

Healing Veterans Fourth Edition March 3, 2017

I never dreamed of how rewarding working on this ride could be! Two years ago when the ride was 'born' it seemed as though we were standing at the bottom of a mountain facing an impossible climb. Frankly, it just looked like a lot of that four letter word... WORK! Well, with the help of many friends, a lot of volunteers, and members of two of the charities we support (Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing and Fan Across America) we persevered and were lucky enough to cover 'first-year' expenses with about \$2,700.00 left over for distribution. Frankly, I was elated with the start we had. ☺ Guess what? That little four letter word 'WORK' kind of disappeared among the smiles of our riders, sponsors, and volunteers as we concluded our day last February 2016. So, guess what? We said, "Let's do it again" and we did.

Last Saturday, 2/25/2017, marked the conclusion of our second annual "Hooked on Healing Veterans" ride. Much less 'WORK' this year and a lot more 'REWARD'. ☺ Ridership was up over 30%. Over the course of two annual rides we have collectively ridden over 23,500 miles incident free! That is remarkable and a true testament to the safety consciousness and preparedness of our riders! Some FUN STUFF from the day included: two riding groups showed up unannounced with large donations; this is the first year for our HONOR CLUB, a method for riders, volunteers, and friends of the ride of all kinds to collect pledges for the ride throughout the year. Stan Kaufman was the top pledge-getter with \$2,840.00 submitted on the 25th; our new Scavenger Hunt was really well received... the winning roll of the dice good enough to collect the \$150.00 cash prize; 50-50 Draw earned one lucky rider \$100.00 which he promptly turned back over to the Ride; ☺ Liberty Mutual Insurance, a sponsor of our ride for two years donated three one week grocery certificates (\$100.00) to three lucky riders; over \$7,000.00 in raffle items and door prizes were fought over for hours (☺) and they all disappeared in the flash of an eye at 5:30pm! Mike Dawes of the M.C. of Sun Lakes won the \$150.00 Cow Pie Bingo; and finally... we expect when the 'counting' is all done we will be able to distribute almost \$7,000.00 to our veteran community. "WORK" is now beginning to feel like "WONDER"!

Thanks to everyone who was involved: riders, volunteers, sponsors, individual donors, and the many of you who just keep encouraging us through the months of planning and execution. You are appreciated!

So, guess what? We are going to do it again☺. Our third annual "Hooked on Healing Veterans" ride will take place Saturday, February 24th, 2018. Check in with us on this web site or on [Facebook.com/healingvets](https://www.facebook.com/healingvets) over the summer and fall months for more news and information.

If you have comments, suggestions, beefs or bouquets at any time throughout the year we are available at info@healingvets.org and we look forward to hearing from you.

This is your ride so give us your ideas and feedback on how you think we are doing.

Thank you!

Healing Veterans Third Edition February 11, 2017

Greetings and welcome to our update this week! Interest in our ride continues to grow among riders, corporate sponsors, and donors to our Raffle and Door Prize collection of gifts. We are amazed at the generosity of everyone involved.

On-line Ride Registrations are picking up by the day. You can Register in advance by going to www.healingvets.org and clicking on the "Register Now" link . Also, just this week we added a Registration link to www.facebook.com/healingvets. Just look for the "Sign Up" link right below our ride logo when you sign on. And please don't forget to Like and Share our Facebook page so we can all spread the good news about our Mission as well as the fun weekly updates like who won prizes each week for registering early on-line, etc.

Please visit The HONOR CLUB link on our home page and learn how you can collect pledges, earn membership in the Club, win a weekend stay at the Firesky Resort & Spa in downtown Scottsdale! Members of the HONOR CLUB will be given an HONOR CLUB logoed cap when they achieve membership at the \$1,000.00 in pledges collected level. Your pledges will be recorded and carried forward and accumulated year after year. Guess what... The top 'pledge getter' in a ride similar to ours in Canada has collected over \$105,000.00 in pledges over the past six years!! WOW... That's the only word I can think to say!

Your Raffle table is bursting! We have 25 entries (and growing) valued at over \$4,500.00 for you to purchase tickets for. That's almost \$200.00 per prize! You will be able to view photos of all of the items and purchase raffle tickets at Registration at Chandler Harley-Davidson. Full display will be available at Legion Post #35 at the end of the ride. Tickets will again be on sale from 3:00-5:00pm at the Legion Garden Party. As we add new items to the Raffle we try our best to post notification and photos on www.facebook.com/healingvets. come have a look :-)

Also new this year... DOOR PRIZES, and lots of them, will be given away between 4:00 and 5:30pm at the Legion. Be sure you sign your Door Prize slips at Registration and put them in the Door Prize box right away!

