

Meet The Members!

Cathie Siglow



Dear Ladies,

First, I want to say that being a part of this club has been one of the most wonderful experiences I have had! What a fantastic group of ladies we are! When I attended my first meeting I was extremely cautious as I had no idea what a group of women motorcyclists would be like. Well, I found out that we are friendly, open, diverse, accepting, challenging, supportive, and full of fun. Once I realized that we are an inclusive group, I felt quite comfortable and eagerly began participating in meetings and rides.

My first experience on a motorcycle was when I was 24 years old and my first husband and I rode across the Swiss Alps, in the rain, on his new 1969 Triumph 650 with his backpack and my suitcase! It was a terrifying experience for me! In my early thirties he taught me to ride. I started on a 125, then a 250, then a Honda 350, and then a 1975 Honda 500. After we divorced I rode the bike to LA for graduate school and joined a bike club in Riverside which encouraged me to ride on many trips – Kern River, Colorado River, Hearst Castle, etc.

I was riding a lot when I met my husband, Jess. But after we were married and had a baby I realized that someone had to be responsible and raise our son! So, I stopped riding and told Jess that I would ride again when our son could take care of himself. Twenty two years passed; our son could take care of himself. I took the MSF class and learned so much about riding, and what a bad rider I had been before!

Well, Jess had kept my Honda 500 for all those years and he cleaned it up for me to ride! What a sweetheart! But, bike technology had changed so much that I wanted a newer bike. We found a 2002 Yamaha 1100 with only 315 miles on it and purchased the bike. I am riding that bike today and have made some personal modifications so that it is comfortable for long bike trips.

Jess and I went to Sturgis in Aug. '05, but we trailered the bikes. What a wonderful place to ride! The roads in the Black Hills were made for motorcycles! Jess made me be the lead for all our rides in South Dakota and Wyoming. I also rode without helmet just for the sheer joy until I realized that helmets also protect your face from bugs, rocks, etc.

Some time in 1965 I saw an advertisement for the AMA's Women and Motorcycling Conference in Athens, GA, and thought it would be a fun adventure. It became a goal for me. After talking with LOCAL members, Twig, Diane and I decided to make the trip. None of us had ever ridden on a long trip before. We researched, collaborated, and prepared, then took off early one morning for Georgia! Jess was really worried about us, so he followed us for two days. By the time he left us in Tucumcari he was comfortable that we would be fine together. The three of us laughed our way across country and back, thanks to Twig. We kept our bikes clean and maintained, thanks to Diane. And, we got there and back thanks to AAA. These two ladies will always be special to me!

My Yamaha 1100 also took me to Edmonton for the Women In The Wind Summer Nationals. This time 8 of us, plus two husbands who asked us if they could come along, researched, made plans, prepared, and put about 5000 miles on our bikes. Bonn'e, her husband, Ron, Chris V., Diane, Twig, Barbara, Linda

(Continued on Page 9)

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Naylor, Karin, Jess and I had a wonderful time. But, we did have to stop for bike problems several times. We also had weather and fires to contend with. However, it was a wonderful adventure, again! (See the picture at right of the 8 Ladies of Chrome and Leather waiting for a bus in Banff, Alberta, Canada.)

Whenever I tell people that I ride a motorcycle, they say, "But you do not look like someone who rides a motorcycle." Now I reply, "You should meet our Ladies of Chrome and Leather and then you would see that many types of ladies are motorcycle riders." It is with great joy that I tell others about our club and that I now serve as your Road Captain.

Ride safe, life is an adventure,

Cathie



(The following was submitted by Cathie's husband Jesse, a notable guy in his own right, he has good reason to toot his horn about his much accomplished wife)

During her 37 years with the school district, progressing from teacher to Educational Psychologist, few of her peers knew she had an interest in motorcycling, even though she commuted to Cal State LA while completing her second Masters Degree in the 1970's.

Always dressed to "the nines," with the reputation of being the quintessential professional, when she was "caught" riding her motorcycle the entire staff was shocked. One of the staff took a picture of her and the photo on the left, complete with notes of awe, was presented to her at her retirement party. To this day her peers, although used to the thought, are amazed at the depth of interests Cathie quietly pursued during her tenure with the Schools. These ranged from being the Regional Referee for AYSO, to leaping from an airplane, to being President of her auxiliary of Assistance League, to crossing the Country on her bike and innumerable other activities. Oh yeah, she also taught Statistics for Psychologists at UCR for 22 years. Guess you could say I'm kinda proud of her. . . *Jesse*

