



SCAT PACK NEWS

Ft. Irwin 2020 Toy Drive Highlights Special Edition



This Scat Pack News Special Edition is a compilation of toy drive articles from the monthly Scat Pack News from 2021. Starting with the President's Message after the January 2021 toy & bike distribution, there are highlights taken from the January, February & March 2021 newsletters. Complete copies of each newsletter can be found at www.inlandmopars.org.

President's Message

Ken Hamer

The 2020 "Christmas In January" toy distribution at Fort Irwin was a HUGE success. Please see the article and photos in this newsletter. I again want to thank Tim and Diane Baer, Paul Roddy, and Bill & Debbie Whitson for making the drive out to Fort Irwin with Judy and me for the toy distribution. We didn't leave Fort Irwin for the drive home until about 6:30pm. The weather was interesting as we ran into some rain starting between Barstow and Victorville. We watched the temperature continue to drop and then the rain turned into snow just before Victorville and continued to the other side of the Cajon Pass summit. We are now awaiting results of the official After Action Report from Fort Irwin so we can plan on improvements for our 2021 Fort Irwin Toy Drive.



From January 2021:

Ken's President's Message had the following about the toy drive:

Even more troubling to many of us was the unsure status of what we were going to be able to do to support our annual Toy Drive for the soldier's kids at Fort Irwin. That worry proved to be unfounded and turned into "good news" due to both creativity and hard work by club members and the incredible generosity of car enthusiasts in SoCal and around the country.

The "good news" resulted in the largest delivery of toys and bicycles ever from Inland Mopars Car Club to Fort Irwin! Saturday December 19th, we delivered two 24-foot enclosed car trailers to the Directorate of Emergency Services at Fort Irwin. One of the trailers was completely full of bicycles and a couple of wagons. The other trailer was completely full, top-to-bottom, side-to-side and end-to-end, of toys. Hopefully you had the chance to see the photos that were distributed via email. The folks at Fort Irwin were completely blown away when they saw how full the trailers were when we lowered the tailgates. They told us multiple times that they couldn't believe that so much was being done for the kids. Another interesting comment I heard was they were very thankful that there was so much in the way of items (bicycles, scooters, balls, etc.) that would require the kids to get outside and play (exercise) rather than sitting inside playing games. Everyone that had anything at all to do with the 2020 Toy Drive effort has every right to be proud. Give yourselves a big pat on the back.

From January 2021 (cont):

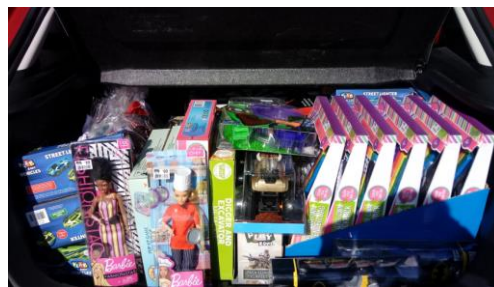
Ft. Irwin Toy Drive 2020 (The complete article can be found on our website at www.inlandmopars.org .)

The toy drive for Ft. Irwin officially started off slowly at the NHRA Mopar Racer's Autograph Session at Glendora Dodge in February and then came to a screeching halt in March due to COVID-19. A toy drive committee was formed in July to see what options we had. Not being a 501c non-profit eliminated a few things. Toy donation boxes were the big thing we went with along with the GOFUNDME link as well as contacting previous toy party goers.

Champion Cooling Systems moved their show date & location a couple of times and were finally able to hold it in October, where we did collect toys & monetary donations. A couple of weeks later the Ramona Tire Get Together & Toy Drive had sunny weather and more toys & monetary donations. The following week was the Mopars & Friends at MoTech Performance with a larger turnout of cars and people than we had previously seen. November wrapped up with the Bob's Big Boy Cruise.

In the meantime, toy donation boxes were filling up in most locations, checks started coming in & the GOFUNDME link was staying busy. Camille Counts had volunteered to help the Ontario fire department distribute toys for another organization. When they had finished they still had toys left so she called her husband Mike to bring the truck & it was filled, inside & out. Hilton Vail & friends in El Cajon purchased 68 bikes for us. They also purchased a bunch of razor scooters along with additional toys. Like Camille, they were part of another toy distribution which had toys left over. Hilton & his wife packed their Tahoe & delivered them to our toy storage.

While all this was happening our dedicated toy shopper, Norma, had been shopping until she couldn't fit anymore in her car. She would say she had toys, they would get picked up, boxed & delivered to toy storage, and she would start again. Typical shopping spree results below. Thank you Norma.



