

VALERIE THOMPSON UPDATE

"AMERICA'S QUEEN OF SPEED" HEADING BACK TO BONNEVILLE



WHILE 2020 sidelined most racers due to Covid-19-related event cancellations, the world's fastest female motorcycle racer —Scottsdale resident Valerie Thompson —was busy planning her newest endeavors, on and off the track.

Thompson started 2021 in typical fashion and according to plan, piloting the Team Turbo Tiger Kawasaki at the ECTA Arkansas Mile Spring Fling in May to two new records in the half-mile and two kilometers, with a top speed of 216.035 mph (348.181 km/h). She's the newest member of ECTA's 200 MPH Club and will be the designated co-driver for Team Turbo Tiger at SCTA Speedweek competition in August.

Valerie is also the designated driver of the famed BUB 7 motorcycle streamliner, a proven record-setting vehicle designed by AMA Hall of Fame member Denis Manning. This American-built streamliner has held the motorcycle land-speed record

twice, from 2006 to 2008 and again from 2009 to 2010.

Racing the BUB 7 at the 2018 Dry Lake Racers Association Speed Week competition, Thompson set a new record with a mind-blowing top speed of 328.467 mph. Just days later, she experienced a horrific crash at over 360 mph during the World Speed Trials. Valerie walked away from the catastrophe, which scattered wreckage for over a mile, with only minor injuries.

After a three-year rebuilding process, the BUB 7 team returns to Bonneville this year for a private test session and to compete in the August Bonneville Motorcycle Speed Trials.

In fact, Valerie will be doing double duty at BMST, racing both the BUB 7 Streamliner and the Team Turbo Kawasaki.

Thompson's relentless quest to become the world's fastest motorcycle racer (male or female) by breaking the current world record of 376.363 mph is the focus of the upcoming racing documentary film *Rockets and Titans*. (You can find a teaser trailer on YouTube.)

Seeking a distraction from racing, Val-



erie started playing Pickleball in February of this year. What started as a new element of her fitness regime has led to playing four-plus times a week, taking professional lessons and attending training camps. She started construction on a private backyard court after just eight games, with possible plans for new career as a Pickleball pro. Look for the August issue of *Pickleball Magazine*, where you'll see America's Queen of Speed on the cover.

Whether on the track or the courts, Valerie Thompson is always seeking the winner's circle. ■



Valerie is an independent racer seeking sponsorship. You can help the all-volunteer BUB 7 team rewrite racing history. Visit ValerieThompsonRacing.com for details.

