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Women's 1st Solo Transcontinental Motorcycle Trip

Have you ever heard of Augusta and Adeline Van Buren? I hadn't until I happened upon their story on the internet on a dreary winter day.

These sisters rode from Sheepshead Bay (July 4th), in Brooklyn New York, to Los Angeles California (September 8th). That's a one-way trip of 3772 miles when there were no superhighways, very few "paved" roads and rural roads of mud. This was 1916 when women could not vote and were certainly not considered to be equal to men in any respect; few women drove cars and only a few rode motorcycles.

Gussie and Addie, as they were known, were not large women, in fact, they were of slight build and normal height. They were descendants of President Martin Van Buren and were raised as

genteel socialites bound for a proper social life and marriage.

They rode Indian Model F 1000cc twins which was basically a heavy duty bicycle with a motor and the weight was prohibitive for someone of their size. There were no helmets then, so they wore leather hats and goggles, much like the pilots of that time.

Their whole purpose for the ride was to prove that women could ride well enough to act as dispatch riders for the Army during war time, which would free up the men for other duties.

The sisters had ridden up to 325 miles in one day, but this trip would try the skill of even the best of male riders. On this transcontinental ride they would ride mud roads, mountain trails, up Pike's Peak and across rocky terrain. They were thrown from their bikes many times and went down with their machines suffering bruises and minor cuts. At one point, outside of Gilman Colorado, after a heavy rain, their bikes became entrenched in adobe mud up to their motors. They were forced to abandon their bikes and walk into Gilman where townsmen went out to help free the bikes after the women told them of their efforts to cross the country.

Another difficult part of their journey was west of Salt Lake, in the desert. As they travelled to-

ward Reno the "road" they were following faded into nothing but sand. Out of water and with little idea of which direction to go, a prospector happened upon them; luckily he had an abundance of water in a tank wagon. He replenished their water supply and pointed them in the direction of Reno Nevada.

In 2002, the Van Buren sisters were inducted into the AMA Hall of Fame, in Pickerington Ohio. In 2003, they were inducted into the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum Hall of Fame.

Augusta Van Buren's favorite quote was **"Woman can if she will"**. A good quote even today.

Upon arriving home, Augusta applied to the Army as a dispatch rider and was promptly turned down.



Indian 1000cc twin engine



Indian 1000cc w/sidecar

Pictures from khulsey.com



Augusta



Adeline

Bios Not Submitted



Phyllis Pearchers
New Assistant Director
Golden Valley Gals



Barb Ross
Sergeant-at-Arms for the
Heartland Chapter

Publisher Comment by Sandy Richey

Well, as if I didn't know it before, WOW members are shy when it comes to talking about themselves.

Getting most of these officer to talk about themselves is next to impossible. We have some of the most accomplished, interesting people of any organization I know of, but they don't think they're interesting.

In WOW, we have nurses and engineers, mothers and grandmothers, business owners and managers, karate instructors and teachers, people in law enforcement and CPAs, just to mention a few.

However, there are two things most WOW members have in common; they love riding and it's hard to get them to talk

about their accomplishments.

However, I think you will agree that these articles are very interesting and will give you an opportunity to get to know the women who are serving your chapters as officers this year.

I hope you will enjoy getting to know a little more about the new officers of the Missouri Chapters. I know I like their articles much better than the ones I write.



Attention!!

If you have an idea for an article or if you would like to write an article for one of the newsletters, please contact or e-mail Deana, at dbf8@windstream.net and she will forward it to Sandy Richey.





Sheryl Knox-Golden Valley-Treasurer



My name is Sheryl Knox; I am 58 years old and live in Archie Missouri. I grew up on a dairy farm outside of Pleasant Hill Missouri. We milked 50 -75 head of cows morning and night, raised hogs, and sheep.

I graduated from Pleasant Hill High School, got married shortly after that to Danny. We have raised three children: Carrie, a nurse, Casey a Phlebotomist, and Colby a manager for the B.P

Company. Together they have given us seven grandchildren Jordan 15, Jerron 12, Carter 10, Devon 5, Justice 5, Lyla 3 months and Danika 6 weeks.

I graduated nursing school in 1990 and I am a Registered Nurse at Cass Regional Medical Center in Harrisonville Missouri.

My husband and I have been riding a motorcycle together for as long as we have been married. I decided I wanted to ride one myself, so I learned to ride his bike in the yard. After about a year of learning, I took the class and passed and got my license.

