



July 26, 2013... Friday morning's ride, to Mormon Lake Lodge for ABATE's Too Broke For Sturgis, was chilly and smooth ~ no hitches. Some folks got caught in rain along the way, but we luckily avoided most of it.

Record-setting rains earlier in the week meant that the compound was wet. Lots of cinders & straw were being put down to help control mud. In preparation for the seasonal rains, ABATE erected a much larger tent this year in the arena, to house the stage. There were lots of tables & chairs under the 150'x50' canopy, as well as much more dance space ~ for when Mother Nature decided to join the party. The campground was soggy in areas but people seemed to be managing pretty well. And nothing was going to stem the enthusiasm and good feelings of being among friends in the high country.

Upon registration you got a packet including the itinerary for the weekend, a map of the compound, a poker walk card, a poker run card, various announcements, and a cool run pin. Also available, for free, were the white ABATE emergency bandanas. This is a new[ish] program; which encourages riders to display the white bandana if they are in need of help when they are parked alongside the road. Passersby can see immediately if someone needs an assist or they're just taking a stretch or water break.

Friday's vendor walk, coordinated by Muskrat, allowed everyone to familiarize themselves with the vendors & their wares. Strolling through the vendor village gave us the opportunity to visit with our advertisers Mark & Theresa Ann of Hog Wear / Purple Slice fame, and Bob of the Law Tigers.

In addition, we caught up with Yuma Harry and his lady Janice. As she does each year, she spent much of her time creating her intricate & beautiful

braid work on people's bikes.

Noteworthy were the Tatted Bombshells. The Tatted Bombshells are some outgoing young gals who agreed to become living canvases to display the artistic talents of Jason McMahon, owner of Twisted Airbrushing; another of the weekend's vendors. During Too Broke, they sold 50/50 tickets, presented trophies, helped judge the tattoo contest, and overall helped to keep the party lively.

The games are split into two days; People Games on Friday and Bike Games on Saturday. This year, games on both days were handled by members of the Phoenix-Shadow Mountain Chapter. We want to recognize the organizers and well as all the participants, for their efforts in keeping the rest of us entertained.

The People Games: Rick & Gina won 'Pole in the Hole'. This game is always a hoot to watch! Helmet Toss is a lot harder than it looks. Winners were > Men = William Driggers, Women = TJ Marie. The Plank Walk takes a combination of communication & coordination. This year's winning team was the Hillbilly Boys ~ Alan, Jim, Miah, Rick.

The Tug of War always boils down to a brouhaha of testosterone. This year there were some well-matched teams; making for a good show. The Sons of Hell MC has been the TOW champs for 3 years running... but those players retired from the competition. The club fielded a new team this year. The final round pitted the Sons of Hell MC team against Team Gaunt. Team SOH retained the title. Congratulations Donald, Greg, Craig, and Mark.

Friday night's Spaghetti Dinner, put on by Mormon Lake Lodge, was delicious! We made our way through the line as the games ended & finished up eating just in time to get back to the arena for the Ms TBFS Contest. Perfect timing.

7 gals competed in the Ms Too Broke Contest; several of which were 1st-time visitors to Too Broke. Rules include that you must be a female resident of AZ. Emcee Paul asked questions of the contestants and then the audience voted with their applause. Dee, a rider and AACME member, was the winner. Congratulations! Along with the title, tiara, sash, & prestige, the winner receives a gift bag filled with goodies donated from merchants in the vendor village.

A storm came in just after the Ms Too Broke Contest, so the Tattoo Contest was rescheduled for Saturday afternoon. Official activities were suspended until later in the evening when Phat Bastard fired up & absolutely rocked the place.

Making our way to the arena for the concert; we observed that the camp area had many fires ~ representing groups exchanging family & friends time in camp for the raucous time at the bandstand. One of the great things about this gathering... there is something here for everyone.

Later in the evening, during one of the band breaks, there was a 'motorcycle burlesque show'. As emcee Paul explained, it involved a girl, a motorcycle, & some music. You can see some pix in our online photo album. She definitely has good balance ☺ We'll leave the rest to your imagination, and suggest that you make plans to visit Too Broke next year & see what goes on, for yourself ☺

Saturday brought a nice, rain-free day to wrap up all the scheduled activities. The Bike Show, coordinated by Phx-Shadow Mtn Chapter, had about 14 bikes on display, in several categories. Winners were: American Stock = Dee Cameron, American Custom = Lisa Longo, Trike = Mark Romero, Rat =

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Too Broke For Sturgis



Sara Stork, Peoples Choice = Amy Jo Harris. Congratulations to each of you.

