

AZ ROCKABILLY BASH

We spent the weekend of March 26-28, 2021 camping at Lake Pleasant Harbor, Peoria, AZ; to enjoy Arizona's 10th annual Rockabilly Bash. Vehicles and vendors were getting settled in on Friday morning for what they hoped would be a busy weekend. We'd never attended this event before but are glad we had the chance to this time.

This is a beautiful venue. The music stage and many of the vehicles are on a grassy area overlooking Lake Pleasant. Afternoon breezes off of the water kept things cool. The sun setting over Lake Pleasant was beautiful!

The event kicked off at 3pm on Friday, with music rolling until about 9pm. The Ms Rockabilly Pageant contestants were introduced during a band break. A stroll through gave us the chance to get a look at the cars, bikes, vendors, and the 'lay of the land'. It was all a very nice warm up for the big day.... Saturday.

Saturday morning everything kicked back in about 9am. Emcee Tumbleweed kept everyone informed as to what would be happening throughout the day.

The day started off with our Nation-

al Anthem. It was performed a cappella; by a woman named Kimmy who had the talent to actually get it done properly, respectfully, & beautifully. Thank you!

Seven different bands performed over the weekend. There were some very talented performers out there. Some bands brought music that was more traditional 'Rockabilly' & 'rock n roll' than others. Some strayed from the rockabilly theme of the weekend. No Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, etc. There was even some 70s tunes, Aerosmith, Tom Petty, & others mixed in there ... which made for an interesting overall playlist. But all the musicians seemed to be well received. We could certainly see why the 'Delta Bombers' were invited to come back as headliner.

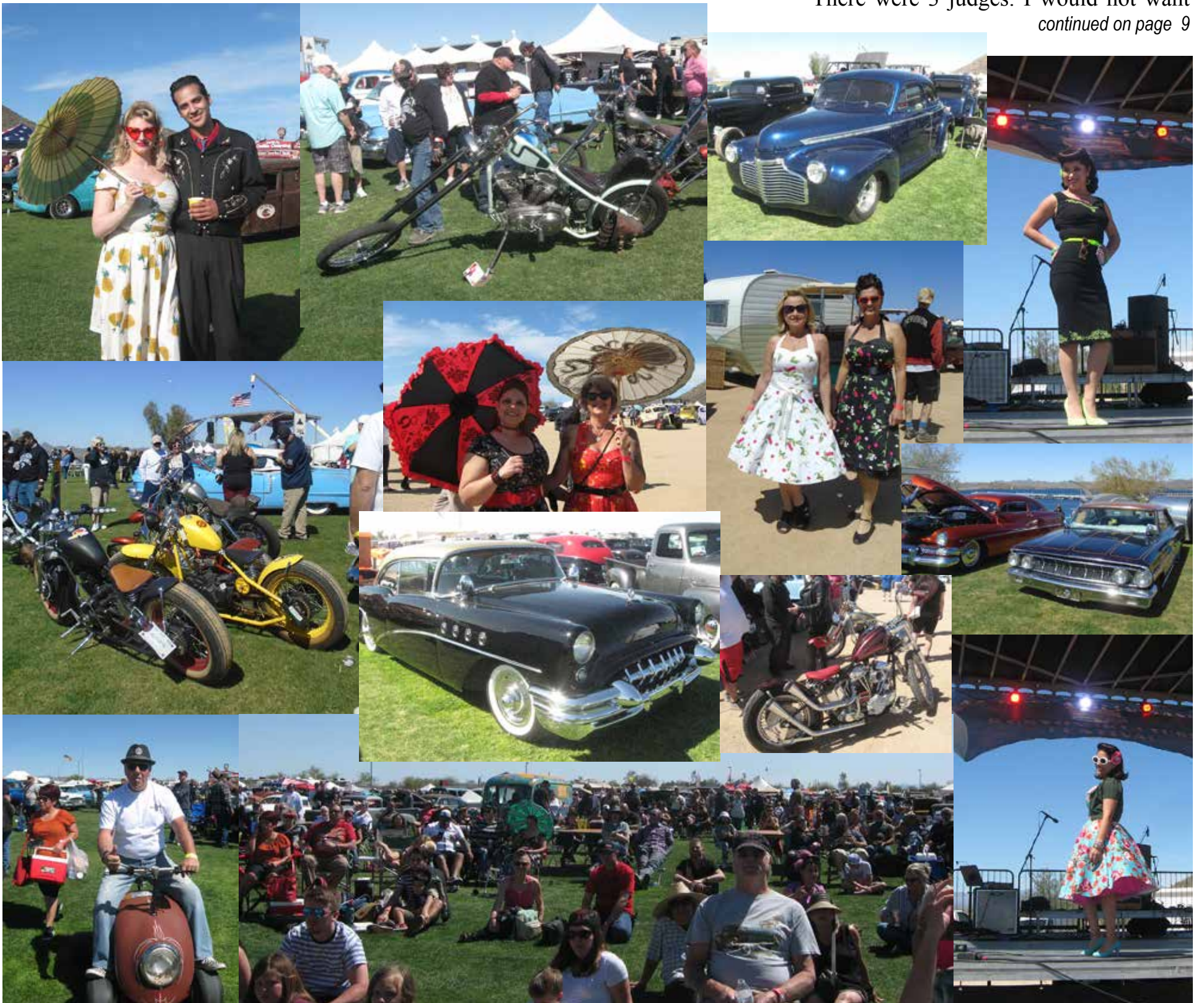
The 'Run What Ya Brung' drags were a lot of fun to watch. Unlike other shows where the vehicles are in a static display; here you'd see cars coming & going as they made their way over to the racing zone. Some of these cars were definitely built for GO as well as SHOW! There were also a number of 'sleepers' in the lineup.