Our first long trip we rode to Sturgis and I rode a 750 Honda. When we got back I bought a Sportster. After a few years I

bought a Heritage which is what I ride now.

I joined the Golden Valley Gals about 3 years ago and have been the treasurer for the last 2 years. My husband and I have made lots of bike trips to the Grand Tetons, Estes Park, Grand Canyon and more than I can mention here. We plan on making allot more rides, now that he is retired.

We also belong to the Christian Motorcycle Association in Harrisonville. Women On Wheels® is a great motorcycle association, we have allot of fun.



Mr. WOW by Arlene Jackson



I would like to introduce you to my husband, Jim Jackson. He rides a 2008 Police Electra Glide year round so it isn't unusual to see him and his bike dressed for the season.

The only thing Jim loves more than his motorcycle is his family. When the two come together it just can't get any better. All three of the girls

in his life ride (me and our two daughters) and he is our biggest supporter. He was right there assuring me that I could ride from Denver up to Sturgis and back when I had only been riding for about a year. He helped our oldest daughter learn to ride and then was brave enough to let her take off on long rides by herself. When it came time for our youngest to learn he was patient enough to understand that she might need a little extra encouragement. He has expanded his influence to help and

encourage the ladies of Women On Wheels® ride safely.

A little bit more about him? Well, he has worked for the National Park Service for 20+ years, mostly in law enforcement. Through his job he has had the opportunity to travel to National Parks throughout the country assisting with special events and helping in emergency situations.

If you get a chance, strike up a conversation with him at a meeting and learn more about his many adventures.





Kathy Anderson-Golden Valley Secretary

Hi! My name is Kathryn (Kat) Anderson, and I am the secretary for the Golden Valley Gals, of Clinton, Missouri. I grew up in a large Catholic family of all brothers, and I was the only girl. Needless to say, Saturday morning television was a complete wash! Fortunately, due to a rather nasty bicycle accident at the age of ten, my sympathetic parents then bought me my own television, and the odds were slightly evened. (Okay, I can never resist a cheesy pun!)

As you can imagine, being raised with five brothers in rural Missouri, I was a bit of a tom-boy. I was rather unsuccessful at convincing even one of them to play with Barbies or baby dolls, so we compromised. We did everything their way! As it turned out, the boys had more fun. We all rode bikes, climbed trees, played in creeks and built amazing ramps on which to jump those bikes. As we grew older, we graduated to mini-bikes. This was a new and amazing thrill! That summer we had great fun riding around a neighbor's large farm, which afforded us many opportunities to hone our skills; that is until I ran mine into the side of a hay truck!

Consequently, the folks became a bit sticky about letting me ride for awhile. On occasion my dad would feel sorry for me though, and let me ride along with him on his Ducati, which was even more thrilling than the mini-bike!

I was then married to a motorcycle enthusiast for the better part of 26 years, and we had three wonderful children, who have now given us four beautiful grandchildren. While we are no longer married, it's a long and not-very-interesting story, so I'll spare you the details; what is important though was what happened afterwards. I found that I really missed the motorcycle. I complained loudly to my rather unsympathetic oldest brother. In his best Tightwad accent, my brother Richard said, "Why don't you quit 'yer whinin' and go ride your own?" This was food for thought?! It hadn't occurred to me, until then, that chicks ride too! That summer found me in a motorcycle safety course at the local college, during what must have been the hottest three days of the entire year, on a 250 Honda, having the time of my life!

The brochure had said that the first night of our motorcycle course would

begin with book work. This worked out well, because I'm a reading specialist whose education exceeds my abilities and I was assigned to provide a teacher's workshop at a neighboring school district prior to the motorcycle course. Imagine my surprise when I walked into the class in my skirt, heels and hose, and everyone else was in jeans, boots and bandanas! Awkward! The next day we were to begin learning how to ride the motorcycles, with our instructors, who were both police officers, and one of whom was a huge ex-marine.

The next day we began the process of learning to handle the bikes. We were instructed to mount the bikes, put them in neutral and walk them across the lot and back. Then we were to get off the bikes and stand next to them. This would have been great, but I found out the hard way that if you don't put the kickstand down, the bike falls over! The ex-marine instructor, who's at least a foot taller than I am, began walking towards me. I felt sick to my stomach. I was pretty sure my motorcycle course had just crashed. Then he leaned down, yanked up the bike, kicked the stand down, crossed his arms akimbo, and stared down at me. After a tense mo-

ment of silence, with twenty other students watching intently, he said, "Well, okay Biker Barbie, get back on!"