From January 2021 (cont):

Ft. Irwin Toy Drive Trailer Loading



Left; inside 24-foot trailer loaded with initial storage items. About 1/3 full, top to bottom, side to side.



Right; Hilton Vail helping load from secondary storage. Bags of stuffed animals in the foreground. Stacks of razor scooters on the left.



Left; Tim loading razor scooters. Hilton can't believe the amount of boxes & toys.

Right; Paul finishing loading boxes & loose toys.



Below, from left; Mike, Bill & Tim adding a cardboard wall to hopefully keep everything from shifting (nope); 24-foot full load before door gets closed; 24-foot toy bike trailer with 68 bikes before a couple of wagons were added.



Thank you to the storage & loading team for coming out on a Friday: Sil & Carol Brander, Paul Roddy, Tim & Diane Baer, Lonnie & Robin Clabaugh, Bill & Debbie Whitson, Hilton & Lenda Vail, and Judy Hamer. An additional thank you to Sil & Carol for providing pizza & drinks.

From January 2021 (cont):

Ft. Irwin Toy Delivery

After the trailers were loaded, Paul & I hitched up the trailers & headed for home(s) since they were on the way to Fort Irwin.

Saturday morning saw Ken Hamer arrive at Paul's early to transfer more toys he had picked up from the last of the Big Wednesday car cruise boxes. Paul & Ken left early and I followed him up, meeting at the Ft. Irwin Road exit. Tim & Diane followed. We met Sgt. Williar at the visitor center parking. We followed him in without a hitch since they already had visitor passes ready for us. I had let them know the room where we had been delivering toys in the past would not be big enough so they found another building.

When we pulled in we were met by the emergency services personnel, who were Santa's elves this year. The bike trailer was the first to be unloaded. A line was quickly formed and bikes were moved inside. The bike trailer was moved, then the toy trailer moved into place. Stuffed animals first, then a group picture, and then trailer unloading. First from the back door, then from the side door.

Months of work was unloaded in less than an hour. Mrs. Claus was there to keep an eye on things.



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From January 2021 (cont):

Ft. Irwin Toy Delivery (cont)



Toy delivery is done. Now toy distribution. Ft. Irwin is still working on the details of toy distribution but due to COVID restrictions, it will not be the same as in the past. There can't be families lined up for hours with no social distancing. So it will look different but the results will be the same. Hopefully we will see happy smiling faces.

There will be a drawing for the bikes, 68 plus 2 smaller bikes plus 4 that needed to be assembled. Those 68 were from Hilton Vail & friends. One of Hilton's other friends purchased 120 Walmart \$25 gift cards which will also be given out according to whatever way is decided on.

Toy distribution will be held January 23rd. I do not have the times yet. If you are interested in going I will need a copy of your driver's license so it can be submitted to Ft. Irwin ahead of time to get you screened & a visitor's pass issued to get you on base. Do not wait until the last minute.

From February 2021:

Ft. Irwin Toy Distribution



A Fitting Culmination of an Outstanding Campaign

Text by Ken Hamer; Photos by Judy Hamer & Fort Irwin Spouses

Inland Mopars Car Club's 2020 Fort Irwin Toy Drive came to a fitting culmination on Saturday, January 23, 2021, at the "Christmas in January" toy distribution. This event was different than prior years due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions. It was still held outside with cool temperatures the rule, but in a much more open area: the RUFMA, a 2-million+ square-foot pad used primarily for heavy vehicle maintenance and a training staging area. Remember, Fort Irwin is the size of the state of Rhode Island. There isn't anything 'small' about the areas on base.

It was also the first drive-through "Christmas in January" event at Fort Irwin.

Tim & Diane Baer, Ken & Judy Hamer, Paul Roddy, and Bill & Debbie Whitson braved the elements and made the drive to Fort Irwin to both watch and participate in the toy distribution.

Before the first toy was distributed, the Fort Irwin Provost Marshal/Director of Emergency Services (DES), LTC Rahsaan Jackson, presented Inland Mopars Car Club with a Certificate of Appreciation. Ken accepted this on behalf of all of the club members.

With expected military precision the first car was allowed past the gate at 11AM. Each vehicle stopped at the registration table where a sticker was placed on the windshield showing how many kids, ages, and gender were inside. The car then proceeded up the drive to several tents where the toys were gathered. A soldier then removed the sticker, passed it to a runner who then went to the tent where suitable toys for the kids were distributed. The soldier then took the toys back to the vehicle where an Inland Mopars club member presented the toys to the individual kids.