Among the 55 vendors were some familiar names ~ like Clip Man, and Blades & Shades. The Templar Crusaders MC had their Broken Wings Foundation fundraising booth set up.

You could find apparel – including the vintage styles for guys & gals, tattoo work, jewelry, giftables, and more. There was a psychic reader and a barber. There were quite a few food trucks, offering a variety of tasty-looking options. There were, understandably, various auto services -- pinstripping, powder coating, painters, & others. A fellow had vintage license plates for sale, to make the perfect addition to your classic car project. Realtor Becky Bliss had a booth set up.... AND she offered coffee along with her informational materials. VERY cool. Thank you!

The Ms Rockabilly pageant started out with some 28 candidates on Friday night. The contestants were all ages. The style and sass these women have is fantastic! Throughout the weekend they went through various elimination stages... answering questions, posing with & without cars, outfit changes, & such. There were 3 judges. I would not want

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their job! There were some really cool gals there to choose from.

In the 'tell us a bit about yourself' phase, we learned that some of these women have pretty serious occupations and lives... military, first responder, spouses of same, teachers, etc. It was noted that pinup can be a way to step back from that for a little while & just have some fun.

Congratulations to the Ms AZ

Rockabilly Bash Pageant winners!

Miss Mel Rose -

Miss Rockabilly Bash, Phoenix, AZ

Miss Sassy Marie -

1st Runner Up, Tucson, AZ

Millie Rose Mitchell -

2nd Runner Up, Minneapolis, MN

Voodoo Vixen -

Miss Psychobilly, New Orleans, LA

Vixen VonRaven -

People's Choice, Southern California

Although there was a lot going on, the centerpiece for us was definitely the cars & bikes. The vintage trailers were a very cool addition! If you entered your vintage auto & trailer, you could overnight

right there. These are the predecessors to the current day RVs and travel trailers. Just like with the cars, some have been left vintage on the outside but modernized. Others are pure restoration. You can visualize these pairings making their way along old Route 66 back in the day.

With over 1000 cars & motorcycles to enjoy viewing throughout the weekend in so many styles, we wouldn't even try to pick a favorite. There is something about most any vehicle that can be admired or appreciated... whether for straight-out beauty, or artistry, or creativity, or even audacity ☺ Congratulations to Edward Gonzales for earning Best of Show with his 1955 Buick.

We counted more than 20 vendors at Sunday morning's Swap Meet. Many had parts and collectibles --- including some of those 'hard to find' items that can make restoring a vehicle both frustrating and rewarding. There were tools, bumpers, wheels & covers, motorcycle & car art, and a last chance to visit a few of the vendors from the days before.

The weekend's turnout was excel-

lent... in participants and spectators both. Several thousand came through the gate to see some 1200 vehicles. And it wasn't just local folks either. There were show entries from California, Colorado, Missouri, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, & Utah.

We have far more photos than we could include in these pages. [Check out our album here.](#) You are welcome to tag & share them.

The AZ Rockabilly Bash organizers sent thanks to O' Reilly Auto, Scorpion ATV Rentals, AZ Differential Specialists, Affordable Powder Coating, & Viva Las Vegas Rockabilly Weekend. "We had such a great festival & we look forward to next year!" Their next Rockabilly Bash will be March 25-26, 2022. You can watch for updates on the [AZ Rockabilly Bash webpage](#) or [follow them on facebook](#).

So many people are ready to get OUT of their homes and BACK to their LIVES! This all-ages family-friendly event was a perfect opportunity. Congratulations on a successful & fun weekend!

Betsy & Bruce