As you can imagine, this lightened the mood for me, as well as the twenty other students intently watching this scenario unfold with growing interest. Additionally, I was hereafter known as "Barbie" during this course. Given that I was 43 at the time, and well past the stereotypical prototype of the sex symbol she represents, I chose to take that as a compliment, no matter how it was intended! Not long after I received my license, I was privileged to meet some of the nicest people with whom I've ever become acquainted. With Arlene Crawford spearheading the operation, a small, but growing, group of lady motorcyclists came together and formed a new chapter of Women On Wheels®. Thus far, we've been going strong for five years now and the ladies in our club are some of the most intelligent, fun, sweet and caring women I know. We have had many wonderful adventures together and I feel very blessed to be a charter member of the Golden Valley Gals chapter of Women On Wheels®. I'm looking forward to spring and I wish everyone a safe and happy riding season in 2011.





Sandy Richey-Heartland Chapter



Sandy has had a full life; she will be sixty-five in May, is retired and is the last of her family line. She was born in Salem Illinois and grew up in Champaign Illinois. She has never been married, but has helped to raise three children.

Sandy said she reached her adulthood during the hippie era and spent several years trying to "find herself". She has held many types of jobs which included, but were not limited to, a brief stint with the Sisters of St. Joseph, professional singer, retail clerk, PBX operator, photo finisher, route driver, private detective, chuck wagon cook, dairy farm hand and media supervisor.

During her late teens and early twenties Sandy moved a lot; she lived briefly in Mountain Home Idaho, working on a dairy farm; Granby Colorado where she worked six months on a working dude ranch as an assistant chuck wagon cook; and Hollywood California where she "just hung out". When she was twenty-three she moved to Indianapolis for five years and then to Chicago while working for Fotomat Labs. She transferred to St. Louis, as a trainer for Fotomat, and worked there until the lab closed in 1977.

When the lab closed she took her severance, vacation and sick time pay and enrolled in some refresher courses at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. After a year of gaining confidence, she enrolled

as a freshman, at the age of thirty-four, and worked on a major in Clinical Psychology with minors in Communications and Philosophy. After four years, she decided psychology was not for her because she "couldn't leave the clients problems at the office" and changed her major to Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations.

Sandy started riding motorcycles when she was twenty-one on a Honda 50 that she shared with a friend, in Champaign. Within a few months she moved up to a Honda 175 and when she moved to Indianapolis she purchased a Honda 350. She injured her left knee in a work related accident and was forced to give up riding for several years. In 1987, she purchased a Kawasaki 400 Limited, but had to give up riding again, three years later, because the knee injury flared up again. Finally, in 1993 she was allowed to have a knee replacement and after several years her doctor released her to ride again. Although she continued to ride occasionally on friend's bikes or rented bikes, between job demands and other physical difficulties, she could not buy another bike until 2008.

She retired from St. Louis Community College, in 2008, and decided to take her dream cruise to the British Isles, but the extreme hike in gas prices raised the price of the trip out of her range. When the nice weather started and she felt that itch to ride, she decided to just look at some bikes. After being ignored at several dealerships, she walked into a Kawasaki dealership and was immediately approached as a serious customer. Two days later, she purchased her current bike, a Kawasaki Vulcan 900 Classic. She loves this bike, but admits that if she were financially able, she would love to purchase a Victory Crossroads.

After several months of practice and riding alone, she was in the Kawasaki dealership to check out a clearance sale and met Paula Buivid, a Women On Wheels® member. Paula suggested that Sandy attend a meeting and the rest, as they say, is history. Sandy became a WOW member in February of 2009, served as Heartland's secretary in 2010 and has ridden over twenty thousand miles, since July 2008.

Sandy says that joining Women On Wheels® is the best thing she has ever done. "When I went to my first meeting, the ladies made me feel right at home. I bugged them for weeks with questions and Marie, Cris and Brenda always took time to answer them. They gave me invaluable advice and taught me more in six months than I had learned in almost forty years of riding. Things like how to pack, how to handle twisties, what your responsibilities are when you lead and so many other things. I am so grateful that I found this organization and especially the women in it."

She has ridden to or through 16 states in the last year and a half. She has attended the Ride-Ins in Texas and Vermont and hopes to attend the one in San Jose.

This year, Sandy would like to go to ride to Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee and the Ride-In. Of course, that's in addition to whatever rides Heartland and MO WOW have set up.

