In her 12-year racing career Valerie Thompson has earned the nickname 'America's Queen of Speed' ~ and she doesn't come by the title lightly. In 2016 she became the first female motorcyclist to break 300mph. She's only the second person to enter the 300 MPH Club in Australia. To date, she remains the fastest female motorcycle rider in the world.

In March 2018, she & her Team "7" Racing crew traveled to Australia to face a formidable challenge... to

break the world record of 376.36mph. Well, pretty much anyone who is on either Facebook or YouTube knows how that turned out. BUT to be clear... her trip 'Down Under' can certainly still be looked on as a success.

Earlier in the DRLA {Dry Lakes Racers Australia} Speed Week rally at Lake Gairdner in Australia, she broke her personal best speed of 304.263 by reaching a blistering 328.467 mph.

And while it may not be the record she HOPED to set in Australia; with her 343mph wreck, Valerie set a record as the only person to ever walk away from a motorcycle crash at that speed. "The



unique design and engineering of the 7 Streamliner proved its worth by keeping Valerie safe."

Valerie commented that, since the wreck, she's stepping back temporarily to smell the roses before launching into her next racing challenge. But one can

guess that her 'need for speed' will call her back to the line before too long.

A fellow Arizonan, you can expect to find her participating in the upcoming IFRD {International Female Riders Day} Arizona event, taking place on May 5. You can follow a link

to more about that event in our calendar.

She has been inducted into the Sturgis Hall of Fame, Class of 2018 ~ so those of you traveling to Sturgis this year may get a chance to see her as she visits for the Induction Ceremony at the Museum.

But BEFORE all that.... You can *meet* her *this* month, as she makes an appearance during <u>Arizona Bike Week</u>, at the <u>Law Tigers</u> booth in the Legend Pavilion. Mark your calendar for April 12, from 7-9pm.

What else is she up to? Follow Valerie on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ValerieRacing

Thank you Valerie, for taking the time to speak with me. Best of luck in all of your endeavors!

Betsy

