

The 12th annual Hearts to Heroes benefit ride for Packages From Home took place on Saturday February 27. Registration was hosted by title sponsor Desert Wind Harley-Davidson, located at 922 S. Country Club Drive, in Mesa. Your entry fee included breakfast, lunch, a beautiful ride, and entertainment at the final destination.

Around 180 riders participated. After sign-in and breakfast, the self-paced route took them to Roosters. From there, the ride became a scenic tour, past Saguaro Lake, and down into Cave Creek. No bar hopping.



In addition to the traditional Packages From Home' programs this community has been supporting over the years, the PFH family has introduced the 'Bones From Home' & 'Packages For Hope' programs. PFH assists veterans who are in transition, homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, via their Packages For Hope program. The 'Bones From Home' program provides support & care items to the Military Working Dogs who serve alongside our GIs. Their ability to detect materials used in IEDs and weapons, via their keen sense of smell, provides life-saving support to our troops and innocent civilians.

This day's event collected a considerable amount of items for the



The end stop was the Buffalo Chip. Here, lunch was served and live music was provided by Skarlett Fever. The afternoon's emcee was Jack Schit. He's been the emcee for this ride for more than three years.

The beneficiary of this day is one that provides such wonderful service for our GIs, Packages From Home. I've said it before & you'll hear it again, no doubt.... Bruce recalls getting care packages from good-hearted people back home, when he was stationed in Viet Nam. This was before anything so organized as PFH existed. It was always very uplifting & heartwarming to anyone who was deployed to know that there were people at home thinking of them.

troops and the K9 Units, based upon the PFH 'wish lists' ~ posted on their website, <http://packagesfromhome.org>. A few thousand dollars were raised as well. These monies go toward the actual shipping fees to send these packages off.

Packages From Home posted this message, "Thanks to those of you who supported our #troops by attending the 12th annual #HeartsToHeroes #Motorcycle Ride on February 27th. We appreciate your support more than you know."

Thanks go to Desert Wind Harley-Davidson & Chuck Franklin Law for being the title sponsors of this benefit. Addition supporters to thank are Roosters, Skarlett Fever, Jack Schit, Buffalo Chip, and Discount Bike Supply. DBS has been a huge supporter of this ride for 3+ years.

Your next opportunity to support Packages From Home comes up later this month. Over the weekend of July 22-24, The Cabin in Overgaard is hosting their annual Biker Bash, with Packages From Home being this year's beneficiary. Free dry camping, games, a silent auction, vendors, & more. Music by Thunder Horse Band. FMI: 928-535-6117

Saturday's Poker Run, organized by Two Gals, starts at Wild Women Saloon in Overgaard. \$20/sgl, \$30/cpl includes breakfast & lunch. Details are in our calendar. FMI: TwoGals 480-318-6182 or TwoGalsAmy@hotmail.com

My thanks to Missi & Amy from Two Gals Events for your help with this article.

Betsy