Sandy says her fifty year class reunion will be in 2014 and she hopes she can remain healthy enough and the weather will cooperate, so she can ride her bike to the event.



Alice Stewart-Heartland Treasurer

You will never see Alice's bike without a pink bear buddy riding along.

"So, with both my parents blessing, I took the class..."



I am an Army brat. My father was a career Army officer (20+ years), so our family was used to moving almost every year. I've lived in several states (but have now ridden in more than I've lived!). We even lived for almost three years in Germany. I was very fortunate that Dad retired from the military while I was in junior high, so I was able to attend one high school and graduated from Kirkwood Sr. High, in Kirkwood, MO.

My parents stressed upon my younger sister and me the importance of a good education. I am very proud to say my sister has her PhD, but my road to a degree was a lot longer. I started a family first, so didn't finish at Georgia Tech. After getting married and having a daughter, I finally returned to school. After many years of working full time at Emerson Electric and going to school (University of MO-St. Louis/Washington University in St. Louis) at night, I earned my Bachelor's in electrical engineering. The year I got my BSEE I bought myself a new car, a Honda Accord. The next year I decided

to learn to ride a motorcycle.

Although I was old enough to have a 30 year old daughter, I was nervous when I told my parents about my decision to take the MSF course and buy a motorcycle. I am happy to say that after my nervous explanation Dad paused, which seemed to last an eternity, and then stated that he didn't feel that a person should go through life regretting not doing something she wanted to do/try. So, with both my parents' blessings, I took the class and have been enjoying the "ride" ever since.

I am the first in my family to take up motorcycling and everyone is supportive. My daughter has expressed interest in learning to ride and I would love for her to ride with us. My husband does not ride and has no interest in riding, but he is cautiously supportive of my hobby. He has gotten me lots of accessories for the bike like a GPS and CB radio, plus some heated gear and other apparel.

My first bike was a Suzuki GZ250, which is one of the bikes used in the MSF class. After a year of riding and getting more comfortable, and in anticipation of my first

big trip (WOW Ride-in, Kerrville, Texas) I purchased a 2005 Honda Shadow 750cc, aka Blu Ray.

My husband Joe and I have been married for 8½ years and live in St. Charles. I am an engineer at Emerson Process Management and do enjoy my work. At times the work is stressful, so jumping on Blu Ray and taking a ride allows me to de-stress. Although I don't mind riding on my own, I much prefer the camaraderie of riding, especially with my WOW chapter members. I don't have one particular ride that is my favorite; I do enjoy "twisties" and have been known to "scrape pegs." I have not ridden the Tail of the Dragon, and look forward to doing that soon.

I also enjoy reading, and am a member of a book club that meets once a month for food, social time and discussion.



Blu Ray and Pink Bear.





Diane Rackovan-Heartland Ride Coordinator



Hi!

I am 43 years old – but feel like 25. So, I don't think I am all that different from most women!

I was a 'surprise', my mom finally admitted it when I was in college, but I don't mind. My sister is 7.5 years older. My father was a master automobile mechanic. Growing up I wasn't at the mall – but in the garage helping him weekend after weekend or going to the auto/bike shows. That is where my love of motors, chrome, pinstripes and cool paint developed.

Most guys I dated were somewhat intimidated because I knew just as much, if not more about their cars than they did! I learned to drive and parallel park in a 429 Thunderbird which felt as though it were as big as a tank.

I grew up in Crestwood, Missouri, went to Lindbergh High School and graduated from Saint Louis University with two degrees, so I would not be the typical 'starving artist'. One degree was a BA in Marketing, the other an AS in Fine Art. I have been in Marketing/Graphics over 16 years.

I married my best friend and high school sweetheart, Eric over 10 years ago. We have a 'soap opera story' or so my friends say. We dated for 3 years then Eric was going off to college, so he broke up because 'I wanted to date other people. I always remind him that HE broke up with me! Unfortunately, the neighbor at the exit of my subdivision was his best friend, so I used to look the other way when I drove by. After all, it was just

too painful to look with a broken heart. We went our separate ways for almost 13 years; he married and divorced during that time. I was engaged – but just could not find it in my heart to mail the invitations. I found out that none of my friends even liked my fiancée. I was settling for less, but couldn't see it. After 13 years, Eric and I met again via a phone call from a mutual friend. After meeting again, we found we had more in common than before and we needed that time to grow up.

