom #14 Mitchell Busby, Trike #27 Carol Brown, Best in Show #14 Mitchell Busby, Rat Bike #22 Harry Loes {2nd year winner}, & Best Women's #17 Twana DePierro.

In the arena there was a special photo-op set up with all the bikes with apehangers [14" handlebars or higher] in recognition of the REPEAL of AZ's handlebar height restriction. For those of you who run 'em ~ please THANK your local MRO for their efforts in getting that done for you. They can always use your Support as well.

The **Men's Best Facial Hair Contest** was a new addition this year, presented by TwoGals Events & the Bearded Brothers at Independent Motorcycles in Chandler. It was held in the arena tent. Amy of TwoGals did a great job as emcee. Three women were chosen as judges. There were a lot of participants, spectators, and enthusiasm. The longest beard contest got pretty 'serious' as a pair of scissors came out & Daryl's beard got trimmed in a close competition! Winners were: Most Magnificent Mustache ~ Old Man, Longest Beard ~ Tickle, Best Freestyle ~ Muskrat. Prizes of a \$75 gift certificate & a \$35 oil change to each winner were provided by Independent Motorcycles. Grease Slinger Cycles in Mesa provided an additional prize to the wearer of the Longest Beard.

Bike Games were a GO, despite a threatening sky. No rain came in tho'. As in the past, Clyde & Jean were the coordinators for these games. Among their helpers this year was Jeremy who is learning the ropes from Clyde.... ABATE's next generation

continues on page 19



Too Broke For Sturgis #24

game master, perhaps?

In between games & as things were getting set up I enjoyed a conversation with Gimpy as he shared some Too Broke history. TBFS started as a Phoenix Chapter event 24 years ago, by a group of past & present members including Clyde, Jean, Gimpy, Mike Riggins, Phil & Bonnie Matthews, & Horizontal Bob. It grew over the years with input & contributions from others as well; until it was turned over to the State & became a fundraiser for the over-all organization.

There were 24 riders for the **Slow Race**. The lanes were 3' wide x 50'. Dan Tumey, the dirt bike rider who won last year was back... this time on his 1983 HD XLH Sportster. And he won again.

The **Joust** is a 2-up game. The passenger uses a stick to collect rings placed atop cones as the pilot maneuvers the bike within the lane. 5 rings, no feet down, no stopping. Chip & Nicole were the winners. They were the first & only to collect all 5 rings.

The **Keg Push** uses the same 50' lane. There were ~18 starters, which were then reduced down to the last few. After 3 tries at a tie breaker, Boogieman was the winner.

The **Ball Drop** is an old game, brought back to TB this year. It's also for 2-up. The passenger drops a tennis ball into a pipe & then must catch it as it comes out the other end. The pilot must time the ball's travel, keep the bike moving, & cannot put their feet down. There were about 11 teams for this one. At the end, Pat & Pam were the winners.

Weenie Bite... It's bizarre, perhaps even a bit disturbing... the team of 'Bruce & Caitlyn' was the winner of the weenie bite... and they were also the only pair to get a bite at all. To fill in some back story... 'Bruce & Caitlyn' were a pair of fellas who dressed up in drag to 'commemorate' Bruce Jenner's re-entry into the world as Caitlyn. They had people in stitches.

Wet T Contest ~ yes we know... it's listed as the **Wet T-Shirt Contest**, but we all know how long the shirts last before the titties are freed ☺ This was sponsored by Discount Biker Supply. Rhino provided the shirts, plus the prizes... \$250 cash to the winner, + DBS hoodies for 2nd & 3rd place.

There were 15 contestants & 5 judges. The job of these judges is to gauge the noise level from the spectators as they express their appreciation for one

contestant or another. The stands were full and the stage was surrounded by fans. Cell phone cameras were held high & at the ready.

The first dose of water was poured by ABATE Prez MaryK, after which she turned the pitcher over to Jeremy. *He must've done a really good job working at the games ~ lol.* ABATE volunteer Fred Maples was DJ for the event, queuing up some good tunes. Tracy was chosen as the winner.

Afterwards, she pulled the winning ticket for the **50/50**, which was the biggest pot ever. Boo collected \$2053. WooHoo! The calling of the 50/50 was the last announcement of the night. After that, it was all about party time with more music from Phat Bastard.

Attendance was reported at around 1300. We observed 29 various organizations in addition to all of the independent riders. Word has it there were visitors from as far away as Oregon. We heard of many Too Broke For Sturgis 'virgins' this year, too; which was outstanding news. We hope that they'll all come back again & of course bring friends.

The following morning the story turned to breaking camp, packing up, & heading home. Our thanks go out to CMA for lotsa coffee ☺ Congratulations to all the winners of the weekend. Thank you to Lisa & Jean ~ the Keepers of the Lists ☺ for help with the Games Reports. Thank you also to ABATE-AZ for another *great* weekend. We're already looking forward to #25 in 2016.

B&B

Prez MaryK sent along some Thank-Yous as well, on behalf of ABATE that we'll include here....

1. Matt Brown and Adrean Little of Brown & Little Criminal Defense Attorneys for sponsoring ATMs, registration and apparel bags as well as Matt's service as our State Treasurer.
2. Chuck Franklin, Accident/DUI/Criminal attorney for sponsoring our entertainment
3. Chester's Harley-Davidson – sponsoring advertisement opportunities on radio and in print and allowing us to promote TBFS by grillin' burgers and dogs on the patio.
4. *AZ Biker Information Guide* – Kelly Hemphill gave us a smokin' deal on advertising and follow up articles for the event, including cover feature.
5. *Arizona Rider Motorcycle News* – Bruce & Betsy featured TBFS on the cover of their current issue

and always provide positive articles and encourage support of our event.

6. AZ ATV rentals – Jaime
7. Law Tigers Motorcycle Lawyers
8. Richard Lester Law Offices (Aid to Injured Motorcyclists attorneys) sponsored our liability insurance, printing of flyers, and poker run prize money.
9. Discount Biker Supply – Rhino sponsored wet t-shirt contest providing shirts for the ladies, some cool hoodies for 2nd and 3rd place, and 1st place cash prize.
10. Thomas Bishop Automotive – sponsored the trophies
11. Grand Canyon Harley-Davidson – Poker run prize
12. Square Peg Promos – created the event logo and shirts again this year.
13. Two Gals Events & Promotions – handled social and advertising media and increased our sponsors, provided the lovely ladies selling 50/50 tickets, and sponsored the new men's best facial hair contest.
14. Mormon Lake Lodge – for allowing us to host our event at their property.

She also shared the following, "MANY THANKS to everyone who came out to support A.B.A.T.E. of Arizona by attending TOO BROKE FOR STURGIS. Proceeds from the event are used to pay for our office, keep *The Masterlink* in publication, send officers to motorcycle-rights related seminars, and fund our lobbyist, motorcycle safety, and awareness campaigns.

The TBFS Merchandise Committee and Square Peg Promos did a great job again this year coming up with high quality shirts and unique screen printing. In about a month, the left over TBFS inventory will be available to purchase on-line, as well as A.B.A.T.E. State merchandise (motorcycle awareness yard signs, sleeveless denim button-up shirts, t-shirts, hats, etc.) at www.abateofaz.org.

The 25th Annual TBFS will be held **June 9-12, 2016** at MLL. Check for updates at www.toobrokeforsturgis.com. We will have on-line pre-registration next year! We will also offer patches and other cool event merchandise. If you would like to be a contributing member on the TBFS 2016 Committee, please submit your interest to president@abateofaz.org

