



Indian Motorcycle Riders Group Tucson Black Mountain Chapter Newsletter #32 Spring 2024 PART 2 of 2



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Dedicated to Robert "Smiley" Rollins, RIP

2024 Black Mountain Officers

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Editor's Note

By Debbie Ostrom

Welcome to **PART 2** of our 47-page Spring 2024 Newsletter. Thanks to all the contributors this quarter!

This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to the memory of our brother, Robert "Smiley" Rollins of the Battle Born Chapter in Reno. He died in a head-on crash on the way home from Tucson Rundezvous 3. Details of the tragedy are on pages 2-3, PART 1.

We feature highlights from happier Rundezvous times and wrap it up with Motorcycle Art, Odds & Ends, credits, upcoming activities and caption fun.

See **PART 1** for the Accident Report, News, Racing, a New model review, Safety Corner and several Rides and Events from various contributing authors, Before the Tucson Rundezvous 3.

Please send all submissions to: mdestrom@gmail.com

Issue #32, Part 2 Published April 29, 2024 All Rights Reserved



President's Corner

By Mike Ostrom

This quarter we had a great Tucson Rundezvous 3, with a tragic ending. We mourn the loss Robert "Smiley" Rollins, and wish a quick recovery to those injured in an accident on the way home.

Thanks to Mike Lehnus, Molly Norman and Phil Reiter, who led and swept TR3 guided rides at Tucson Rundezvous 3. Also, to our officers and all the volunteers that helped organize and execute a successful event. Finally, thanks to everyone who attended! We enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Our charity raffle generated \$400 for the Salvation Army.

A special welcome to new Tucson Black Mountain members. Everyone is welcome to join us! Just send an email: President@IMRGtucson.org

For rides and events see Facebook: **Indian Motorcycle Riders Group of Tucson, Black Mountain Chapter**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/448704798634482>

Or our website: <https://www.imrgtucsonbmc.org/>

Look forward to seeing you on a ride or event soon.



Rides and Events

Tucson Rundezvous 3 is a Huge Success

Tucson Rundezvous™ 3

By Mike Ostrom



Six months in the planning, the third installment of the Tucson Rundezvous was by all accounts, a huge success! This year's event saw 65 people register and 54 people attend the Saturday night banquet. We features two guided rides

each day on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. You can enjoy a recap of each on the following pages.

We started off the official event with a blessing of the bikes. Spiritual Leader, Manny Cooley, of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, got up early Thursday morning to drive down from Pine Top, AZ with his friend Anthony to conduct the ceremony. That evening, we even had a free shuttle ride down to Desert Diamond Sahuarita for dinner and a free concert tribute to Kenny Chesney and Eric Church on Thursday night. Four of us made it to Bike Night at Gear Shifters on Friday after making sure Joy could make it back to the hotel with the wrong clutch cable on her Scout.



The Tour de Italia banquet, opened early Saturday at 4:30 PM and there was a line when the bar finally opened at 5 PM. Riders were ready to party after a great week of riding and events. Debbie Ostrom put together a nice slide show of pictures from the week that looped on the big screen. The buffet was a big hit, but they ran out of Tiramisu, before Debbie, and others, made it to the Desert table.



Rides and Events

Tucson Rundezvous 3 is a Huge Success (continued)



I recognized the TR3 Organizing Committee, Road Captains & Sweeps, and other contributors. Each chapter shared some remarks with the audience. The four St. Petersburg, FL chapter riders earned bragging rights for riding over 2100 miles to attend the Rundezvous, and then I turned over the mic to Teresa "Squirrel" Davidson for the raffle prize drawing.

Quite a few members had made personal donations as raffle prizes and Randy Seavy arranged for some IMRG donations and swag bag stuff. Our Dealer didn't make any contributions this year. Teresa "Squirrel" Davidson did a great job as Raffle Queen MC again this year. Our charity raffle raised \$400 for The Salvation Army!



We had pretty much wrapped things up inside by 8:15 PM and migrated outside to the fire pit for a couple of hours of laughter and a lot of Hornitos Tequila before calling it a night. By 7 AM the next morning, the roar of motorcycles headed for home could be heard by those of us that had a little too much fun the night before.