Our kids are our Harleys; they are our pride and joy! I have had my M license since 1997, but could not afford a bike, for awhile we were a one bike family, so when I got my first bike I consider myself to be very lucky.

Bikes: I have owned a 2008 Harley Davidson Nightster that was 'souped-up' with performance work and currently own a 2009 Harley Davidson Dyna Lo Rider. I got my Lo Rider a week before Sturgis and had to put the 1000 miles on it for the first service before we left. Darn the luck! I call it my 'little black dress with diamonds'. It is Orange/Black/Chrome – and YES chrome CAN be a color! and it does indeed have Diamond accents. Since my husband and I both currently have Harleys, I consider myself to be very, very lucky.

I have been to many rallies, ridden in 6" mud, creeks, miles of deep gravel, tire deep chip and seal, then it rained on top of it, it was 'baptismal by fire'... but with a SMILE.

My most interesting ride was when I didn't have my bike yet. I was passenger on our 1998 Harley Dyna Wide Glide on our way to Sturgis. All our friends trailered, but we rode our bike. I had my license at this time. My husband pulls over right

before entering the Badlands and says 'ok, your turn to drive!' I thought he was kidding. All our friends passed us, so we had to get going. So, I switched with him and he became my passenger. By this time our friends had pulled over thinking something was wrong. We traveled past them and they were all shocked! My husband is 6'2" and I am sure it was quite a sight. Our friends took pictures, they are my favorites to this day.

I am one of the biggest 'cheerleaders' for women riders. I feel that most women don't ride their own bike because by the time we think of doing something for ourselves, it is midnight and we put it off yet another day, week or year. We forget that adventure we dreamt of when we were little. Then, if we finally do commit to riding, that voice in our head, doubts... saying 'I can't do that'- causes us to mess up in reality. YOU CAN DO THIS! I believe women can ride well, if they really want to AND LOOK GREAT doing it!

Dream Rides:

1) 'Road of 10,000 Curves' Stelvio Pass, Italian Alps, (like the Tail of the Dragon on steroids!)

2) Trail of Tears Ride. My Great grandfather was a Cherokee Indian and his redheaded wife was the tribe mediator (where I inherited MY red locks!).

My dream bike: a springer front end dyna, 100+ lace wheels and a twisted down-tube hand-made frame that looks like chrome diamonds. Amazing!

Biggest inspiration: Those ladies out there who began riding when women were only supposed to be 'fender fluff'. So, I would toast those ladies that paved the way for today. **You Rock!**

I hope to meet you all sometime but until then... life is an adventure, enjoy the ride!!!



Arlene Jackson-Heartland Secretary

Arlene rode on the back of a motorcycle for the first time when she was 11 or 12 when her aunt and uncle came to visit.

"the bigger front seat and better view.....beckoned to her."



Arlene was born and raised in the suburbs of Denver, Colorado. She spent her summers hiking, camping and backpacking with her family in the Rocky Mountains. So, it isn't surprising that when it came time to go to college she majored in Forestry. She came to St Louis with her husband, Jim, after college and took a job with the National Park Service at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (although more people know it as the Gateway Arch). The idea was to get her foot in the door and go back west. Well, things worked out well here, so she is still here.

Arlene and Jim have 2 daughters, one now living on her own and one in her last year in high school. As their kids grew up they loved watching them play softball, soccer and run cross country. The family took many vacations back to the mountains of Colorado with Arlene's family.

Arlene rode on the back of a motorcycle for the first time when she was eleven or twelve when her aunt and

uncle came to visit. They lived in Phoenix and rode the bikes up to Denver for a vacation one year. Later, in college another student tried to teach her to ride, but that didn't work so well. When Jim decided to get a motorcycle she didn't object too much. Once he was proficient, she started riding on the back. However, as they graduated to longer distances, the bigger front seat and better view she would have on her own bike beckoned to her.

Her beginner bike was a KZ 550 Kawasaki which didn't last long. She moved to a Honda 700 Sabre and then on to her current bike, a Harley Davidson Dyna Defender. For those of you wondering about the bike, it was the police model in the Dyna series.

Arlene joined Women on Wheels® as a way to get more riding experience in, so she would feel more comfortable riding along with her husband and his friends. She has been to a couple of state rallies and on several grand adventures with the women in the group. The most exciting and empowering ride was to Memphis TN to see an exhibit titled "The Art of the Motorcycle". The

challenging part of the ride was the return through the remnants of Hurricane Rita. After riding for hours in drenching rain, her confidence of being able to handle a bike in almost any weather was set. One of her favorite rides was with her daughter and the ladies of WOW up to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the Harley-Davidson Celebrate Women Riders Rally, in 2010.

