



▼ **AMA Pro Flat Track** made its return to the Valley for the first time in 30 years with the Law Tigers Arizona Mile, scheduled as round four of the 2016 AMA Pro Flat Track season, on Saturday, May 14 at Turf Paradise in Phoenix. The Arizona Mile was the first AMA Pro Flat Track race in southern Arizona since 1986, when motorcycle racing legend Bubba Shobert won a half-mile event in Phoenix aboard a Honda RS750, completing the “Grand Slam” of motorcycle racing, winning a Mile, Half-Mile, Short Track, Tourist Trophy and Road Racing main event that year. In addition to the AMA Pro Flat Track action on the race track, the 2016 event, presented locally by Buddy Stubbs Harley-Davidson, had a variety of family-friendly entertainment including stunt performances and a vendor area. Buddy Stubbs got everyone in the spirit by signing autographs at his museum on Friday before the race. Bryan Smith won AMA Pro Flat Track’s inaugural Law Tigers Arizona Mile in stunning fashion. The “Mile Specialist” lived up to his nickname, topping defending Harley-Davidson GNC1 presented by Vance & Hines champion No. 1 Jared Mees by 12.646 seconds in front of a standing room only crowd at Turf Paradise. With temperatures soaring above 100 degrees, Smith, mounted his No. 42 Crosley/Howerton Motorsports Kawasaki Ninja 650 and showed that heat wasn’t a factor for him. The Michigan native set a

blistering pace all day, winning his heat race by a remarkable 10.942 seconds to start from pole position in the main, then leading every lap of the main in flawless succession. Like Smith, defending series champ Mees showed speed early to take the win in his heat race by 7.457 seconds. But the Harley-Davidson-mounted rider was unable to keep Smith’s pace in the night’s main event. After bolting to the



front at the start of the race, No. 65 Cory Texter settled into a rhythm behind Smith and Mees to earn the first GNC1 podium finish of his career.

▼ Vintage meets custom in the **BMW R 5 Hommage**. At the core is an original 500cc two-cylinder engine provided by motorcycle enthusiast Sebastian Gutsch.



This boxer engine had been damaged in a race and provided the starting point for creating the BMW R 5 Hommage. The homage bike was elaborately hand-crafted from scratch. Brothers Ronny and Benny Noren, who have been building tailor-made customer bikes for more than 30 years, produced missing parts for the engine and gearbox according to specifications of the BMW Motorrad Design

Team. 80 years ago, BMW presented the BMW R 5 to the international public—an exciting new technological development that was to influence motorcycle construction right through to the 1950s. Inspired by the 500 cc factory racing machine of 1935, it was one of the groundbreaking sports motorbikes of the late 1930s with its newly designed light frame. To mark

the 80th anniversary, BMW Motorrad honored the BMW R 5 Hommage at the Concorso d’Eleganza Villa d’Este 2016.

▼ The **Harley-Davidson® Screamin’**



Eagle® Factory Team is unleashing the new-generation XG750R, its first all-new flat track race bike in 44 years, to battle in fierce, adrenaline-filled competition on dirt ovals across the US. The XG750R made its official competition debut on May 29 at the AMA Pro Flat Track Springfield Mile in Illinois. Powered by the 750cc Revolution X fuel-injected, liquid-cooled V-Twin engine, the XG750R is strictly for race competition and not offered for sale at this time. The new flat tracker is powered by race-modified version of the Revolution X V-Twin designed for the Harley-Davidson Street 750, a bike built for maximum urban maneuverability with rebellious Dark Custom attitude. The engine and a racing frame for the XG750R were developed by Vance & Hines Motorsports, who are also the partner for the factory Harley-Davidson Screamin’ Eagle/Vance & Hines drag racing program where V-Rod motorcycles have won eight of the past 12 NHRA Pro Stock Motorcycle drag racing championships.

▼ **EBR Motorcycles** has partnered with **Splitlath Racing** for the 2016 Superbike racing season. Splitlath will be racing at select international venues to showcase the EBR 1190. John Dimbylow, team principal of Splitlath Racing, has worked with Erik Buell for a few years, but will now be fully integrated into the EBR family. Splitlath has been racing in 2015 and 2016 mainly in the emerging Chinese Pan Delta Superbike series,

where crowds and TV coverage are huge. The team has won every race entered to date, against full factory efforts from big players. Splitlath also attended the Isle of Man TT and Macau GP, more to produce

videos of these amazing events and the experience around them, than to go for the win. Splitlath anticipates returning to the US to compete. They are currently talking to potential sponsors and working on approval from the US organization.

▼ In keeping with its mission to Honor the Ride, the **Sturgis Motorcycle Museum** has instituted a new Freedom Fighter award recognizing an individual who has fought to protect the rights of motorcy-



clists. For 2016, the Freedom Fighter is Gary Wetzel, a Vietnam veteran and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient who has been active for decades in raising awareness of veterans’ issues, and also protecting riders rights. A longtime rider, he has ridden with Rolling Thunder since the second ride in 1989—he has had the honor of riding the lead bike almost every

year—and has stepped up countless times as an advocate for the disabled. One of the first formal events of Harley-Davidson’s 110th Anniversary Celebration was Military Day, with a fundraising motorcycle ride to the VA hospital and Gary Wetzel leading the way. Gary Wetzel will be honored at the 2016 Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame 2016 Induction Breakfast on August 10, 2016 at the Lodge at Deadwood in Deadwood, South Dakota. Breakfast tickets are a \$35 donation, tables of eight \$300. Tickets are available at 605.347.2001 or online at sturgismuseum.com/shop/hall-fame-breakfast.

▼ Slalom races, slow races, keg pushes and other casual motorcycle games are part of the **AMA Classic Field Meet Challenge** scheduled daily during AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days July 8-10 at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio. ABATE of Ohio will oversee registration and officiating for the field meet, which is provided free to all those attending AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days.

▼ **Arizona Bike Week** are set for April 5-9, 2017. It’s going to be ABW’s 21st birthday, and they intend to celebrate it, biker style. They will be opening up RV camping reservations in September. If you reserved an RV site at the 2016 event,

they will email you with a chance to rebook your same spot for 2017, before opening the signup to the general public. If you need to change the email they have on record for you, please send a note to info@azbikeweek.com, with your name from the 2016 reservation, old email address and new one, and the space number you had in 2016, if you know it. ■