Unfortunately. Not everyone made it home safely. An accident on AZ 93 claimed the life of Robert Smiley Rollins and seriously injured two others. See details in the News section above.

Rides and Events

Tombstone

Tucson Rundezvous™ 3

By Dead Mike Lehnus



The Tombstone ride was scheduled for Thursday at 8:30 am but prior to the ride we were honored to have Manny Cooley, a Spiritual Leader from the San Carlos Apache Tribe, give us a Blessing of the Bikes. They were running a little late so we stuck around and waited. We need all the blessings we can get!

The ride departed a little off schedule but that was the only thing that went wrong. The weather was perfect and traffic was very sparse, which made the twisties on AZ Hwy 83 that much more enjoyable. We stopped at Mustang Corners, at AZ 82 & Hwy 90, for a short break before finishing the ride at the American Legion Post #24 in Tombstone. They very graciously allowed us to park our bikes in their



Legion Riders spot. It made the ride even better because we were able to park as a group.

We arrived at 11 AM, so I told the group they were free to roam and to meet back at the Legion Post for KSU at 2 PM. Some of us had lunch at Big Nose Kate's Saloon, where house-favorite, Mick, provided live music.

After everyone gathered back with full stomachs and souvenirs in hand, we left Tombstone right after 2 PM. We were taking a different route back than our journey there. We headed north on Hwy 80 towards St David, and got on Interstate 10 in Benson. By this time the temperature was beginning to take it's toll with several riders were showing the effects. Some of the riders were not wanting to do so much Interstate riding so I made a diversion on Marsh Station Rd, west of Benson, that gave everyone a view of a seldom seen road.



We then went north on Hwy 83 towards Sahuarita Rd, and then it was just a reversal of our outbound route. The group all had no complaints and were very happy to have the opportunity to visit the town "Too tough to die".

Rides and Events

Mt Lemmon, Summerhaven & Ski Valley *Tucson Rundayzvous™ 3*

By Mike Ostrom



Shortly after the blessing of the bikes, we mounted up and started the long ride across town to the base of Mt. Lemmon. We had 17 bikes in our group and the SD Crew of eight left about the same time, taking a slightly different route. Considering we were on the heels of rush hour, it wasn't too bad. Traffic up the hill wasn't too bad either. About two miles up, we stopped at BaBad Do'ag scenic overlook for a vista view of Tucson below and our hotel in the distance. As we were taking some photos, we heard the unmistakable rumble of Indian V-Twins making their climb through the curves and roaring past us.



We all met up at Windy Point for what's becoming an annual photo op. Twenty-five Indians lined up in a row with a carved mountain backdrop. Pretty cool. The groups got comingled as the SD Crew left Windy Point early while I shot video, and some of our original group joined them. Some folks threw on another layer then we leapfrogged them at

San Pedro Vista on our way up to the Sawmill Run Restaurant in Summerhaven.

Rides and Events

Mt Lemmon, Summerhaven & Ski Valley *Tucson Rundayzvous™ 3*



It was about 61 degrees as we rolled into town on a bright sunny day. We all decided to sit on the patio for lunch, which is served up after only a brief wait, after ordering at the counter. It was a pleasant lunch on the patio. After lunch we rode about a 1/4 mile to the General Store, which features souvenirs and fresh-made fudge. Hans Salty Amador bought some fudge for Debbie, who stayed behind to welcome new arrivals in the Desert Diamond Hospitality Suite.

Last stop, before heading back down the hill, was Ski Valley. There was still plenty of snow on the slopes and one of the chairlifts was running. We lined up the bikes again for another photo op and then mounted up. It was a cool ride down that gradually warmed up as we descended. We made another stop at Windy Point, this time to shed a layer.



I took a different route back to Desert Diamond, turning north on Houghton. The one lane sections became backed up, so some of us turned on Golflinks Road, which kept moving, as rush hour began. We were back around 3 PM, in plenty of time for the folks taking the 4:30 PM

shuttle to the other Desert Diamond in Sahuarita for gambling, dinner and the free concert later that night.