Arlene also loves riding on trips with her husband. Everything from an hour ride in the evening after work to two week vacations. They have been to Sturgis, South Dakota; New Orleans, Louisiana; Billings, Montana and along the Natchez Trace. They have even tried camping with the bikes in Northern Indiana and Michigan. While navigating the dirt road of a campground while fully loaded was challenging, the view of Lake Michigan at sunset was worth it.

As the 2011 riding season approaches Arlene can't wait to see where she will go next.



Carolyn Jackson-Heartland Web Master



Carolyn, a single, twenty-three year old self-proclaimed “rebel without a cause” is the Guerilla Marketing Associate and Rider’s Edge (Harley-Davidson Academy of Motorcycle Training) Program Manager for Gateway Harley-Davidson.

When asked why she rides, she said, *“Oh, it’s a family thing. My dad went off to Sturgis one year and came back with the need to ride; he went out and bought a bike. A year later my mom went off to work and came back with a motorcycle. I got my first bike while attending my all girls private high school. The nuns weren’t too fond of my mode of transportation which made me want to ride all the more. Now my sister attends the same school!”*

Carolyn’s father, Jim, is a WOW support member and was named Mr. WOW for Missouri in June 2010. Her mother, Arlene, is a WOW member and former chapter

president. Carolyn says her parents are the ones that inspire her to ride (not to mention a lot of other things). She joined WOW last July because *her “parents are members of WOW and I saw how many cool rides they got to go on as part of that group.”*

Carolyn was born just outside of Denver Colorado, but was raised in St. Louis. She attended Nerinx Hall High School, in Webster Groves. She went to Colorado State University of Fort Collins, for a year and a half, and graduated from Webster University, two years later, with a BA in Business Management with an emphasis in Marketing and a Certificate in Entrepreneurship.

Carolyn has been riding for seven years and has had 2 bikes; 1st a Kawasaki KZ550, then a 1998 Harley-Davidson XL883 Sportster, “It grew up with me to become a 1200 Custom. I’ve customized the bike so much that I can’t imagine riding anything else!”, she said. Her dream bike changes from minute to minute, “but it’s loud and obnoxious.”

When asked about her favorite ride memory, Carolyn answered, *“I’m looking forward to making so many with WOW! Outside of WOW, I would say my favorite ride memory is riding back from Sturgis following my dad. We had spent the week out there riding around and hitting all the good hot spots. It was 6:00 in the morning and I was tired. We had left Rapid City at 9:30am the*

morning before and rode through the Black Hills. We were keeping track of our mileage and our gas receipts. About 4:00 that afternoon, I told my dad that we might as well ride home through the night because I didn’t want to stop at another motel. We stopped ever 45 minutes to an hour to chug a few Starbucks Espresso shots and adjust the iPod speakers. So it was 7 am when we rolled through Wentzville which is still 45 minutes from our house. We stop at a McDonalds to get some coffee and I curl up half way through breakfast in the booth to take a power nap while my dad watched CNN. We filled up for gas 30 minutes down the road and my dad broke the news to me. We were like 20 miles short of the 1,000 miles we needed to complete the Iron Butt Ride. So of course we had to drive down to Imperial and back. The 1,046 miles took us 23.5 hours.”

Carolyn would love to do a month long ride across Europe, but her favorite destination in the U.S. is Colorado. *“I used to live out there and the mountains were so amazing to ride through. But I would say anywhere it isn’t raining right now would be a fantastic place to ride.”*

Her encouraging words to someone who wants to ride, *“Just freakin’ do it. Everyone started somewhere. You gotta get up on that bike, tell it you are going to ride it, and go. Only way to be, do it. It’s also a good way to live life.”*





Jill Ivey-Lady Cruisers Director



I am one of 3 kids that were born and raised here in Springfield, Mo. My parents actually still live in the house I grew up in.

Marley is my roommate, she is a 2 year old yellow lab (I did not name her, she is a rescue dog...) I work for JP Morgan Chase and have been there for 13 years and still am not sure what I want to be when I grow up, but I know for sure it is not office work! However, I have been with Chase so long I can't afford to leave.

