

# A Reluctant Wife's Tale

"You want what?" "Are you mad?" "What are you thinking?" These are just a few of the expressions I had when my husband first told me he wanted to buy a Harley. I truly thought he was crazy!

After much discussion and disbelief, I reluctantly gave my blessing, but I assured him that he would never find me on the back of it so he need not even ask! "I have never been on a motorcycle and I never will be on one." Yes, indeed!

So here came the Dyna – and he was like a little kid in a candy store - rode it everywhere at every opportunity. About the same time this was going on in our household, my girlfriend had the same conversation with her husband, the same response, and the same relenting.

My girlfriend and I were on the phone with each other with such questions as "Have you gotten on it yet?" "Have you gone out on a ride yet?" "Have you gone on the freeway yet?"

We eventually gave in and started taking baby steps – first a ride around the block; then a ride around a few blocks; then a ride from one town to the next; then out on the freeway.

In the meantime, our husbands had joined Livermore HOG and asked us to go to a meeting. I remember at my first meeting introducing myself and proudly proclaiming that I had a grand total of 13 miles racked up on the back of a Harley!

Then the transformation came – the more I rode, the more enjoyable it was for me. Prodded by other members of the Chapter, my husband got a sissy bar put on, and that made a world of difference in comfort for me. Of course, the more we rode together, the more we were looking at other bikes and then kind of thinking maybe we needed something a little bigger. So then came the Fatboy, and with the sissy bar and more cushioning on the seat, I liked riding a little more.

I finally conceded and agreed to go on a Chapter-sponsored ride. Loved it, loved it, loved it. I think for me it's the social aspect that I like about riding with the group, and I appreciate the safety factors that are so important to the Chapter. Everyone was very welcoming and had all sorts of suggestions for making riding more comfortable for me; i.e., the cushioned seat, perhaps yet again another "bigger" bike.

The rides I've been able to go on have been great. Some of my favorites have been the ride through San Francisco over to Pacifica, continuing over the Golden Gate Bridge to Sausalito – wow! Then there was the ride to Monterey and lunch at Bubba Gump's. What a side show for the tourists when 20 or so bikes pulled up onto the lawn at the restaurant! The ride to the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse was spectacular. Rides to the Delta have been wonderful. The annual trip to Sierra City that the group makes, though we've only been able to attend once, was so much fun! Yosemite was another great trek. I can't possibly put all the rides down that I've been on, but there are numerous, and the majority have been super.

All told, riding has been a great experience for me. Bikers aren't all bad! No one believes me when I tell them I ride on the back of a Harley. "What? Not you!" "Yes, me, and proud of it!"

The Livermore HOG group is a wonderful bunch of people. We've made friends with so many of the members and enjoy all the social events and activities we've been a part of. The term "bikers" isn't what it used to be; it's now a "cool" group of people out to have an enjoyable time with other people who have the same interest!