

Christmas Wrap

Christmas and the entire Holiday Season make for numerous benefits being hosted around our state by various groups. Feeding people at Thanksgiving, honoring our Veterans, ensuring that kids have gifts at Christmas... these are things that bikers do so well. 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 more of this Season's events.



October 15, 2016 ... A Poker Run Fundraiser for 'Wreaths Across America' departed from American Legion Post 107 – 20001 N. Cave Creek Rd, Phoenix, AZ.

We learned from WAA-AZ Project Manager Tarra Matyas that about 20 bikes and several cages participated in the run. After leaving Post 107, riders headed to Steel Horse Saloon, Stingers, and the Loft Again ~ for the end party. In addition, a bunch of folks went straight out to the Loft without taking the ride. It was a bar-hop format and an adult-only gathering. The party included live music by 'Wheelhouse'. They donated 3 hours of their time. There was also an auction & giveaways.

Tarra sent along thanks to the bars that were stops. Thanks go out also to The Loft for hosting the party and paying for most of the food.

This year, 5,700 wreaths were placed on the Veterans gravesites at Phoenix National Memorial Cemetery. There are currently 60,000 headstones at Phoenix National Memorial Cemetery to be honored.

Just over \$1,300 was raised by this event. Tarra sent along this message, "This event was 1 of several throughout 2016. We placed 5,700 wreaths this year, which was our best to date. However we have a long way to go to cover every marker out there. I have been the project manager for 6 years now. We will begin fundraising and spreading the word again in February to reach our 2017 goal of 10,000 wreaths. Anyone interested in helping please do reach out to me."

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. Learn more about WAA by visiting online at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org. For Arizona information, contact Tarra at Tarramatyas2@gmail.com.



November 5, 2016 ... The Americans MC 11th Annual Toy Run staged at the K-Mart parking lot in Prescott Valley. Approximately 130 riders participated in this self-paced poker run. Stops were at Tony's Bar in Prescott Valley, JJ's Bar in Prescott, Log Cabin in Chino Valley, Barefoot Bob's in Prescott Valley, and ended at Tony's Too in Prescott Valley.

High hand winner Crystal Foubert donated her \$200 prize back to the event. Low hand winner, Blondie, collected \$100.

The party at Tony's Too included a meal of hamburgers and hot dogs, raffle & door prizes, and games. Lon Turner won at Poker Darts. Bike Games included Weenie Bite (Terra Lay winner), CD Toss (Suzy Kish winner) and Slow Race (Ed Lyman winner).

Thank you to Wilson Lay of The Americans MC for your help with this report. He also sent along this



The Americans MC

wrap up, "We made around \$2500 in food, toys and donations that were given out to needy families in the local area as well as local kids with cancer. I would like to thank Tony of Tony's Too, all the run stops, and Sunwest Auto for donation of the majority of the raffle prizes. I would also like to thank Loners MC, Outsiders MC, Journeymen MC, and Hangmen MC for their support of this run. In conclusion, this was a really great run finally having great weather!"



November 5, 2016 ... Independent Riders 15th Annual Xmas Toy Run held ride registration at the Roosevelt Lake Resort, in Roosevelt, AZ. Riders pulled out at noon, with stops at Bernie's Roundup in Globe, Wild Horses Saloon in Miami, the Shamrock in Claypool, The Huddle in Globe, & last stop at Jammerz in Globe.

The end party included an auction, raffles, & a 50/50. Dinner was part of the \$10 entry fee. Music was provided by the band 'Greywolf'.

100% of the money raised goes to help families in need during the holidays and stays local in the Globe-Miami community. We learned from Al Nader, event organizer & owner of Al's Automotive Repair in Globe, that 93 families were helped this year. Each kid gets a new pair of shoes, a bicycle, and a toy. Additional gifting is done based upon funding. With this event, it is not just about toys. All money raised is to help with the families' needs & necessities. This year they also repaired a family's stove and fixed another's roof.



