

# RIP'S B.A.D RIDE IN ARIZONA



On Sunday October 23, participants in Rip's BAD Ride gathered at Chester's Harley-Davidson in Mesa, located at 922 S Country Club Drive. The goal of this annual fundraiser hosted by the American Diabetes Association is, "bringing the biker nation together in the fight against diabetes". Monies raised are directed toward prevention and a cure, as well as improving the lives of those affected by diabetes.

Started in California by Rip Rose, an *Easyrider* photojournalist, the BAD Ride has expanded to various states. Plans are underway to launch a BAD Ride in Tucson as well. Rip passed away in 2000, but his legacy and his dream live on.

This is one of those times when it's really good to be BAD.

For some, the day started at one of several Tilted Kilt Pubs in the Valley: Mesa {1910 S Gilbert}, Tempe {660 W Warner}, Scottsdale {7077 E Bell}, and Peoria {16840 N 83rd Ave}. Group rides were planned from each location, all converging at Chester's H-D. We chose to go straight to the party site. No matter where you started from, it was a great day to be out on your bike. What can be said about Chester's as the new event location? Excellent choice. They have put so much into

creating an outstanding venue. Between the HOG Pen and the Patio they have tons of room and the facilities to accommodate pretty much any style of gathering; large or small.

Headlining this day was the band Moggollon... What else do you need? Music, dancing, good times... Emcee for the day was Shortbus, an avid supporter of the BAD Ride. A bike show offered a display of beautiful bikes... including one particularly striking full-blown custom metric created by SIC ~ Scott's Insane Chops out of Lake Havasu City.

There was a variety of vendor booths including Law Tigers, Wicked Little Secrets apparel, Clipman.com, D&D Heating & Cooling, Mustang Sally w/ patches & stitching, Privity Boutique apparel, and a pinstriper. The Phoenix Coyotes had a hockey slap-shot booth set up. SanTan Ford was there with one of the new Harley-Davidson pickup trucks. For each truck ordered or purchased that day, a donation would be made to the BAD Ride. Pretty cool!

The Diabetes Warrior Wall is a special addition to the BAD Ride where people can write messages or dedicate their ride to loved ones who have or have passed away from diabetes.

Many people who attend and participate in the BAD Ride treat it much like any other run.... Pay your entry fee and enjoy the day. But there are those who are particularly BAD... making BAD behavior a year 'round endeavor.

Such is the case with a couple we met this year... Geo Conney & his lady Lynn {pic top right}. They were introduced to the BAD Ride by Shortbus three years ago. It's a cause that they could get behind, as they've seen so many friends affected by diabetes. This year, they hosted 8 parties to raise money toward this year's campaign. Their goal was to raise \$1,000, and they came in at \$1,010. So yeah, these folks are pretty BAD! They plan to kick off the 2012 party schedule in March, so watch our calendar for details on that. Their sponsor is The Gym Grill & Bar on Hunt Hwy in San Tan Valley. Geo & Lynn are very appreciative of their support.

You can earn some BAD thank you gifts, depending on how many donations you collect; starting at \$100. Another perk of being extra BAD? There's a really cool VIP party that takes place the night before the BAD Ride. Raise \$500 or more and you get to have even more BAD good times. This year's band was Hollywood & Vine. They

did an excellent job of entertaining.

There was a Silent Auction with tables full of all sorts of cool stuff to bid on... The Tilted Kilt crew was working the cook shack and had drink stations for libations. And there was the very festive atmosphere brought on by people gathered together in the knowledge they'd put a lot of effort into an important cause.

It was a really nice ~ uhhhh, I mean BAD night. ☺

A lot goes into putting this event together, and the business community really got involved. This year's sponsors include: Tilted Kilt Pub & Eatery, Chester's Harley-Davidson, Outback Steakhouse, Network Dogs, Inc, Truly Nolen Pest Control, Integra Telecom, Solise - A Daily SunCare Company, San Tan Ford, and American Family Insurance.

And something truly needs to be said about the BAD volunteers. They are awesome, donating their time and efforts to the cause.

This year's BAD Ride offered a great venue, fantastic weather, and top-notch entertainment. If you've never done it before, try something new next year and be BAD.

*Betsy & Bruce*

