

ARIZONA RIDER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE ON TWO WHEELS

BIKES AND BANDS ROCK THE BIG TOP

PHOTOS AND STORY BY RANDALL BOHL

When spring rolls around in the Valley, so do motorcycles, by the thousands. Pre-Rally activities ran from March 25-29, and the 15th Anniversary Arizona Bike Week Cyclefest at WestWorld in north Scottsdale kept everybody busy from March 30 to April 3. Beyond plenty of camaraderie and great open road riding all week, Cyclefest anchored the Miss Arizona Bike Week Pageant, the Wall of Death, the 1st Annual Leather and Luck Tournament and multiple charity rides and poker runs. Additional events included the Backstage Biker Bash with Gretchen Wilson, the Baddest Bagger in AZ event, tributes and honors, and a string of live performances.

The Pre-Rally included Legends Bar & Grill Breakfast Socials, The Hideaway Grill Kick-Off Party and Chester's HD Backstage Biker Bash V. Buddy Stubbs Harley-Davidson hosted the 7th Annual Buddy Stubbs Bike Week Bash. And there were Biker Parties at TT Roadhouse, Greasewood Flat, The Steel Horse Saloon and other sites.

Wednesday March 30 began with a Legends Bar & Grill Breakfast Social, followed by the 280-mile Riding for Kids Charity Run on behalf of Camp Courage Burn Camp for Kids. The day wrapped up with Sinister Indus-

tries Day, and the Arizona Bike Week Hero Party honoring Barry Caraway at The Hideaway Grille. Entertainment was provided by the Cell Phone Cowboys and Sludge's Build-A-Band at the ABW Roadhouse in the afternoon, then a performance by Coverz, Inc., the Miss Arizona Bike Week Pageant, and Skid Row performing at the HandleBar Saloon well into the night. Warrant performed at the HandleBar on Thursday.

After Friday's Legends Social, the group met at Paul Yaffe Originals to launch the Hamsters Custom Motorcycle Group's "Dry Heat" Charity Poker Run benefitting Black Hills Children's Care in Sturgis SD. After lunch at Cody's Smoke House and Grill in Cave Creek came The Hideaway Grill & Broken Spoke Gypsy Tour, ending at WestWorld. Afternoon performances included Hollywood & Vine (formerly Hellbound), the 74th Street Band and Jasmine Caine, with a break for a Tribute to Excellence aware for Arlen Ness before a standing-room-only concert by Heart in the HandleBar Saloon. Capping the evening were the 5th Annual Jager Games.

Additional concerts included Buckcherry on Saturday and Mogollon on Sunday, at the HandleBar Saloon.



Bike Rally Photos of Red River NM offered 8x10 prints of bikers "on the road" entering Cyclefest, within hours of arrival. This was a very popular place to see, be seen and see yourself immortalized. www.bikerrallyphotos.com

At the entrance to WestWorld Cyclefest, manufacturers offered test rides. Harley-Davidson was present, of course, as well as Kawasaki, Can-Am, Star Motorcycles and the V-Star lineup from Yamaha. Shown is a truckload of Boss Hoss V8-powered machines from Tennessee, brought in by the Scottsdale Boss Hoss dealership.

Looking for enhanced V-Twin performance? S&S Cycle was on hand with technical experts showing their extensive line of aftermarket parts to beef up your Harley, including heads, cylinders and exhaust systems. www.sscycle.com

The Cell Phone Cowboys were jamming in the AWB Roadhouse when we stopped in, playing a bit of everything rock and even adding some horn to bring a little sound of New Orleans to the desert.

Speaking of heavy metal, JL McKinney jewelry for men (and women) offers several lines of silver and turquoise biker bling created by Lionel and Tillie McKinney, as well as lines by several other artisans from Albuquerque. www.jlmckinney.com

A break from the walking and shopping landed us in the Cyclefest Cantina party tent, where Sludge's Build-a-Band is rocking. Sludge (far right) is the morning DJ at 93.3 KDKB Phoenix.

KEEP RIGHT >>





Ray Helmer, owner of FastLights LEDS, brought his fully-loaded 18-wheeler from Georgia with several cycle lifts and technicians to install custom lighting on your bike while you wait (or while you checked out some more of Cyclefest). Check them out in color at night at www.fastlightsleds.com

Among the HandleBar Saloon headliners were Skid Row, Warrant and Buck Cherry. Ann and Nancy Wilson of Heart (above) rocked an overflow crowd on Friday night. www.heart-music.com

Another stop by the HandleBar Saloon gave us a chance to refresh with Arizona's own Coverz Inc., rocking '70s and '80s hits. www.coverzinc.com

Cyclefest being about eating, drinking, concerts ... and shopping ... we found plenty of ladies' apparel and "add-ons," including gear by Jackie Faulkner of Palm Desert CA, who brought her Sophisticated Sparkles to town, including clothing, jewelry, handbags and hats—just about everything a lady needs other than shoes. www.braladys.com

The most unique vendor at Cyclefest may have been Bad Ass Bouquets of Scottsdale. Owner Michele Dusz has conceived floral arrangements that are "memorable yet mobile"—fine artificial flowers that can take the wind at speed, attached to your bike or leather lapels. Custom silver skull holders were one example that could balance the effect. (Michele provided backstage floral arrangements for Heart.) www.badassbouquets.com

Skip and Leilani Greel of Lake Havasu City AZ own the River Exchange. Leilani and her Serger (which is one heavy-duty sewing machine) can stitch any of hundreds of patches onto your best set of leathers while you wait. (Skip tells us he'd be willing to sell the business and retire, if you're looking for a career opportunity; Leilani is not included with the business.) www.biker-biker.com

A good reason to stick around the HandleBar Saloon after Coverz Inc. was to watch the lovely ladies competing for the Miss Arizona Bike Week 2011 title.