Stay tuned for more exciting developments. We'll have one more edition of this Newsletter before the ride and look for daily/weekly posts on Facebook.

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Healing Vets 2nd Edition 01/29/2017

We are pleased to welcome Alex & Saavedra Personal Injury Lawyers and Safeway – Albertsons Grocery Stores as ride sponsors! Their financial support allows us to turn over 100% of ride revenues to our veterans That's right EVERY RED CENT!!! These two firms join Western State Bank [Chandler] and Peoria Volkswagen-Mitsubishi in our 'sponsors corral'. Thanks all☺.

On-line registrations have begun in earnest right here on our home page [healingvets.org]. Tomorrow we start giving away weekly prizes to some lucky rider[s] who register on-line between January 30th and February 20th.

Join The HONOR CLUB right away Collect ride pledges from friends, neighbors, relatives, and co-workers and qualify for membership. And get a chance to qualify to win a pampered two day stay at the FIRESKY RESORT & SPA in Scottsdale absolutely FREE! Check it out right here on our Home page by clicking on The HONOR CLUB icon.

Raffle table EXPLODES!!! 15 items valued at over \$4,100.00 have found their way to our table. Only 9 spots remain and will likely be filled this next week. We'll be posting news of our exciting line-up of Raffle table gifts on facebook.com/healingvets. So follow us on Facebook and help us share the mission by clicking on LIKE and SHARE once on our facebook page. Thanks.

Stay tuned for more exciting developments we'll bring to you in our next edition of this Healing Vets Newsletter.

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Hooked on Healing Veterans Ride Update 12/1/2016

Following a successful inaugural event this past February planning is now underway for our second annual "Hooked on Healing Veterans" ride scheduled for Saturday February 25th, 2017.

Our inaugural ride was a success from a number of perspectives. Our 99 participants rode over 11,000 miles without incident which is remarkable. The food, weather, and camaraderie were all excellent. Over \$7,200.00 of cash and prizes were given away during our final stop dinner and party! And, we experienced a surplus despite the high 'first-year' expenses incurred by rides like ours. Your support allowed us to distribute almost \$3,000.00 to Arizona Stand Down and Phoenix Project Healing Waters. Well done and Thank You to all who supported us!

We have many new and EXCITING things planned for our second annual ride some of which include:

1. We welcome KIMMYZ Bar & Grill and the American Legion Post #58 in Fountain Hills to our ride. KIMMYZ will host our first stop following registration and proprietor Kim O'Donnell is offering up a special early lunch special Stay tuned. American Legion Riders Post #58 are excited to host our fourth stop of the day. They have a lovely facility and are anxious to have us.
2. Formation of THE HONOR CLUB which will allow riders, passengers, non-riders, as well as other interested individuals and teams the opportunity to collect pledges in support of the ride. Those qualifying by the amount of pledges collected will not only qualify for HONOR CLUB membership but also qualify for prizes and other recognition. Go to <http://www.healingvets.org> after January 1st 2017 and click on our HONOR CLUB link for full information as to how you and your friends can participate in the fun!!
3. We are going to combine a Scavenger Hunt with our Poker Run, photography-based so bring your phones. This event promises to be a lot of fun and profitable for our winners ☺!
4. New this year! Early Bird On-line Registration prize draw ...
5. In addition to our very successful Raffle , new this year will be a Silent Auction during the hours prior to dinner at Post #35. Watch our Facebook [Facebook.com/healingvets] and this Newsletter for more news about some of the auction items!
6. New vendors will have displays at Post #35 More news coming.
7. Rider-Passenger SOUVENIR PHOTOS will be taken at registration and framed portraits will be available at the end of the ride. A wonderful souvenir of your gift to our veterans!
8. More news coming regarding this year's post-ride entertainment ... watch our Facebook posts at Facebook.com/healingvets.

Our goals this year are [1] to increase ridership to 125 bikes, [2] to ride 15,000 miles accident free, [3] to increase our charitable contribution triple-fold, and [4] to have one heck of a lot of fun!

Please 'Like' us on Facebook and keep checking in at <http://www.healingvets.org> under "Newsletter" for new stuff! You can contact us at <mailto:info@healingvets.org>.