In 2001 is when I really decided to start living my life (after my divorce). I traveled every chance I could and tried something new each year. Then in 2005 I just went and bought my bike on a whim. That was the best thing I have ever done for myself!! I bought a 2005 Suzuki Boulevard C50 (which I still ride to

this day). That same year I met "The Lady Cruisers" and they are the best friends that anyone could ask for!

While I was in the motorcycle safety course the instructor told me about the "Lady Cruisers", that they were a good group to get into as a new rider and all the members were so nice and patient. I emailed the director Deana Foster and she informed me of the Springfield MO Ride in and said I should stop by.

I was so glad I did. As soon as I walked in the door of the hospitality room I knew that was where I belonged! Everyone in the group greeted me with a genuine smile and hug and I felt as if I had known these girls my entire life!

Since 2005 when I joined Women on Wheels®, I have been to 3 Ride-Ins (Springfield, MO., Michigan, Texas and plan on going to San Jose this year).

Our group is very close, so we all keep in touch each week and ride when every time allows instead of just waiting for our monthly meeting to come around.

in 2009 besides going to the Kerrville, Texas Ride In, me and a few of the other girls road to Key Stone to the AMA Women's Ride In. That was a really beautiful ride! I just can't get enough of

seeing the wind turbines!! I had never seen them in real life before.

I think my most favorite ride was in 2010, me and 2 other Lady Cruisers road 12 states in 7 days; we road down to Panama City, over to Jekyll Island, GA., and up to Virginia and back over to Missouri. We had a lay out of the states we wanted to visit, but no reservations and camped more than half the time. It was great!!

I think my dream ride would be to take a couple of months off work and ride to the Grand Canyon and camp along the way. I would not have an agenda, just a destination and stop everywhere I wanted to stop and have no pressure or deadline to meet.

My boyfriend John rides, he is my/our support member. He loves to hang with the posse' and helps out the girls when they need a man chore done.

These days everyone needs to have a job to survive, but I am not going to work my life away. When I am old and cannot ride or travel anymore, I look forward to sitting in the rocker on my porch sharing stories and tales of my life with anyone that stops by instead of watching game shows on TV and knowing I have 10 million dollars in the bank, but worked my life away....



Leslie Wilson-Lady Cruisers Treasurer



I was one of six sisters in my family, by the time I was born, my oldest sister was already married and had a daughter of her own; we grew up in Overland Park, Kansas. Before I went to kindergarten, my Dad bought a 50 cc motorcycle. My older sister, Lisa, and I rode it around the backyard until Mom said no, so my interest in motorcycle started very young.

I went to high school in Shawnee Mission, Kansas and I attended college at the University of Kansas where I received a Bachelor of Science in Business, Accounting and Business Administration. I passed the CPA exam 24 years ago and have been in the field of accounting since then. I love my work even though it is very stressful at times and hard the first four months of the year. I'm on the board of the North Springfield Betterment Association, a member of a multitude of CPA associations, Daughters of the American Revolution, National Association of Professional Women and most importantly, Women on Wheels, Lady Cruisers of the Ozarks chapter!!

I married my husband, Jim, almost twenty-six years ago, but we have been together for almost 31 years. Last year, we took a fabulous cruise to Cozumel, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands to celebrate our 25th anniversary. We have two boys, Michael &

Christopher and although we don't have any grandchildren yet, we have several pseudo grandchildren (children of close friends). We currently reside in Brighton, MO. If you're trying to figure out my age for all this information, keep figuring, I won't tell you my age because I'm in the witness protection age group, sorry.

As to the biggest inspiration in my life, my husband, Jim, is my biggest living inspiration because he is always there for me, encourages me when I'm down, and is willing to help me do things that others may think are crazy, like getting my motorcycle and conceal carry licenses.

Otherwise, my biggest inspiration is God, to borrow the words from Francesca Battistelli:

"A war's already waged for my destiny
But You've already won the battle
And You've got great plans for me
Though I can't always see

(Chorus)

'Cause I got a couple dents in my fender

Got a couple rips in my jeans
Try to fit the pieces together
But perfection is my enemy
On my own I'm so clumsy
But on Your shoulders I can see
I'm free to be me

When I was just a girl I thought I had it figured out
My life would turn out right, and I'd make it here somehow
But things don't always come that easy
And sometimes I would doubt
(Chorus)

And you're free to be you
Sometimes I believe that I can do anything
Yet other times I think I've got nothing good to bring

But You look at my heart and You tell me
That I've got all You seek
And it's easy to believe
Even though" (Chorus)

Jim always had a motorcycle until we moved to Springfield and we really enjoyed riding together, but stopped because it was hard to get our two boys on with us and I believe it or not, I never even thought about riding my own. In 2005, Jim helped me get my M license. I have owned two bikes, a Honda 750 Shadow & Honda VTX1300. I don't have a dream bike because I really like my current bike and can't imagine giving it up, but I have been thinking about getting a dirt bike!

