

Christmas Wrappings



Christmas and the entire Holiday Season make for numerous benefits being hosted around our state by various groups. From feeding people at Thanksgiving to ensuring that kids have gifts at Christmas, it is one of the things that bikers do so well ~ rallying for those in need. Some gatherings are large, others small. But they each have that same big beautiful biker heart at the center of it all. And we are very proud to be able to share news here about some of this Season's events.



The monthly **Motorcycles on Main**, held on first Fridays, took place on December 6. Entertainment was by the bands 'Spank' & 'Manic Monkeys'. Vendors, including Hog Wear | Purple Slice were there with goods for Christmas shoppers.

Toys were being collected for the Child Crisis Center at the main beer garden. Motorcycles on Main producers, the Downtown Mesa Association and Ultimate Imagination, Inc., organized the toy drive. [pix above left & upper center] Through the combined efforts of their three events, [Kidtastic, Motorcycles on Main, and their Holiday party] they were able to donate over 100 toys.

Thank you to Erica and Jaime of the Downtown Mesa Association for their help with this report. For more information about Motorcycles on Main visit <http://downtownmesa.com/motorcycles-on-main> or on Facebook at /MotorcyclesOnMain.



The annual **Lost Dutchman MC Toy Run** to benefit the Salvation Army's Christmas Angel Run took place on Sunday December 8. Participants met that morning at the LDMC Clubhouse in Mesa. At noon, everyone rode to the local WalMart, where the Angel Trees awaited some generous souls to grant wishes for children in need.

Bill of the LDMC shared that, "We put gifts under the trees of 173 local children that probably wouldn't have had anything. Any money donated went right into Walmart and was used to purchase more gifts (toys). It was a great day. Gifts were purchased by our event bikers and regular Walmart customers, who were very supporting."



Sunday the 8th was also the day for the **Hearts for HotShots Holiday Run**, hosted by Eagleriders FOE and lead by the Patriot Guard Riders. This was a benefit for the families of the 19 Fallen Granite Mountain Hot Shots. There were 2 sign-in options ~ either at Chester's Harley-Davidson [922 S Country Club Dr, Mesa] or the Fraternal Order of Eagles [3600 W Rose Garden Ln, Phoenix].

As it turned out, a big storm hit up north, creating bad roads. This reduced participation, but they still had about 36 riders. The route changed due to the storm; seeing no need to risk a rider. They rode from Chester's to the Deer Valley Eagles for the raffle and prizes. It was relayed to us that it was a safe

ride.

There were a lot of prizes; including Home Depot tools, Jolie's Sports Bar gift cards, River Bottom Grill clothes & gift cards, a Nailspa Corner nail job, and Chester's H-D gift cards.

This small group showed big support ~ raising about \$1500 for the cause by the time all was said and done. Thank you to Bob the Builder for information regarding this event.



On Saturday December 14, ABATE's High Country Chapter hosted the **11th annual Barbie Hensler Memorial Toy Run**. Thank you to H.C.C. ABATE Coordinator Wayne Slocum for sending along this report & photos [below]...

"High Country Chapter ABATE held our 11th annual Barbie Hensler Memorial Toy Run on Dec 14th of this year. We hold this event to benefit the less fortunate children of the Rim Country area. Barbie, through H.C.C. ABATE, began working with the Moose Lodge 852 of Star Valley, AZ, 11 years ago. She organized and ran this event every year until she passed away Dec. 6th 2010.

"The ride began at the Buffalo Bar and Grill in Payson and headed to the Moose Lodge 852, then on to El Rancho Mexican Restaurant. From there we headed South down the mountain toward Tonto Basin and Butcher Hook Bar. We began our journey back up to Payson with stops at Punkin Center and Jake's Corner Bar. After a brief refreshment the ride



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continued north to the Journigan House Restaurant, then back to the Buffalo. Donation boxes filled with generosity from the patrons of all our business members were collected at each stop. Two filled chase trucks carried the collected toys, with an escort of motorcycles

“At the Buffalo, the event continued with prizes, raffles and the ongoing generosity of the ABATE community, which raised more cash donations. At the end we escorted the donated toys and cash back to the Moose Lodge. This is where the real work begins.

“The people of the Moose take the cash donations and purchase more items, like coats and things these children may need. Then wrap and sort these toys into age appropriate categories for their upcoming Christmas party to be held the following Saturday. Over two hundred local children are in attendance, with Santa Claus arriving on a Hellsgate Fire Truck. The hall is packed with tables full of presents, Christmas decorations, and little smiling faces. Each child got to visit with Santa and received gifts. A few of our H.C.C. officers showed up to lend a hand. It was a huge success.

“I would like to thank our community for their hard work and generosity. Without them none of this would be possible. Barbie would be so proud.”



Back here in the Valley, it was time for the **7th annual AZ Veterans Home Christmas Party**, pre-

sented by Eagle Promotions. This gathering takes place at the State Veterans Home, located at 4141 N 3rd St, in Phoenix; to bring cheer & pay respect to the residents. Visitors were encouraged to bring donations of socks, robes, slippers, toiletries, patriotic t-shirts, and DVDs.

The party was held on Dec 14 from 2:15-3:30pm, with Karaoke entertainment by D&M Entertainment. There are currently 172 residents at the Home; with some 40-50 attending the festivities. Residents are men and women; ranging in age from 55 – 97 years old. Many of them are Viet Nam or Korean War era Vets.

Approximately 40 visitors attended the party; representing the Old Guard Riders, the Boy Scouts, and the Camelback HS JROTC, as well as other community members.

Thanks go out to the supporters of this event; including Eagle Promotions (Tom Tardy), the Old Guard Riders, Law Tigers, Camelback HS JROTC, and D&M Entertainment. Kristin Fray, Therapeutic Programs Mgr @ the AZ State Veteran Home sent this note, “This annual event helps to brighten our veterans Christmas season. Everyone who attended the event left with a gift and good wishes. We are grateful to the many community members who gave their support and time to the Arizona State Veteran Home to make this event a success for the 6th year in a row!”

Thank you to Kristin Fray and to Event Coordinator Jim Cooney for the details; and to Smokin’ Joe

for the photos [above].

Learn more about the ASVH and this event on-line at <http://arizona-vets-christmas.org>



On Sunday December 15th, the **28th annual W. Steven Martin Toy Run** took place. [photos pg 18, top right & lower center] Riders departed from any one of four Big Apple Restaurants in the Metro Phoenix area ~ E. Main in Mesa, E Van Buren in Phoenix, N Dysart in Goodyear, & N. 19th Ave. in the North Phx Valley.

This was a self-paced ride; with no escort. Last stop was the Big Apple on N. 19th Ave. across from Turf Paradise. Drawings and winners were announced at Noon. We learned that they had 380 participants and collected about 1,300 toys.

During this holiday season some 400 officers and firefighters delivered toys to families in need. A portion of the donations this year went to families who lost everything in the Yarnell fire. This is a year ‘round project and you can learn more about this 501c3 charity at their website 911toydrive.com. Next year’s date is already set for 12-21-14.



Kudos to all of you who hosted these events and participated in them. There is no doubt about it... You can rest assured that you made a memorable difference in people’s lives this Christmas Season.