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From February 2021 (cont):

Ft. Irwin 2020 Toy Distribution (cont)

Both watching and participating were Fort Irwin Garrison Commander, Colonel Jeanette Martin, Garrison Command Sergeant Major Paul Fedorisin, DES Director, Colonel Rahsaan Jackson, DES Sergeant Major Fred Killea and many other members of the DES and their family members (below). Also visiting during the day were Brigadier General David Lesperance, the Fort Irwin Commanding General and his wife (right).



\$25-value gift cards were distributed to teenage kids who came to the "Christmas in January" toy distribution. We had some left over following the distribution event and the decision was made to distribute the remaining gift cards to lower-ranking enlisted personnel to be used to purchase food for their families.

Following the conclusion of the 5-hour toy distribution, we relocated to the Sandy Basin Community Center for the distribution of the many bicycles we delivered just prior to Christmas. This was done on Facebook Live with those families that had submitted their children's names all watching on their computers at their homes. Just prior to the beginning of the bicycle-winner selection process, Colonel Martin presented Inland Mopars Car Club with a Certificate of Appreciation from Fort Irwin. Again, Ken accepted on behalf of all of the club members. The bicycle winner selection was started by Col. Martin and several others from Fort Irwin, but the bulk of the winners were randomly picked by Inland Mopars car club members.



From left; Chief, Community Recreation, MWR Mr. Matthew Livingston; Inland Mopars President Ken Hamer; Garrison Commander Col. Jeanette Martin; Garrison Command Sergeant Major Paul Fedorisin; DES Sergeant Major Fred Killea

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From February 2021 (cont):

Ft. Irwin 2020 Toy Distribution (cont)

Check out both https://fb.watch/3dPkO6_yg0/ for a short video from the toy distribution, and https://fb.watch/3dQ5f_DUv/ to watch a video of the bike raffle.

Everybody from Fort Irwin was both amazed and extremely appreciative of the results and hard work done by Toy Drive Chairman, Mike Keller, all members of Inland Mopars Car Club, and Hilton Vail and his group from the San Diego area. We are now collectively known on base as the Fort Irwin "Mopar Family".

As mentioned, both of the Certificates of Appreciation were accepted on behalf of all of the members of Inland Mopars Car Club. Both certificates will be at our February club meeting for you to see.

Thank you to all for making this possible.

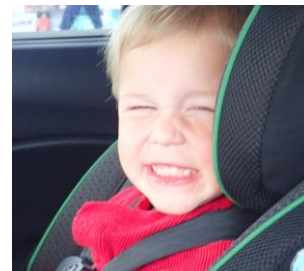
The following is a small sampling of the mostly smiling faces at the toy distribution ...



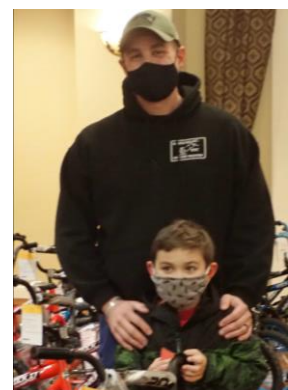
Continued on Page 9

From February 2021 (cont):

Ft. Irwin 2020 Toy Distribution (cont)



...followed by the bike distribution



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From February 2021 (cont):

Ft. Irwin 2020 Toy Distribution (cont)



From March 2021:

Ft. Irwin 2020 Toy Distribution Follow Up



As mentioned in last month's Scat Pack News, before the first toy was distributed, the Fort Irwin Provost Marshal/Director of Emergency Services (DES), LTC Rahsaan Jackson, presented Inland Mopars Car Club with a Certificate of Appreciation. Ken accepted this on behalf of all of the club members. It is shown below. The colors did not scan very well. Yes there is a date typo.



Continued on Page 12

From March 2021 (cont):

Ft. Irwin 2020 Toy Distribution Follow Up (cont)

Also mentioned in last month's Scat Pack News, before the beginning of the bicycle-winner selection process, Colonel Martin presented Inland Mopars Car Club with a Certificate of Appreciation from Fort Irwin. Again, Ken accepted on behalf of all of the club members. It is shown below.