Rides and Events

Porters Saloon in Superior and Globe

Tucson Rundezvous™ 3

By Molly Norman



Tucson IMRG Rundezvous III was an amazing event with lots of riders from the east from Florida and northerners from Colorado and Nevada and westerners from California. Everyone was excited for this event and ready to do some riding.

On Friday there were two rides planned and I was leading the longest ride of the day, and the rally, up to Superior to Porters Saloon for lunch.

My ride was going to lead us up north to Superior via Hwy 77 from Oracle to Winkelman. The most boring part was from the casino to I19 to I10 and then taking Twin Peaks to Tangerine to Oracle Hwy / 77. Once we got onto Hwy 77, the ride was easy going and we enjoyed the cruising pace along Hwy 77 to our first stop.

The weather was perfect and we stayed together as a good group with Phil Reiter as the Sweep. We had a couple from Colorado, and then Bert, Raj, Dave, and Joy from the San Jose Chapter, and Greg from Northern California. I was looking for the beautiful poppies along the way but just didn't see any so I enjoyed the ride to our first break stop at the gas station at Winkelman. As we stopped for a little butt break, several riders talked about how



nice the ride was and how different the scenery is compared to where they are from. We talked bikes and got to know each other a little bit before hopping back on the bikes and heading up Hwy 177 to Superior.

Rides and Events

Porters Saloon in Superior and Globe

Tucson Rundayvours™ 3



Our ride up Hwy 177 took us through copper mining country as we passed the Kennecott Railway and past the towns of Hayden and Kearney. The wild flowers of Lupines and poppies were populating the hillsides as we cruised up the highway. I wanted to hopefully find a stopping point along the way so that the riders could catch a glimpse of the open pit mine. There aren't a lot of safe places to stop and I'm not a big fan of dirt pull offs but I thank goodness there wasn't a lot of traffic and I slowed the group down and we pulled off the road and were able to take a few shots of the pit and our bikes along the road.



While we were admiring the mining scenery, a woman pulled over and crossed the road to talk to us about what she does at the mine, which is working with the mine geologists and collecting samples. She showed us a video of a blasting event that is a frequent occurrence they perform to see if they have mined all the copper they can from certain locations in the pit. It was a very impressive video and captivated everyone. How lucky we were to stop at that point to have this little snippet of mining information presented to us.

But we needed to get on the road because we had reservations at Porters and so we rallied up and onward to Superior, passing Teapot hill and some nice winding the up and over roads into Superior. We pulled up in front of Porters

and they had a patio table all ready for us. We were hungry and ready for some good food. While we waited for our orders, we had several conversations going about bikes, where we are from, and little tidbits about our lives. The food was delicious and gave us the energy to get ready for the next leg of the ride. The weather was warming up so it was a good time to de-layer and make the ride cooler.



Rides and Events

Porters Saloon in Superior and Globe

Tucson Rundayvous™ 3



We gathered up and left Porters, riding through downtown Superior and up to the junction to head North on Hwy 60 towards Globe. This stretch of US 60 road between Superior and Globe is my favorite stretch as we ride through the rocky canyons, catching a glimpse of a possible water fall and up to Top of the World. Then heading down into the town of Miami and seeing more copper mining views and the abundant blooms of poppies along the road. We continue on through Globe and head towards El Capitan on Hwy 77.



This route along Hwy 77 is another beautiful ride back down to another fuel and rest stop at the gas station in Winkelman. The temperatures cranked up a bit and I came prepared with an insulated bag of chilled bandanas and various neck wraps that a few of the riders took advantage of to keep cool. Most of the riders are not used to our heat so I wanted to make sure they were as cool as possible. After our little break, we saddled back up and headed south on Hwy 77 to Tucson. Raj continued on Oracle when we got into town and the rest of us headed back to the casino hotel for some pool time and casino time. The ride was a total of 327 miles and a beautiful ride.



