

High Desert Pod News Letter



Linda Johnson & father Don Johnson place at the Elk's Cook-off in October 2011.

The Elk's Cook-off held on October 30, 2011 was quite the success. The High Desert Pod helped the Elk's House Committee raise \$900. Friday night there was a potluck dinner and Saturday over 23 cooks showed up to make the pot of red. The weather was beautiful and all had

fun cooking under the Ramada chatting and cooking. The theme was Halloween and the Sierra Vista Herald Dispatch came to the cook-off and Penny & Norm Dunn made the front page of the Sunday paper. Great advertising for the pod!

6th Annual Elk's Lodge Winners in Chili

- 1st- Linda Johnson of Casa Grande, AZ
- 2nd – Roy Fisher of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 3rd – Ted Fichtl of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 4th – Pat Rau of Hereford, AZ
- 5th – Patti Kunstman of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 6th – Greg Monger of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 7th – John Johnson of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 8th – Norm Dunn of Tucson, AZ
- 9th – Kim Dunn of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 10th – Tom Klug of Gold Canyon, AZ

6th Annual Elk's Lodge Show Winners

- 1st- Jilly's Silly Chili- Jill Johnson of Phoenix, AZ
- 2nd – Que Chili – Penny Dunn of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 3rd – Kokopelli Chili – Ted Fichtl, Sierra Vista, AZ



Ted Fichtl...great Halloween costume!



32nd Annual Christmas Parade CO- High Desert Pod



Jill's Silly Chili – Jill Johnson & Family from Phoenix, AZ

The 32nd Sierra Vista Christmas Parade HDP Pod CCO was held on December 1st with beautiful weather and a lot of cooks and tasters. The pod raised \$2,200 for our scholarships fund. Cup sales were at an all time high with 100 being sold even with an evening parade. The cook-off began with a happy hour on Friday night that was moved into Tom & Gail Edwards' RV for warmth. It was a bit chili and less people than normal showed up to partake in the happy hour. Saturday morning cooks showed up bright and early to help set up and eat breakfast. John Johnson made his infamous biscuits and gravy to be enjoyed with all the eggs, ham and donuts you could eat. Of course there were Mimosas to keep us warm and happy.

A big thanks to all the High Desert Pod members that helped with getting the table & chairs from the Elk's Lodge, getting canopies set up for judging, registration and goodie bags, clean up and everything else that was done. Thank you to Roy Fisher who secured almost every raffle gift on the table and to Penny Dunn for doing the booze baskets and

sprucing up the donations. A bigger thank you to all the volunteers for the cup sales and raffle sales, thank you Alice Milner, Peggy Spears and Rick Previtt. And of course a thank you to the following sponsors for their donations:

Outback Steak House **Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Coop** **D&J RV**
City of Sierra Vista **Paul's Pub, LLC** **Pep Boys** **Bloom Country Flowers**
Kmart **Pioneer Firewood** **Sierra Vista Flowers** **Fry's Food Store**
High Desert Decorative Arts **Home Depot** **Dillard's** **Sorry Gulch Saloon**
Sunrise Sanitation **Wal-Mart** **All the members for their donations!!**



Penny Dunn – 1st Place Chili Christmas Cook-off

32nd Annual HDP Christmas Parade Cook-off Winners in Chili

- 1st - Penny Dunn of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 2nd – Kim Dunn of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 3rd – Pat Rau of Hereford, AZ
- 4th – Russ Hite of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 5th – Patti Kunstman of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 6th – John Johnson of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 7th – Bud Barrick of Columbus, NM
- 8th – Jackie Barta of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 9th – Linda Johnson of Casa Grande, AZ
- 10th – Tom Edwards of Sierra Vista, AZ

32nd Annual HDP Christmas Parade CO Show Winners

- 1st - Eve Dumond, Black Garter, El Paso, TX
- 2nd – Jilly's Silly Chili – Jill Johnson of Phoenix, AZ
- 3rd – Jelly Bean Chili – Elmo Hite of Sierra Vista, AZ



Eve Dumond, El Paso, Texas – First place show Christmas Cook-off

14th South of the Border Fun in the Sun International Open Championship

IT WAS A BLAST!!!!

Thirty-three stalwart chili cooks from Alaska, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona gathered at Rocky Point over the January 2012 MLK weekend to renew what was one of the best automatic qualifying cookoff weekends ever. A new schedule of events, a new site, new sponsors and a new enthusiasm all came together for what was a wonderful series of events. The new schedule kicked off with Happy Hour at the BooBar, our head sponsor's watering hole, on Thursday the 12th. Friday morning, CHOPS Pod held a Grind Only CCO and Friday afternoon, High Desert Pod hosted an open cook's dinner Fish Fry. We cooked over 60 lbs of crazy good fish and everyone at the Playa De Oro RV Park, another sponsor, brought sides. We ended up feeding over 200 people including local folks from Rocky Point. Saturday, the High Desert Pod hosted the Sonora Desert International. The pod offered Rocky Point Shrimp cocktails during the cookoff, and we sold out in a Rocky Point minute. After the big event, cooks gathered at Capone's, another sponsor, for great food and lots of liquids. Sunday was a day for football and a shopping day before folks headed home. Some of the crazies even sat down for pedicures on the beach. The weather for the whole period was perfect.

