



Dear Friend, Rider and Fellow Veteran,

The VFW Riders is a motorcycle group made up of members of the VFW and VFW Auxiliary members in good standing. We are a group within the VFW that enjoys motorcycling as a past time. We are a family-oriented group and are **pro-military**. We also encourage our members to support other veterans' rider groups.

Although we are self-governed and are not currently an official part of the VFW, we follow the by-laws of the VFW and support the Armed Forces and the Commander in Chief of the United States of America.

Our members come from all walks of life and have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States in times of conflicts. We ride all types of motorcycles - 500cc or larger - of both foreign and domestic manufacture. By our definition, a motorcycle is a two-wheeled vehicle and we do allow "trikes", i.e. three-wheeled motorcycles.

Our purpose:

- To ride and have fun!!!!
- To participate in parades and other ceremonies that honor American veterans and are in keeping with the aims and purposes of the VFW.
- To promote motorcycle safety programs and provide a social atmosphere for VFW members who share the same interest.
- To use our association to promote and support the programs of the VFW.
- To raise money to support the Arizona Cottage of the VFW National Home for Widows and Orphans.
- To raise money to support at least one local charity/charities of the chapter's choice.

We are an open organization! As a member, you may invite whomever you want to our open functions – rides, meetings, ceremonies, etc. Please remember, we are not an "MC" (a Motorcycle Club); we are an association of proud veterans who are members of the VFW and love to ride motorcycles.

Why we are called Sky Islands Chapter:

We call ourselves the Sky Island Chapter because we live in the Madrean Sky Island Region of North America. "Sky Islands" are isolated mountain ranges separated by large valleys in which other eco-systems are located. In other words, the eco-system at the lower elevations is desert in nature, while the eco-systems of the mountains have vastly different animals, plants and climates, just like the oceans contain different life than an island would, hence the "Sky Islands".

This region is the best known example in the world of Sky Islands, from the northern end of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range in New Mexico, across Arizona, Chihuahua, and Sonora on the U.S.-Mexico border, as depicted below.



POC's:

- Bill Simcox, Director VFW Riders – 234-7080
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- Shorty Larson, Commander VFW Post 9972 – 508-7418
- Our website is www.vfwridersaz.org
- VFW website is www.vfw.org