

Chili in the High Country



The annual Chili Cook-off, hosted by ABATE of Arizona's High Country Chapter, took place on Saturday October 21, from noon-5pm. Ground zero for a delicious time was the Spur Bar on Hwy 260 in Star Valley. My thanks to event organizer CC for her help with this review.

Monies from this Chapter fundraiser go to support motorcycling safety & rider awareness programs.

Around 70 people came out in support of this event. CC clarified that this is a Family-Friendly gathering; adding that, "there were some children there." Favorite local musician Hans Olson returned to perform again this year. CC commented that, "Some folks come just to hear Hans." There were Raffles throughout the day, as well as a Silent Auction.

But enough about all that ~ lol. It's time to talk *chili!*

Sixteen chili cooks prepped up their favorite recipes, hoping to earn the votes of the judges. It is a People's Choice contest. Spectators paid \$5 for the opportunity to sample all 16 variations. Then there's the hard part... *Picking your favorite.*

When asked how many types of chili were presented, CC replied, "Each was quite different from the other. Some were spicy, others mild. One was made with elk, another with chicken, a third all pork. All were phenomenal! It was extremely difficult to select a winner. Three of the chilies tied and required a tie-breaking vote [by someone who hadn't tasted yet] to select a winner!"

Debra Fickel was declared the winner. She won \$200 in cash in addition to a handmade trophy. Congratulations!

CC sent along the message, "Many thanks to our host, Spur Bar, in Star Valley." She continued, "This is a Great event to attend! The day was absolutely perfect: blue skies, moderate temperature all day with an oh-so-slight breeze. Phenomenal Food! Great Entertainment!"

If you've never attended this party, you can always make plans for next time. This event takes place each year, on the 3rd Saturday in October. Whether you think your chili can measure up to the competition OR you just want to enjoy a fun outing among some good people ~ this gathering is a fine way to spend a day. Details about events hosted by High Country ABATE can be found on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AbateHighCountryChapter/

Speaking of that, next up is their Chapter Toy Run. "Our Barbie Hensler Memorial Toy Run is being held at The Buffalo Bar & Grill in Payson on Saturday, Dec 9 (from noon to 5). KRIM will provide the entertainment in between Raffles and a Silent Auction. This is our 15th Annual Toy Run - and the 5th one held in Barbie's memory. (She passed away just before the Run in 2010).

"The Toy Run is dedicated to providing Christmas to Rim Country children who would otherwise be without. High Country Chapter of ABATE of AZ works with the Rim Country Chapter of the MMA, the OB Motorcycle Club, and although last on this list, certainly not least, the Star Valley's Moose Lodge #852, without whose help this event would not be possible. Last year we were, collectively, able to provide Christmas to 170 Rim Country children and 70 families."

Photos for this story are presented courtesy of MotorcycleSafari.com. Visit their site to see even more great moments from the day.

For more event information contact "CC" at 928-476-1955 or for Chapter info in general, contact the Coordinator Wayne at azoutlaw66@hotmail.com