Important Ft. Irwin toy drive links:

https://fb.watch/3dPkO6_yg0/ a short video from the toy distribution

https://fb.watch/3dQ5f_DUv/ a video of the bike raffle

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmTWt9mj> 161 additional photos from the Ft. Irwin Public Affairs Office

<https://online.flipbuilder.com/vzwd/qcwx/> Latest edition of the Fort Irwin Newspaper, *the High Desert Warrior*

Continued on Page 13

From March 2021 (cont):

Ft. Irwin 2020 Toy Distribution Follow Up (cont)

The following was taken out of the Ft. Irwin February *High Desert Warrior*.



Christmas in January event continues for 11th year, despite pandemic



Casey Slusser, Fort Irwin Public Affairs

Courtesy of the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES)

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — Saturday, Jan. 23 was a special day for the desert dwellers of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin military community. The Garrison was buzzing with activity before sunrise. The preparation was powered by flashlights glaring, diesel engines churning, and clanking of hundreds of toys being stacked into trucks— all to the melody of Christmas music.

As the prep crews were staging at the Rotational Unit Forward Marshaling Area (RUFMA), the Inland Empire MOPAR Club convoyed in late model Ram pickup-trucks from various locations, to our remote corner of the High Desert to kick off the 11th annual Christmas In January event.

The event officially kicked off at high noon, like previous years under ominous skies, and blistering winds. This year, the event took place in the RUFMA. By using the RUFMA as the toy distribution site, it allowed a drive-through style event, in which residents drove up to the toy distribution site and volunteers handed toys through the vehicle windows. Once toys were received, residents could simply drive away. This maximized Centers for Disease Control and Prevention best practices for the pandemic, such as social distance and protective barriers, and ensured both visitors and volunteer staff were as safe as possible throughout the event. The NTC Command teams and family members came out to support the event. Approximately 500 families attended the drive-through portion of the event. Matt Livingston, Chief of the Community Recreation Division of the FMWR, was active behind the scenes in supporting the event this year and he had the following feelings about the event:

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From March 2021 (cont):

Ft. Irwin 2020 Toy Distribution Follow Up (cont)

“I think I speak for all of the FMWR team when I say that it is truly an honor and privilege to be involved in the annual Christmas in January event,” Livingston said. “While FMWR is responsible for bringing special events and programs to the Fort Irwin community all year around, this event holds a special place in our hearts. It brings us joy to see the smiles and excitement on all the kid’s faces as they line up and receive the presents. We look forward to teaming up with the Inland MOPAR team for Christmas in January and hope this wonderful program continues each and every year.”

The pandemic dampened spirits from coast to coast for the better part of the year, and, rather than accept defeat, for all things fun, the Garrison team, showed what kinds of things are possible with a little vision and planning. “The show must go on,” is an old Hollywood mantra which the Golden State’s “Guardians” channeled to complete the mission and spread some Goodwill.

The origins of the Christmas in January event revolved around big hearted, patriotic members of the Inland MOPARs who wanted to give something back to the military community. Some of the members are veterans, others had family members who served, and some never served at all, but all adore the troops, gift-giving, and classic muscle cars. That adoration and mutual partnership has entered its 11th year and is still going strong. Each year the MOPAR Club donates toys to the Fort Irwin team to show support for the NTC and Fort Irwin mission and spread some cheer for our residents. Col. Jeanette Martin, and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Fedorisin had boots on ground through the entirety of the event, providing proactive command guidance, and thanking volunteers and visiting families.

Following the drive-through portion of the event, cold winds and rain dampened the forecast, but not the spirits, as the virtual bike raffle commenced, at the Sandy Basin Conference Center. The raffle was live streamed on the Garrison Facebook page (facebook.com/FtIrwin), which allowed a socially-distanced opportunity to announce the winners, and for families to retrieve children’s bicycles. Martin and Fedorisin presented a certificate of appreciation to the MOPAR Club, for their enduring support to the community. Sgt. Maj. Fred Killea with the Directorate of Emergency Services coordinated several supporting actions

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From March 2021 (cont):

Ft. Irwin 2020 Toy Distribution Follow Up (cont)

for the event, and he said that he was humbled by the generous donations provided by MOPAR this year and looks forward to helping out next year.

The Christmas in January event reminds parents of what it feels like to be a child again. It provides a sense of purpose, direction, and motivation for the soldier, DA civilian, civilian, and family member volunteers who facilitate the event. Additionally, the families with children are afforded a final holiday gesture of generosity to start off the new year. The Garrison team truly cares about the quality of life for families who call Fort Irwin home. Rather than spending time with loved ones, the Garrison assembled a small Army of volunteers to support the event. As the night closed, and the final bikes were peddled out of Sandy Basin by celebratory youth and parent, the Inland Empire MOPAR convoy waved farewell and the Garrison crew closed everything down, dimmed the lights, locked the doors, and disappeared into the night, knowing that they accomplished something truly special. From the Christmas Tree Lighting in December to the Christmas in January, we wish you all, a happy New Year.