Rides and Events

Green Valley, Amado, Arivaca and Titan

Tucson Rundayz™ 3

By Mike Ostrom



On Friday we gathered in the south lot for an 8:30 AM departure for the San Xavier Mission about ten minutes away. I thought it would be nice to line up the bikes in front of the beautiful Mission for a

picture. The area is designated No Parking, and is lined with rocks around the perimeter, but we just wanted a photo and then we'd be on our way. No sooner than we lined up, two guys came running over shaking their heads, one was supposedly a Park Ranger. Salty, tried to pacify him while we hastily took our shots. Some folks never got off their bike. The rest of us remounted and were on our way two minutes later. Unfortunately, I forgot that some folks wanted to see the inside of the church, until we were well down Mission Road. Sorry gang. We would return that way, so they'd have another chance.



Originally, this was going to be a lunch ride to La Gitana Cantina in Arivaca, but I moved up all the departure times for the week in an attempt to beat the late-afternoon high temps close to 90. La



Gitana doesn't open until 11 AM so all of a sudden it looked like we might get there at least a half hour too early! Plan B was to make it a brunch ride and go to The Longhorn in Amado instead. It was right on the way.

It was a beautiful cool ride through the curves on Mission Road. We

continued down Continental to the I-19 Frontage Road, all the way to Amado. We lined up the bikes in front of the iconic Longhorn Skull that doubles as the door to the bar. After some pictures and a smoke for some, we went to enter and the doors were locked! New hours: Open at 11 AM. Hmm...Time for Plan C. I found a little restaurant called Mama's Kitchen back in Green Valley, right across from the Frontage Road turn we made. Most of us had a delicious breakfast, but many of the Battle Born riders had had breakfast before the "lunch" ride, so they skipped it.

Rides and Events

Green Valley, Amado, Arivaca and Titan

Tucson Runday™ 3



We headed back south, this time on I-19, to the Arivaca Road exit. Arivaca Road is almost all curves on the 23-mile stretch from Amado to La Gitana Cantina in Arivaca. There are some technical sections and some surprises for the uninitiated. Pablo Cortes, the Road Director for Battle Born, was holding back on the unfamiliar curves so, I set a pace at just about the speed limit to keep everyone in my mirror on the infrequent straight sections.

La Gitana was open when we arrived about 11:30! A cold Barrio Rojo hit the spot for me and now the guys who had skipped brunch at Mama's were now hungry for lunch. We sat out back on the patio on a gorgeous day.

We decided to complete the original loop, continuing on Arivaca Sasabe Road until it T-bones into AZ 286, Sasabe Road. We turned north for the 30-mile ride of hills, washes and a few curves on the way to Three Points for fuel and a break.

Pablo Cortes, the Battle Born Road Director, had been leading his sub group of riders all day from a few



positions behind me, sometimes creating a gap in the group. When I asked him if everything was ok, he said he was just making sure everyone behind him got out ok. I thanked him and said I needed all the help I could get.

Well, the riders from Battle Born wanted to see the Titan Missile Museum in Green Valley, so Pablo, mapped a route east on AZ 86 to I-19 and off they went. The rest of took AZ 86 to Valencia and eventually back through the Mission and the side door off Los Reales Road to Desert Diamond, in plenty of time to get ready for dinner and Bike Night at Gear Shifters.

