

**VALERIE THOMPSON VACATES PILOT SEAT IN BUB 7 STREAMLINER MOTORCYCLE, REMAINS PRINCIPAL DRIVER OF DUAL-ENGINE TARGET 550 STREAMLINER**

“America’s Queen of Speed,” ten-time land speed record holder Valerie Thompson, has announced her separation from Denis Manning and the BUB 7 Streamliner Motorcycle team, citing loss of confidence in the streamliner and designer Manning. Thompson has been piloting the former world-title holding streamliner since 2016 and was Manning’s top funding source for the team.

Considered the “World’s Fastest Female Motorcycle Racer,” after inking a 328-mph speed record, Thompson is an independent team owner/driver who competitively drag raced before focusing on land speed racing, eventually earning ten Land Speed Records on two continents.

“We lost some essential crew members over the last few months,” said Thompson about her eroding confidence in the project. “The remaining crew contacted me (in December) with the sad news they had quit and removed all their tools from the Team 7 Racing shop. Without this ‘super crew,’ I’m highly doubtful about the performance potential of the BUB 7 to recapture the World’s Fastest Motorcycle title. More importantly, I’m concerned for my safety. These are not just my teammates, they’re my guardian angels.”

Each of the departing team members helped extract Thompson from the BUB 7 wreckage after a devastating 363-mph crash on Australia’s Lake Gairdner salt flats in 2018. “While I’m disappointed I won’t be setting the fastest motorcycle record with Team 7 Racing, I’m heartbroken the crew won’t see the results of

their 36 months of painstaking rebuilding work. Each of them has volunteered countless hours in this quest. They deserve better,” added Thompson.

Thompson remains the principal driver of the dual-engine Target 550 streamliner owned by Oregonian and veteran land speed race team owner Marlo Treit. Treit’s 43-foot, 9,000-pound, four-wheeled speed machine is vastly different from the BUB 7 motorcycle. The team’s goal is to break Tom Burkland’s 415-mph World Record set in 2008. Thompson exceeded the team’s testing goals on her first three test runs, clocking 218, 270 and 291 mph.

Scottsdale resident Valerie Thompson is the World’s Fastest Female Motorcycle Racer and 10X Land Speed Record holder, with membership in the Sturgis Motorcycle Hall of Fame. She is a member eight 200 MPH Clubs, one 300 MPH Club and the only female in the World’s Top 10 Fastest Motorcycle Racers rankings.

In addition to her relentless pursuit of new speed records, Valerie’s goals include earning a professional rating in her favorite sport, pickleball. She started playing less than a year ago and has already collected six medals in her first five tournaments, playing women’s singles, women’s doubles and mixed doubles. ■

