

Press Release

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24th Annual John Earley Memorial Valley of the Sun Stage Race

The 24th Annual Valley of the Sun Stage Race is set to take place on February 12th through 14th, 2016 in the greater Phoenix area. The Valley of the Sun bicycle race is a three-day USAC event in which professional and amateur road racing cyclists of different categories compete for cash and prizes. A stage is held each day, and while riders will compete for victory in their category each day of the race, they will also aim for the overall race win. The cyclists that have the lowest cumulative time from the three stages will win in their respective categories. The stages include the Landis Cyclery - Trek Individual Time Trial on Friday, the Safeco Insurance, Parrish Agency, Road Race on Saturday, and the exciting Jordan Bischoff & Hiser criterium on Sunday in downtown Phoenix. There are over 700 participants in 23 categories of professional and amateur riders, both men and women, ages 10 to over 60, all competing for their portion of a \$15,000 cash purse.

For the second year there will be a Hand Cycle category. The Paralyzed Veterans Racing Team (http://www.pva.org/site/c.ajlRK9NJLcJ2E/b.8632037/k.FB4E/Meet_the_Paralyzed_Veterans_Racing_Team.htm) along with Ride430 (<http://www.ride430.com/>) have been key to the success of this new event. Darol Kubacz of the PVRT had this to say about VOS "What VOS has offered for the athletes are outstanding - above and beyond what most cycling events around the country have been able to offer "adapted" cyclist. I have great confidence in this event being a great experience for the beginner and advanced racer!"

Along with the three days of racing, there are events on Sunday for children under the age of 12, including a kid's bicycle race, and a bicycle rodeo and helmet fitting, put on by the SAFE KIDS Coalition of Maricopa County and the Phoenix Police Department.

The Valley of the Sun Stage Race is put on by the White Mountain Road Club, and is one of the largest bicycle races in the nation. Race promoter, Brian Lemke, had this to say about the race: "It is a great opportunity for cyclists of all ages and categories to brush shoulders and race on the same course as many of the top professional and amateur riders in the nation."

Several local businesses help to support the race through sponsorship of the White Mountain Road Club, including Landis Cyclery, Trek Bikes, Grand Canyon University, Jordan, Bischoff, and Hiser P.L.C., Safeco Insurance, Parrish Agency, and Tri-City Cardiology.

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