November 20, 2016 ... 'Birds On Bikes', held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Each year, the Modified Motorcycle Association of AZ invites everyone to strap a frozen bird onto your bike & meet up with the rest of the flock to bring turkeys & non-perishables to St Vincent DePaul in Phoenix. This year's meeting places were Charley's Place in Glendale & the VFW in Chandler. Groups who wish to organize their own ride in conjunction are always welcome to join the effort as well, with everyone arriving at St Vincent's at the same time to make the deliveries.

MMA-AZ Board of Directors member Cindy Gates has been organizing this event for many years. She sent out this statement, "This is my favorite time of year. The weather is great for riding; a little chilly in the am but by afternoon it is great. All the runs going on for the holidays and giving back to our community and showing them we care."

"Nov. 20th 2016 is the day we heard the motorcycles roar into St. Vincent De Paul for our annual Birds on Bikes. This run for me is my favorite run of the year. It is the day we help our community and help feed the less fortunate for the Holidays."

"I know we all get a little busy this time of year but helping our community is a great thing. I was taken back when I heard that some have never heard of this event, since it was our 28th or 29th year... too many for me to remember."

"We collected \$725, 150 Turkeys, and 350 pounds of non-perishable items. What a great job we did."

"This was my last year of putting this event together after so many years I have stepped down as State activities and Tammy Springsteen will be taking over. She will do a great job!!"



December 17, 2016 ... Steel Horse Saloon 2016 Toy Run, sponsored by Law Tigers AZ to benefit the Crisis Nursery. The ride starts & ends @ the Steel Horse, located at 1818 W Bell Rd, Phoenix.

It was a beautiful day for a ride. Stops were at The TAV on 19th Ave, Peaks & Valleys on Carefree Hwy, & Gallagher's on Black Mtn Pkwy before returning to the Steel Horse.



Steel Horse Saloon

There were 75 riders. We learned they had a great turnout at the party and filled up a box truck. Along with toys, they collect necessities to help at the Nursery... diapers and other care items.

In addition to the toys brought in by the riders, the crew & patrons of Saint Nicks Tavern on 27th Ave sent over a huge toy box full as well. Nice!!



December 24, 2016 ... From Santa Tony Gasorowski...

Well it is Christmas Eve morning. Santa is getting ready for a very long day. I had asked for some special help this year from my elfs.

I was contacted by a foster care person I know. She asked if there was any way Santa could help. The story is: A mom and her sister were in a vehicle with 7 kids this summer. Was on the news in the Phoenix area. Aunt and 4-year old boy were killed in an accident. I didn't get into the reasons. But another



with Santa Tony

sister took the 6 other siblings in. Her, her husband, and their 3 kids. You can guess going from 5 in a home to 11 added a few challenges. The 6 siblings asked for a few things for Christmas. They asked for a headstone for their little brother that would have turned 5 years old December 29th. A real Christmas tree, pillows and bedding, ...etc. I reached out to my many, many elfs. And they outdid themselves. The outpouring of compassion was over and above.

The headstone is being done, bunk beds, pillows and bedding, clothes, assorted toys, household items to help the family and so much more to help this family. At one point the Aunt said to me, She has no more tears to cry. Before it was because she was sad. After the elfs and I got involved she is so happy for the help for the kids.

My elfs came thru over and beyond even what I thought was possible. These kids asked for a headstone for their little brother and a few other things. It all happen and then some.

Santa wants to try to thank all of my elfs:

American Monument Company (Bill), Arizona Oncology Office (Michele, & staff and patients), 2 Wheel Transport (Brain), Lane Splitters (Miguel), Paul Yaffe's Originals (Paul & Suzy and staff), Arizona Bike Week Charities (everyone), Arizona Motorcycle Towing (Michelle), McFall Tire and Auto, Mary (Suzy's mom), Barb W., Sue A., Sara, Jim & Robin (Psychobilly Rodeo Band), Johnny & Amber, Jenny G W., Aloha, Frank A., Mitty J., Dawn HD., Julie S. (Photography), Larry and Tina D., & Linda Dahl (Patch Works Sewing).

Thank you all and I hope I didn't miss anyone. To them, thank you also.

To one more person a special thank you, my elf Flutter.



Santa Tony & Flutter



Steel Horse Saloon