Rides and Events

Indian Dealer and Peachwave Gelato

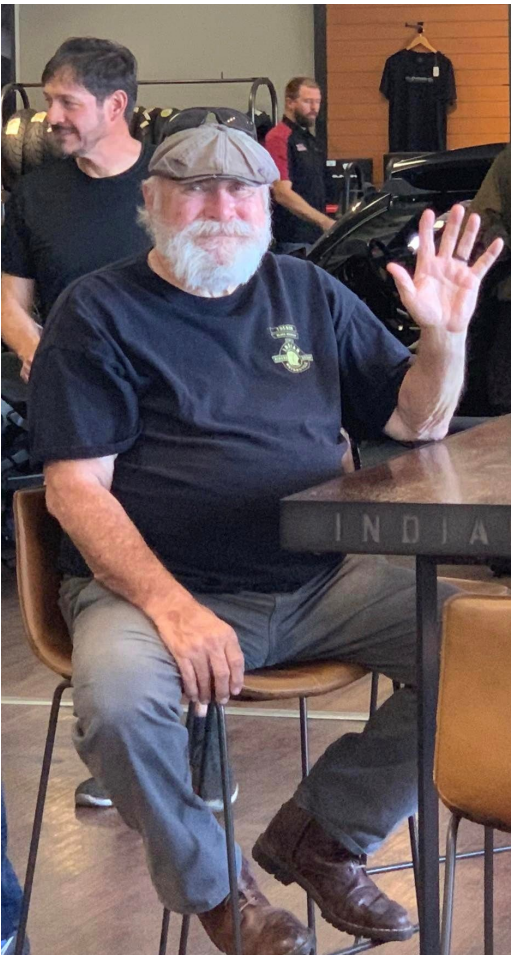
Tucson Rundezvous™ 3

By Molly Norman



Saturday was a kind of free for all with a couple of ride options. Lots of folks were going to ride to the dealer to cruise the store and grab a free Sonoran Dog.

As we all gathered in the parking lot, I was thinking that I would be riding this by myself but happily was joined by 3 riders that were going to be heading home after they stopped at the dealership.



I offered to take them on a side trip over Gates Pass which would only take about 45 minutes. So off we go as we head down Los Reales Road to I19. We cruised along the freeway, exiting at Ajo Way and heading west, taking a right at Kinney Road. Luckily it was early enough where there wasn't a lot of traffic as we headed along Kinney Road, winding and riding the rolling roads, passing Old Tucson and turning right to head up Gates Pass.



This route is a favorite of a lot of riders, riding along the saguaro lined roads and then starting the climb up to the saddle of Gates Pass and the view of the city lay in front of us. The road was busy with cyclists as they use this route to train for upcoming events and it makes it a challenge for both cars and motorcycles to give space coming and going around the cyclists.

Rides and Events

Indian Dealer and Peachwave Gelato

Tucson Rundezvous™ 3



We had one in front of us that decided she was going to take the whole lane but with patience and just enjoying the view, we were able to pass her and head on down the road to turn off onto Sweetwater where the road was like a roller coaster, which makes it a nice cruising road. We headed down to Silverbell for a short distance and then right onto Ruthrauff to Oracle and in 2 blocks turned into the Indian Dealership where quite a crowd of Indian riders were checking out bikes and gear.

One rider, Joy, was getting her clutch cable replaced, lickity split and she was on her way. After a little visit and chatting with a fellow Scout owner, who happened to have the same color bike (wildfire) as mine, I loaded up and headed back to the casino hotel to greet our Peachwave Frozen Gelato truck.

Steve and Cali Norman travel all around the Tucson and Oracle area, selling their delicious flavors of frozen gelato and boy they hit the mark with the Rundezvous. The very warm day made a stop at the Gelato truck a nice treat after a warm ride and some folks



even went back for seconds. Their presence at the Rundezvous was much appreciated and I gifted them with a Rundezvous t-shirt and asked them to come back next year. So, for all you Rundezvous attendees, make sure to invite your fellow riders and friends to sign up for Rundezvous IV and be treated to some great rides, great food, great treats, and meeting of new friends.



Rides and Events

Tubac Patagonia and Copper Brothel

Tucson Rundayvous™ 3

By Mike Ostrom



Saturday seemed perfect. It was the last day of guided rides and for me, started off a little like Deja Vu all over again. Like Friday, we stopped at the San Xavier Mission for a photo op. This time we lined up the bikes in a legal parking area, with the iconic Misson as a backdrop. The day before we had been asked to vacate the No Parking area right in front of the church as soon as we arrived.

I never get tired of riding Mission Road and some of the group were experiencing it for the second time in two days. We again took Continental Road in Green Valley to the I-19 Frontage Road as far south as we could before jumping on the freeway for the 75-MPH sprint to Tubac.

Tubac is a tourist destination, complete with little shops that sell souvenirs, pottery, sculptures and other various forms of art. There are also small businesses, restaurants, and thankfully, restrooms. We agree to split up and explore on our own, meeting back at 10:30 AM for our trek further south toward the Mexican border.



