

Arizona Bike Week 2023

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AZ Bike Week 2023 took place March 29 thru April 2nd. Traveling through our desert toward WestWorld in Scottsdale for AZ Bike Week gave the opportunity to view some of Mother Nature's finery.... Wildflowers of yellow, blue, orange, and purple adorned the landscape. Cool morning rides & blue sky gave riders the ideal setting to enjoy their AZ Bike Week adventures.

There was so much positive feedback for this event !

The Power Yard at WestWorld was home base for AZ Bike Week's vendors, bike shows, exhibition rider shows, music, & more. New this year was the Grease and Gears Garage show filming segments in the Kickstand Bar. Discussions on performance bikes, pros & cons of chrome vs paint, and other topics were discussed.

Another new attraction was the Dyno Drags. This innovative racing for-

mat gave riders the opportunity to test their bike's performance in a standing ¼ mile race against another motorcycle. Best of 3 races determined the winner.

A Used Bike Corral, also new this year, was set up in the PowerYard. It was another successful addition to the ABW lineup. There was a total of 28 bikes in quite a variety.... Customs, minis, metrics, cruisers, & more. All sales were private between buyer & seller, so there is no word on how many sold. But from the people observed walking around & the conversations going on, it is likely that some deals were struck ☺

As in the past, there were some amazing stunt riders, with exhibitions throughout the event from the Brigade Freestyle Motocross Extreme Stunt Show and the Clint Ewing Freestyle Stunt Show. You can check out clips on the AZ Bike Week facebook page.

Vendors included the usual expect-

tations.... Apparel, bike accessories, jewelry, leather goods for bike & bod, LEDs, parts, patches & stitching, purses, seats, sound systems, wheels; plus home services, windows, furnishings, flooring.... Too much to list it all.

Of course, MUSIC is always a BIG part of this event, and this year was no different. There was a total of 25 different bands in this year's lineup, including each night's headliners: Texas Hippie Coalition on Wednesday [with opener, Dierdre], Billy Idol on Thursday [opener Kelsy Karter & the Heroines], Megadeth on Friday [opener Color of Chaos], and Staind on Saturday [opener Jesse Money]. AZ Bike Week has always been a big supporter of the Arizona music scene. There were performances in the HandleBar Saloon throughout the weekend by The Darn Kids, Drop Diezel, Jaded Jukebox, KOZA, Mojo Rats, Moon-

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shine Voodoo, Southbound Rider Band, Retro-Active, Ripple Affect, School of Rock Sugar Skulls, The Sintrics, Skarlett Fever, Stereo Rex, Too Loud, Travis Bickle, Whiskey's Quicker, & Znora.

For folks who wanted to add to their AZ Bike Week party experience, there's a camping area for RVs & tents. This year there were about 530 RVs and 80 tents making AZ Bike Week their 24/7 'home away from home'.

Other ABW attractions included the Demo Rides with Harley-Davidson, Indian, and BMW motorcycles. Miss AZ Bike Week was crowned. There were bike games, a charity live auction plus a silent auction, and a Sunday morning Swap Meet. ABW was the destination for several charity rides, some of which you'll read about in upcoming editions of *AZ Rider*. There was LOTS of eye candy, including the *Cycle Source* Perfor-

mance Bike Show, *Cycle Source* Custom Bike Show, & the Iron Goddess Ladies Bike Show; PLUS the 'Chopper Friends Throwdown Reveal'. Late night entertainment in the HandleBar included a Tattoo Contest, Mr AZ Bike Week, Dirty Dogg Games, and the Wet-Tshirt Contest.

Organizer Lisa Cyr relayed that attendance hit 85,000 this year! Congratulations on your success & growth!

The passing of AZ Bike Week President Brad Bennett was a huge hit to the ABW team, not only personally but on an organizational level as well. A Tribute to Brad was a moving part of the ABW activities – including a 'missing man' flyover, over the PowerYard. Lisa shared, "We lost our President, Brad Bennett, over the summer. This left us as an all-woman owned event, with Kristina Anderson, Suzy Yaffe and myself to run the show. As you can imagine, there

were many huge gaps to fill. We are very proud to not only have pulled it off without any significant hitches but to have also had record attendance. We are extremely grateful to our extended Arizona Bike Week family, who rallied around us and lent their support. It certainly takes a village to create a five-day temporary biker town and we couldn't do it without all those that pitched in to help make it happen."

AZ Bike Week 2023 had enough going on to entertain most anybody! 2024 is already on the roster. Next year's dates are April 3 – 7, 2024. Put AZ Bike Week on your calendar & check it out for yourself too ☺

Follow [AZ Bike Week on facebook](#) and visit the [ABW website](#) to see more pix & clips from 2023 & stay up to date on 2024 plans.

'bye for now ~ Betsy