All of us that enjoyed this great weekend in Mexico want to spread our enthusiasm so that come 2013, the attendance will triple. The new schedule, cook-off's on Friday and Saturday, instead of Saturday and Sunday as in the old days, really works well. Kicking back on Sunday was right for everyone.

Many of us went down a week before the cookoff just to enjoy Rocky Point. Lots of margaritas washed down lots of great food. There was time to enjoy the elaborate fiery production of Mexican Coffee after dinner at the Lighthouse. There was RV washing and waxing going on and of course checking out the buys from all the vendors on the beach.

For the record, the border crossings were uneventful in both directions as was the 50 mile drive from Lukeville to Rocky Point.

Pictures always tell more than words. Take a look!! By Ted Fichtl





14th South of the Border Fun in the Sun International Open Championship Winners

1st- Carson Smith of Tucson, AZ - **Automatic Qualifier**

2nd – Karen Thomas from Texas - **Automatic Qualifier**

3rd – Tom Edwards of Sierra Vista, AZ - **Automatic Qualifier**

4th – Denise Cabello of Tucson, AZ

5th – Demis Cabello of Tucson, AZ

6th – Tom Klug of Gold Field, AZ

7th – Jay McCleery of Phoenix, AZ

8th – Dave Garner of Phoenix, AZ

9th – Penny Dunn of Sierra Vista, AZ

10th – Dave Boone of Texas

**14th South of the Border Fun in the Sun International Open Championship – Show
Winners**

1st- Jelly Bean Chili, Elmo Hite of Sierra Vista, AZ

2nd – Pam Diffin of Camp Verde, AZ

3rd – Nancy Coultas of Tucson, AZ



Lots more photos on the High Desert Pod webpage www.highdesertpod.org

Letter from our Great Pepper

Happy New Year Chili Cooks,

We are already past our first cook-off in 2012 and on our way to a great Chili New Year. I am so proud of our Pod and the way we pull together to make our cook-offs so much fun. Of course winning or placing is always what we cook for, just cooking and knowing that we are there for a good cause makes the set up, cooking and clean up (really?) worthwhile.

I want to thank everyone for being willing to step up and help out when something is needed for an event. Those who gather raffle prizes, those who sell tickets, those who help with judging, those who coordinate Spam, Ribs, Beans etc, competitions, those who haul coolers, tables, chairs, and pop ups are truly appreciated.

Putting together a cook-off is not easy. I suspect that you know we don't just show up and start cooking. Those who coordinate a cook-off start months ahead meeting with sponsors to ensure that there will be a venue, trophies, palate cleansers, judges, table monitors ...the list goes on, and I want to thank wholeheartedly, Greg Monger for his work at Paul's Pub which was the State Men's and Women's Open, Wyatt Earp Days and Vigilante Days in Tombstone, Ted Fichtl who worked with Ben Berry on the North of the Border International CCO a year ago and his enthusiastic revival of the Elks Lodge CCO, Roy Hannon and everyone who stepped up for the Christmas Parade CCO, Ted Fichtl and Tom Edwards for their work moving us back "South of the Border" last month, and I appreciate all of your help with the July 4th cook-off. This year we have a new cook-off at Sorry Gulch which will benefit the Wounded Warriors on May 5th coordinated by Patti Kunstman.

I want to thank our board members for 2011, Penny Dunn, Pepper Popper, Ted Fichtl, Chili Scribe, and Kim Dunn, Chili Penny for their contribution to the Pod. Patti Kunstman, Web Site, Kim Dunn, Newsletter, and Kat & Jim Tomlin for their work on our Scholarship program, and Kat for keeping up with the Membership. I'm sure I'm missing someone so please accept my apology. A great huge thank you to those who attend the Pod meetings on the 4th Monday of each month and, I want to encourage more of you to join us. We need and want your input and....we actually have a good time socializing before and after the meeting. Please, put 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge on your calendar☺

Thank you, thank you, everyone.

Congratulations for a great year.

KEEP COOKIN'

Sunny Fichtl

Great Pepper

Upcoming Cook-offs!

**February 18, 2012 – 14th Superstition Mountains, Goldfield Ghost
Town**

**March 3, 2012 – the 34th Arizona State Open Championship, Casa
Grande**

March 17th – 4th Arrowhead Harley CCO in Peoria

March 24th – 2nd Nam Jam CCO in Tucson