We rode along the I-19 Frontage Road and again jumped on I-19 at Palo Parado Road for a short stint down to Ruby Rd for some fuel and a short break. Traffic always seems to be congested at the Ruby Road intersections and this day was no exception. We got temporarily separated leaving the gas station, so I road slowly up and down the roller-coaster hills until I spotted Tail Gunner, Phil Reiter in my rearview mirror.

Rides and Events

Tubac Patagonia and Copper Brothel

Tucson Rundezvous™ 3



We all gathered for the curvy ride down S River Road to AZ 82 Highway in Beyerville, about three miles from the border. The ride northeast on AZ 82 to Patagonia is a great motorcycle road with sweeper curves, changes in elevation and a particularly scenic section of colorful cliff-face rock at historic John Ward Ranch.

We motored through Patagonia at the prescribed 30 MPH. There were several groups of bikes at the popular restaurants, like The Velvet Elvis. Twelve miles later we turned on AZ 83 and arrived at the Copper Brothel Brewery in Sonoita.

On such a gorgeous day it was no surprise that seating was not available on their back patio, but we managed to fit our group of 10 around a high-top inside. In no time, our server brought over a cold Roxie Red, which went down smoothly. They always do a nice job preparing selections from a diverse menu, and we seemed to sample a little bit of everything.



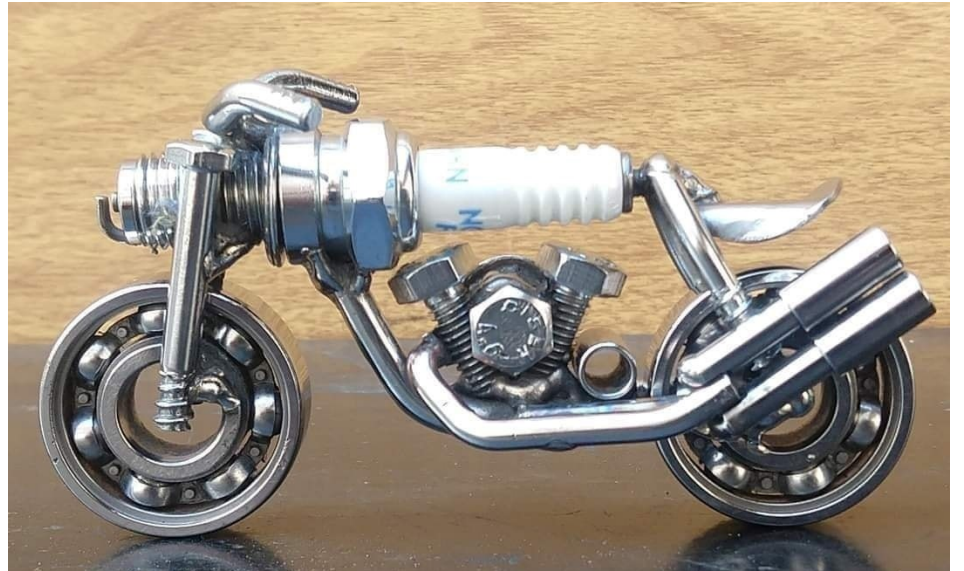
For the ride back to Desert Diamond, I deviated from the published route to avoid I-10 and Valencia congestion. Instead we rode the S Sonoita Highway, AZ 83, north through the curves of the



