

## Toy Run "06"

What do you get when you have 100 plus bikes, 130 bikers all with a heart for kids and Santa on a bike leading the ride? You have a Toy Run.

November 4<sup>th</sup> was the ABATE of North Idaho Annual Toys for Tots Toy Run.

The rain stopped, the clouds were high and it was above 50. Around 9:30 they started pouring into Lawrence' Motorcycles on Government Way in CDA. Coffee, donuts and lots of bikes to look at.

11:00 AM we are on our way with Big John Gaumer leading the pack as Santa. Mrs. Clause (Big John's wife Sherry) rode next on Teresa Taylor's trike.

Lots of honks and waves from cars and well as people on the street. Great day for motorcycles awareness. 1<sup>st</sup> stop was the Helmet Outlet on Government Way in Hayden. Got to see Mikes new store, just across the parking lot from his old one.

Next on to Specialty Recreation & Marine, the Kawasaki Shop on Kathleen in CDA. Santa stayed out by the rode and waved to all the cars at each of the stops.

Then on to CDA Honda to find Mike had made some really awesome chili and cider. Got to see those wonderful Honda motorcycles while there. The weather is getting warmer and the chili took off any edge that was left.

Road House Cycles in Post Falls was next. Scott, Jenny and all the crew were ready with treats and lots of choppers to look at. What would be a ride without stopping at the Road House? Their barrel is getting full. Looks like they are going to go for the most toy trophy this year.

Now to our Toy buying stop at good ol Wal-Mart. The Marine Corps League were there in their dress uniforms and looking sharp. One WWII vet was with them. Awesome. These are great men. They all work with the Toys for Tots program. Two truck loads of toys. Wal-Mart donated \$50 in raffles prizes, 3 cases of cooked chicken, and \$1000.00 so we will be able to purchase more toys.

Santa really got busy at this stop. Kids kept coming up and wanting to talk to Santa. John gave out tons of hugs and made lots of little ones really happy. One little one wanted to know if his beard was real and Santa let him pull on it. Kids are what it is all about.

Last stop was one of my favorites the Grail in Huetter. Larry & Dorothy went all out for us once again. They prepared and set out all the food. Supplied, coffee, tea, bread and deserts and collected for the donation for the meal.

As everyone ate that Crazy Biker Chick Connie Haley hollered out ticket numbers for the raffles prizes. Pastor Mike counted the members from groups and clubs and the NW Classic's won the traveling trophy for most rides with 19. Way to go Bootmaker and the Classic's. They also made large donation to the Toys for Tots.

Debbie, biker, friend and Grail employee had a table full of raffle items and two hand made quilts. We had the pleasure of Liz Hall calling the auction. She only broke 2 glasses with that ear piercing voice and the quilts raised \$150.00. Good job Liz. Not sure that we needed a microphone with her.

It was a good evening. A warn gentle rained started just about the time we were getting done and everyone was heading home.

Most important was lots of toys were collected and lots of money raised to purchase more toys. There are no cost to put on this Toy Run and the Barrel Drive. All proceeds go to buy toys. When the program gets low on toys the Marines call and we go shop specifically for the age and gender groups they are short for toys. This year we will be able to do two toy-shopping days.

Last year we raised 2651 toys and 2150 kids received toys from that. That means every kid got a toy from a biker. Way Cool. We hope to top 3000 toys this year.

We put out barrels in October and they will remain out until the middle of December. If you would like to donate toys go to any of the stops named above or you can drop off toys at: The Linger Longer in Spirit, Big Boyz Toys & the General Store in Athol, either of the 2 Summer Sun Tanning locations, 4<sup>th</sup> Street Taco Johns in CDA, Post Falls Napa, Steins IGA in Osburn, Shoshone Honda in Pinehurst or Renegade Classic's in Spokane. Some of our other supporters are Pepsi, Systems Trucking and Stinson Lumber in Hauser.

Special thanks to Ginny and K-102. They sold advertising spots for \$50 and gave \$100.00 in advertising.

Also a thanks to Lucy Dukes from CDA Press. This is the first year we got a accurate newspaper article. She did a great job.

It's all about the kids and the bikers are making a huge difference. This is a real team and group effort. Lots of people work real hard to put this all together and make it work.

Thanks to everyone who has helped and support the Toys for Tot Toy Run and Toy Drive.

Sincerely, Pastor Ernie Crocker, Coordinator Kootenai of ABATE