

High Desert Pod News Letter



Wyatt Earp Days Cook-off – by Greg Monger

Wyatt Earp Days for the High Desert Pod started off with a nice cook's dinner hosted by the Tombstone Lions Club at Vigilante Hall. We were served pulled pork and shredded BBQ beef sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, chips and salsa and watermelon for dessert. The BBQ sauce was Oklahoma Joes, great stuff.

Sunday morning, 26 of us showed up (some were pretty late) to fight the howling winds, dust and heat to compete in the competition red chili cook-off. Did I mention wind? I personally felt like I had returned to the Midwest and Dorothy's tornado had hit. The weather for the day was hot, windy and sunny....emphasis on wind.

Quite a few out of towners showed up, to include Eve Dumond from El Paso, TX, the Insane Chili Posse from Tucson, a couple of the RU2 chili boys from Phoenix, Myrl and Nancy from Tucson, and the Cabello clan from Tucson. Good to see folks traveling some.

All together, we raised \$571 for the Lions and they were very appreciative. Hope to see you all at our next two cook-offs, 4th of July in Sierra Vista Veterans Park and Vigilante Days in Tombstone.

Wyatt Earp Day Winners in Chili

- 1st - Trina Cabello of Marana, AZ
- 2nd – Sonny Rivera of Marana, AZ
- 3rd – Roy Fisher of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 4th – Myrl Coultas of Tucson, AZ
- 5th – Maryanne Thames of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 6th – Eve Dumond of El Paso, TX
- 7th – Ted Fichtl of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 8th – Sunny Fichtl of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 9th – Carson Smith of Tucson, AZ
- 10th – Kalen Halter of Tucson, AZ

Wyatt Earp Days Show Winners

- 1st - Linda Johnson, Big Bang Show – Casa Grande, AZ
- 2nd – Greg Monger, Professor Mongers Chili Elixir, Sierra Vista, AZ
- 3rd – Eve Dumond, Black Garter, El Paso, TX



Wyatt Earp Day photos!!



Everyone is having so much fun in the old west!!!



Sunny & Ted Fichtl & Maryanne Thames cooking the red on the 4th of July

21st Annual Welcome Home Desert Storm Chili Cook-off, by Sunny Fichtl

In spite of the Monument wildfire that drove several of our pod members from their homes, the loss of two dear pod members and friends and an early morning downpour, the High Desert Pod chili cooks were eager to celebrate something...and what better way than the birth of our country. Twenty three cooks gathered for the twenty first annual Welcome Home Desert Storm Cook-off at the Independence Day celebration in Sierra Vista, Arizona. Because of the wildfires there were no fireworks this year but the day did include a 50 gun canon salute and a very impressive "fly over" from Davis Monthan .

There were fireworks, however, in the mouths of the one hundred fifty tasters who came to support the San Pedro Kiwanis Club charity or, just to enjoy the festivities and taste some darn good chili. Roy Fisher, Arizona Men's State Champion and Norm Dunn, Arizona State Champion were present and stepped up the competitive juices of the other cooks.

Turn in was at twelve thirty, the judging was finished by two o'clock, thanks to our head judge Trudy Berry and her trusty sidekick, Gail Fisher and announcements finished around three just as a large black cloud appeared and a much needed monsoon rain scattered the crowd. But, we all know that not rain, wind, or fire can dampen the spirits of chili cooks. It was a perfect way to spend a holiday.



Myrl Coultas, Greg Monger and Larry Rau.....top 3 winners! Two years in a row for Larry winning

4th of July Chili Cook-off Winners

- 1st- Larry Rau of Hereford, AZ
- 2nd – Myrl Coultas of Tucson, AZ
- 3rd – Greg Monger of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 4th – Roy Fisher of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 5th – Nancy Coultas of Tucson, AZ
- 6th – Sunny Fichtl of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 7th – Lynette Land of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 8th – Penny Dunn of Sierra Vista, AZ
- 9th – Linda Johnson of Casa Grande, AZ
- 10th – Don Johnson of Casa Grande, AZ

4th of July Cook-off Show Winners

1st – Eve DuMond, Black Garter Chili, El Paso, TX

2nd – Linda Johnson, Big Bang Show – Casa Grande, AZ

3rd – Que Chili – Penny Dunn of Sierra Vista, AZ



Craig Harris



Sunny Fichtl



Lilly (Solange Johnson's sister), Linda Johnson, Lilly Johnson and Chad Gonzales

Rocky Point Cook-off – by Ted Fichtl

“Arizona’s beach” — Puerto Peñasco, or Rocky Point — is getting ready to compete internationally for trade shows, conventions and exhibitions.

Construction of the city’s first convention center is set to start this month and will be finished by the end of 2011, officials say.

With an investment of about \$10 million and a capacity of 6,000 visitors, the center will be able to accommodate any type of event, Puerto Peñasco Mayor Alejandro Zepeda said.

“We are already hosting different events, from business to religious events, and sometimes we don’t have the right place for those conventions,” Zepeda said.

The convention center is being built with resources from the state of Sonora and the city, and officials are working with hotels to bring international conventions.

That includes a partnership with the Metropolitan Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote the concept “Come to the convention, come shopping,” said Alejandro Ruiz, general manager of Mayan Palace Beach & Golf Resorts in Rocky Point.

“The idea is to offer to clients from anywhere in Mexico to come to the convention, and we’ll have their car rentals or shuttles ready to take them shopping, either to Tucson or Phoenix,” he said. “We have all the services they need. This is going to attract other types of tourists.”

Felipe García with the Tucson bureau said the organization is putting together a list of potential conventions and events that could be held in Peñasco and include trips to Tucson.

The bureau has done this before. Last year, the organization brought to Tucson groups of tourists from the central Mexican state of Querétaro who flew the first charters to Peñasco.

“We also worked with a mining convention of people from Hermosillo. We sent them tourist guides, et cetera,” García said.

Peñasco needs foreign tourism, but Arizona needs Mexican shoppers, Zepeda said.

Transportation won't be a problem. Peñasco's convention center will have parking capacity for up to 14 buses and shuttles that eventually could be used to bring tourism to the Old Pueblo.

The convention center, located at the old airport facility, also will have parking for 660 cars, an exhibition lobby, a massive conference room, as well as green areas and a roundabout entry area, Zepeda said.

Once the facility is ready, Puerto Peñasco will be looking for companies — including foreign — interested in operating the place. The construction work is by Mexican companies.

Peñasco already has a good hotel infrastructure, with more than 5,000 rooms available, plus condos and houses for rent, the mayor said.

But a convention center is needed, and it also helps to capitalize on other services and tourist attractions such as the golf resorts, beaches and desert, he said.

It's very important that Peñasco is well-known not only in the United States, but in Mexico, and the convention center will bring national events as well, said Ruiz, with the Mayan Palace.

“Nature has been very gracious with Peñasco, so now we are building the convention center to offer the same high-quality services that cities like San Diego or Los Angeles do,” Zepeda said.
Read more: http://azstarnet.com/news/local/border/article_4b3f75b6-9abd-11e0-af69-001cc4c03286.html#ixzz1RqakvEO4

July 25, 2011 pod meeting at the Elk's Lodge at 6:30 pm, please Come!!!

Visit our website at www.highdesertpod.org

Thank you Gail Edwards, Gail Fisher & Greg Monger for the photos! More photos can be on our website!!!