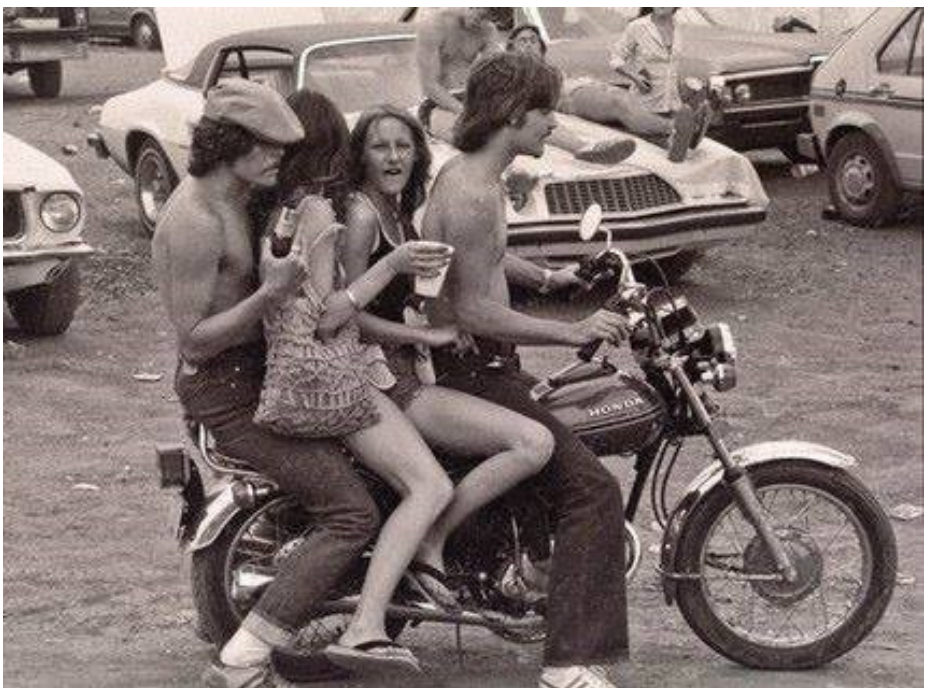
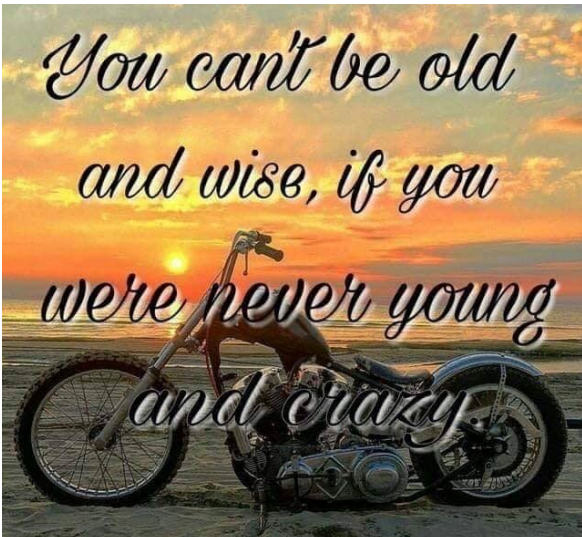
Santa Rita foothills to Sahuarita Road. It was such a pleasant ride west at 55 MPH on a gorgeous afternoon. In Sahuarita we turned north on S Nogales Highway and rode by rows and rows of Pecan trees on the way back to the ranch.

We were greeted by the Peachwave Frozen Gelato truck when we rolled into the Desert Diamond parking lot. What a welcomed sight! Molly Norman had arranged for her ex-brother-in-law and wife to serve up frosty treats for everyone from noon to 4PM and just about everyone headed over there after a great day in the saddle.

Motorcycle Art



Odds & Ends



Credits Captions & Events

Thanks to our contributing authors and photographers:

Debbie Ostrom	Mike Ostrom
John Fucci	Molly Norman
Mike Lehnus	Cycle News Staff
Troy Siahaan, Motorcycle.com	Rider Magazine Staff



Amusing captions submitted for this picture:

"I wish I didn't have to get on the freeway"
"I get 70 Miles Per Gallon on this Hog"
"Where are all the chicks I heard about?"
"Last time I buy a Harley from China"!



Just for Fun—Caption Contest

Please email your amusing captions for this picture to:

mdostrom@gmail.com

The best will be featured in the next newsletter.



Upcoming Events:

- International Female Ride Day, May 4, 8AM Gear Shifters, 9AM TTT Truck Stop
- May 10, 6-8 PM, Bike Night Gear Shifters
- 3 Points, Arivaca, Amado Lunch Run, May 11, 9 AM, RC: Mike Lehnus
- May 19 Membership Breakfast and Meeting, Rudy's BBQ, 8:45 AM
- Silver City, NM Blues Festival, May 25 & 26
- American Legion Riders, Springerville 666 Poker Run, June 15
- White Mountain Rally at Hon-Dah, June 21 & 22
- Run to the Rez, October 17-19



QR Codes for: IMRGtucson.org



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