Courtesy of NTC/Fort Irwin Directorate of Emergency Services

Inland Mopars can take credit for pushing the toy drive and delivering the toys & bikes but thanks really goes out to all the generous citizens for their donations. We couldn't have done it without them.

From March 2021 (cont):

Ft. Irwin 2020 Toy Distribution Follow Up (cont)

Please support the following businesses that supported us by having a toy donation box on their premises

	Antioch Church/ Gather Coffee	7895 Mission Grove Pkwy Unit C, Riverside, CA 92508 (951) 330-1962 Sat 7:30-Noon iamantioch.com
	Bravo Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Alhambra	1100 W Main St, Alhambra, CA 91801 (626) 283-5212 bravocdjrofalhambra.com
	Cactus Cantina	151 E Alessandro Blvd, Riverside, CA 92508 (951) 789-0211 cactuscantinariverside.net
	DCH Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Fiat of Temecula	26845 Ynez Rd, Temecula, CA 92591 (951) 225-4541 www.dchchryslerjeepdodgeoftemecula.com
	Duke's Cafe	2099 E Orangethorpe Ave, Placentia, CA 92870 (714) 983-7056 www.dukescafeyl.com
	Esther's Taco House	2001 E Orangethorpe Ave, Placentia, CA 92870 (714) 996-2397 estherstacos.com
	Glendora Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram	931 South Lone Hill, Glendora, CA 91740 (909) 599-9300 glendorchryslerjeepdodge.com
	Hemet Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram	425 Motor Way, Hemet, CA 92545 (951) 651-7900 hemetcdjr.com
	John Elway's Crown Toyota	1201 Kettering Dr, Ontario, CA 91761 (909) 515-8397 www.crowntoyota.com
	Lake Elsinore Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram	31400 Auto Center Drive, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530 (951) 291-9700 www.lakeelsinoredodge.com/ www.lakecdjr.com
	Lifestyle Cycles	1510 N. State College Blvd, Anaheim, CA 92806 (714) 490-0155 www.lifestylecycles.com
	MAC Speed and Custom	809 South Lakeview Avenue n, Placentia, CA 92870 (714) 580-7848
	MoJave Ford Nissan of Barstow	1010 Main St., Barstow, CA 92311 (760) 957-0728 mojavefordbarstow.net
	MoJave Toyota Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Barstow	631 West Main St., Barstow, CA 92311 (760) 256-3502 mojaveofbarstow.com

	Molly's Souper	388 N 1st Ave, Upland, CA 91786 (909) 982-1114 6 to 2
	MoTech Performance	41715 Elm St #301, Murrieta, CA 92562 (951) 813-3550 motechperformance.com
	Mr. D's Diner	919 Foothill Blvd, La Verne, CA 91750 (909) 593-0111 mrdsrestaurants.com
	Mr. D's Diner, Bakery & Bar	126 Yorba Linda Blvd, Placentia, CA 92870 (714) 985-1111 mrdsrestaurants.com
	NAPA Auto Parts - Mojave Auto Parts Inc.	1420 Main Street, Barstow, CA 92311 (760) 256-6841 napaonline.com
	O'Reilly Auto Parts - Upland	875 W Foothill Blvd, Upland, CA 91786 (909) 981-5402 locations.oreillyauto.com/ca/upland
	Patriots and Paws	1825 E Via Burton, Anaheim, CA 92806 (714) 323-7229 T, TH, Sat www.patriotsandpaws.org
	PMR Race and Speed	10256 6th Street, Rancho Cucamonga, 91730 (909) 941-7800 Race Shop (909) 483-2488 Speed Shop M-F: 8-5; Sat: 9-1 www.pmraceandspeed.com
	Puente Hills Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram	17280 Gale Ave, City of Industry, CA 91748 (626) 626-2000 www.puentehillscdjr.com
	R&R Automotive	8800 Onyx Ave A, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909) 980-6308 M-F 8-5 www.randrautomotiverancho.com
	Ramona Tire & Service Center - Rancho Cucamonga	11836 Foothill Blvd, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909) 944-9394 www.ramonatire.com/locations/rancho-cucamonga-ca
	Steer N' Stein - Moreno Valley	14950 Perris Blvd, Moreno Valley, CA 92553 (951) 243 8799 www.steernstein.com