

Thunder by the Bay a huge success in Lakewood Ranch!



Photos by Tim Britt and Michael Whitney

This year's 19th annual Thunder By The Bay Motorcycle Festival was held for the first time in Lakewood Ranch, and the new location proved very successful! Ancient Oak Gun Club kicked things off with a strong turnout during Thunder's Sporting Clay Tournament, followed by more than 200 guests attending the "Born To Be Wild" kickoff party at Polo

Grill & Bar on Lakewood Ranch's Main Street. Despite one day of inclement weather, more than 25,000 attended this year's "Rock-in' & Ridin' at The Ranch" festival held at The Premier Sports Campus at Lakewood Ranch. This year's new location enabled Suncoast Charities for Children to expand and refresh the event with plenty of parking

available. The number of vendors tripled, officials said, and new demo acts and displays were added, along with a brand new "Taste of Thunder" tented area. "Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Lakewood Ranch, the Manatee Sheriff's Office, and the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau were extremely welcoming

and helpful to organizers, with only four months to plan this year's Festival," said Lucy Nicandri, executive director for Suncoast Charities for Children. "Thunder By The Bay is the charity's biggest annual fundraiser, and I received positive feedback from our vendors, attendees, musicians, and most of all our generous sponsors.

"I can't help think about how much better we can make next year's event with a year to plan ahead," Nicandri said. Plans are already underway for the Festival's 20th Anniversary, scheduled for Jan. 4-7, 2018 at the same locations. To get involved, and for Festival updates, be sure to visit: thunderbythebay.org

