

Arizona Bike Week 2022



The 25th anniversary AZ Bike Week took place Wednesday April 6th through Sunday April 10, 2022 at West-World in Scottsdale. An estimated 76,000 people attended throughout the event. Area hotels reported a record number of room nights from visiting attendees and each year there is increased demand for camping spaces.

New this year, you could purchase a ticket strictly for the PowerYard... vendor village, local music, stunt shows, etc ... everything but the headliner concerts ... for just \$12 ... for *all five days*. The RockYard ticket to see all three nights headliners was \$102... or you could buy a single night ticket to see your favorite. {I heard someone talking about pricing out a ticket for Lynyrd Skynyrd at a TX concert at \$126... So the AZ Bike Week concert series was a pretty cool deal!}

Music and Motorcycles are of course the two main ingredients of this rally...

There were some very cool bikes to be seen throughout the weekend. The 'FXR Friends Throwdown' was ex-

plained to have started with two builders & it just grew from there. It evolved into a tribute to the FXR model. This wasn't a competition. There were no trophies. It was simply a reveal & display of vintage, collectible bikes customized by some well-known builders just for the fun of it.

Rather than having all the bike shows grouped up together on one day as in the past, the 'Cycle Source / Torque Magazines Bike Show' was held on Friday, with the Paul Yaffe Baddest Bagger Show on Saturday.

Wednesday visitors to the Handlebar Saloon in the PowerYard were treated to a lineup of young talent from Alice Cooper's Solid Rock Foundation... 15 different bands! The evening wrapped with a performance by Co-Op – fronted by Dash Cooper.

The Valley of the Sun is blessed with some seriously talented musicians. Throughout the weekend there was music in the HandleBar Saloon by about 28 local bands. Performances included the Arizona Highwaymen, Bench Warrant,

Black Horse, Christopher Shayne Band, I Don't Know ~ an Ozzy Osborne Tribute, Jaded Jukebox, Ripple Affect, Scarlett Fever, Soundnamkillz, Southbound Rider Band, Stereo Rex, The Rev, and the Whiskey Dogz.

The RockYard was set up inside the North Hall, rather than the open-air arrangement of the past. The new, indoor, RockYard venue provided more technical options to the headliners' light & sound techs; plus some bleacher & other seating options to the fans.

Rob Zombie coming to the RockYard was noted as being a big deal. Apparently he doesn't do as many shows as in past. He was DEFINITELY appreciated by his fans!!

Lynyrd Skynyrd played to a full house. Lisa Cyr commented, "The most



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profound moment was undoubtedly during Lynyrd Skynyrd's performance of Free Bird, when Johnny Van Zant hung a hat on the mic stand and stepped back. The band continued playing and his brother Ronnie appeared on the video wall to sing a verse, nearly 45 years after his passing. There wasn't a dry eye in the house full of rough and tough bikers."

The Motorcross Extreme Stunt Show was impressive to watch; as was the Ives Brothers 'Wall of Death'. You may have seen a rider in a 'Wall of Death' motodrome cylinder before... But have you seen TWO riders running the boards at the SAME time? That was amazing!

Bike Week Contest involved men's pole dancing... 'nuf said! I'll leave it to your imaginations ☺

My thanks to [AZ Bike Week](#) organizer Lisa Cyr for her input to this article. They work very hard to bring this together each year... trying new ideas, keeping what works. She shared, "We were thrilled with the positive response to the changes we made this year and are committed to continually making adjustments to the event to address the desires of our attendees."

The 2023 dates have been announced! Mark your calendars... for March 29 – April 2nd.

'bye for now ~
Betsy



Additional activities included the factory demos rides with Harley-Davidson and Indian Motorcycles, a tattoo contest, happy hour comedy show, a fire dancer as part of the evening's roaming entertainment, and various charity rides. And then there's some stuff ... let's face it... You just had to be there ~ cuz there are no words ~ lol! The Mr AZ