The Tat Contest, rescheduled from Friday, was organized by Charity. It took place about the same time as the Bike Show judging. Judging was in 3 categories: best color, best b&w, most realistic. There were about 20 competitors, offering some beautiful pieces of art to see. Winners were: Most Realistic = men - Joel Selby; women - Shannon. Best Black & White = men - Roger Richey; women - Linda. Best Color = men - Coon Ass; women - Nicole Bishop. Congratulations to you all.

Saturday afternoon's Bike Games drew in a good amount of spectators. Slow Race had good participation. Chip Fair was slowest of them all. Keg Push was won by Bill Copeland. Drag Races ~ This one can be a lot of laughs ~ definitely not your NHRA's drags! There were some exciting turns of events. In a particular heat, the rider in front lost his wig & had to go back for it; leaving the way open for pilot 2 to cross the line. But he too had lost an item & needed to go back, so there was still no official finish. Rider 1 got back into the game but dropped his bike, allowing pilot 2 to cross the line & take the heat. Matt Smith was the final winner. Weenie Bite was won by Chip and Tammy Fair. Well done, Everyone!

The poker run, organized by the High Country Chapter, was set up as a simple high/low count of points, with no suits considered. Stops were in Payson, Star Valley, & Pine. Low hand prize of \$100 was won by Shantell Donni, with 16 points. There was a tie for the high hand prize of \$250. They were offered a tie-breaking card draw, but chose to split the winnings instead. Winners Reg Clark & Al Balz said they'd be donating their windfalls to the Eagles... 1

beer at a time.

The afternoon's award announcements also included the recognition of TBFS Chairperson Mary K, for her years of service to the event.

The steak dinner, again prepared & presented by Mormon Lake Lodge, appeared to be well-received. Judging by the line, there were a lot of takers.

Plenty of people hightailed it back to the bleachers in time for the Wet-T Contest. The stands were fuller than they'd been all weekend. Desert Thunder MC member Singer again emcee'd the show. ABATE Prez Tim got to pour the water on the gals. It's a perk of the job. Each contestant had her fans. Cell phones were being held HIGH to capture images of the participants, as they danced for applause from the audience. After plenty of time for all the dancers to entertain the spectators, the votes boiled everything down to a dance-off between Terry and Charlene. Both of them put up very enthusiastic performances. Charlene certainly put in extra credit effort. When the audience response was too close to call, it came down to the judges to make the final decision. Terry got the nod & claimed the \$250 prize.

The party roared on from there, with another night of Phat Bastard taking over the stage. A 50/50 pot of \$1400+ was up for grabs. Didn't catch the name of who won, but they were surely among the happiest folks in camp that night!

As specified clearly on the flyer, this is an adults-only party. It gets drunk out. Adult things happen. Clothing disappears. Dancing intensifies. Things can get racy, down & dirty, and kinda loose. No harm done. It's adults having fun.

If it's not your kind of fun, then this is a big enough place that there are plenty of other places to

go & have fun... head to the vendor village for a bit, make your way to the other end of the dance floor, join the party at the Saloon, ... you get the idea.

With a nod to the Vegas tagline, what happens at Too Broke stays at Too Broke; at least, it ought to. It did before the advent of cell phone cameras. In days past, you could be fairly comfortable that the only pix you might have to live down were those taken by your cohorts. And whoever was handling the camera was often so f'kd up that the photos gave up nothing. Nowadays, once you wake up & shake off the hangover, you may discover that you've inherited a headache for the rest of your days ~ on a world-wide scale. Such is what some call 'progress'. So, yeah ~ we know who did what... at least some of it. But we're old school about that sh*t. The camera's away & we're off duty. If folks wanna know the rest of happens at Too Broke ~ they need to buy a ticket and come out to play.

This weekend is always a lot of fun, despite the hang-ups that the weather presents. But attendance is the key indicator of success for this run, which is the primary fundraiser for ABATE of AZ. We learned that this year's turnout was lower than it's been in a number of years. Weather is certainly the culprit.

It is being discussed that next year a new date may be set for Too Broke. If it is moved to earlier in the summer, some of the monsoon storms & subsequent mud could be avoided. This is yet to be confirmed. So, we'll make the announcement here as soon as we are told what next year's dates are. Whenever it is, it'll be another great time!! C'ya there!!!

Bruce & Betsy