The longest ride we've taken, so far, was to Key West Florida. We left Missouri and rode to New Orleans, along the southern coast line to Florida, all the way to Key West, then up the East Coast to Savannah, GA. On the way back to home, we picked up a part of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Deal's Gap and the Cherohola Skyway. One ride I would like to do, would be to go down the California's West Coast Highway, Route 1, or do a cross country ride, in Ireland; I think either one would be a beautiful ride.

When I'm not riding my bike, I enjoy spending time at home with my English Mastiff, Cam (pronounced Sam); our two cats, Mouse & Grizzle and our two horses, Buddy & Kate. I enjoy just sitting by our pond, reading, working Sudoku and crocheting. Sometimes, I like to practice my target shooting with my Kimber 9 mm or Ruger revolver.

Still on my bucket list is learning to cook better, decorate cakes, use the embroidery feature on my sewing machine, woodworking and improving my gardening skills (I am getting better; I haven't killed any plants this year, but it's only February). I like to help people and work with kids.





Gayla Campbell-Roubidoux Director



Hello, everyone. I have been asked to tell you a little bit about myself. I am Director of the WOW Chapter, Ladies of the Roubidoux in St. Robert, MO. I was born and raised in Howell and Ozark Counties in Missouri. My mother was a homemaker and my father owned and operated a shoe store for the first six years of my life. I am the older of two children. We then moved to West Plains where my mother then started working for a new Wal-Mart store and my father became a farmer raising cattle and horses and a school bus driver. In high school I was on the tennis and gymnastics teams. I graduated from West Plains High School in 1972 and started college, but didn't finish due to an injury on the gymnastics team. I went back later to finish my double Associate Degrees in Ac-

counting and Computer programming in 1994.

I first got the riding bug at the age of nine when I got a 50cc mini bike. Boy, did I dig a lot of gravel out of the palms of my hands learning to ride that one. I rode off and on through grade school gravitating to riding horses, but after graduation I married a motocross motorcycle racer/stock car racer and we owned and operated a motorcycle sales and service business for a few years. I also took first place in Powder puff Stock Car Racing.

In the late 70's and early 80's I owned and operated a dance and gymnastics studio.

As time passed and another husband, a rancher, we raised Black Angus cattle and buffalo for 20 years. In the late 80's I owned and operated a gym in West Plains, Mo. and competed in Bodybuilding placing in regional, state and national qualifying competitions. In 1994, I went to work for Royal Oak Enterprises and worked for them for 15 years as a plant administrator. I divorced and for my 50th Birthday I got the bug to ride again. I bought a 1984 Harley Davidson 1,000cc Sportster and took a rid-

ers course to refresh my memory on riding and off I went. I'll never forget the first time I took the bike on the highway. I was so nervous I was sick to my stomach, but it was a ride I will never forget, it was a fun time.

At my 30th class reunion I ran into my childhood friend, Dal, who back in High School took me on a trip to Springfield on his 1964 HD Chopped Sportster Hardtail (my first trip on a Harley), I got him back into riding again. He bought his 2006 HD Springer Softtail. He asked me to marry him and for an engagement present he gave me a 2006 Harley Davidson 1,200cc Sportster and we married in 2005. I now ride a 2008 Harley Davidson Police Electra Glide. I hope to someday take a cross country ride.

I currently work at Fort Leonard Wood as a night vision optical instrument repair technician along with, my husband, Dal and we are building a new home due to be finished this Spring.



Terri Armistead-Roubidoux Treasurer



Terri Armistead 41, grew up in Kansas City and Jefferson City Missouri. She attended and graduated from Jefferson City High School.

Terri and her husband Ralph have been married for fifteen years and they live in Richland Missouri with their two children; a son, Joshua 11 and a daughter Meghan 7.

Terri, a former dental assistant, has been a stay-at-home Mom for the last seven years.

Terri decided to learn to ride after she and her husband, riding his

Harley Fatboy, witnessed a small bike accident at a rally. The man had been riding with his wife as a passenger. After the accident, he couldn't ride the bike and his wife did not know how to ride.

Terri decided to take a class and get her license, just in case. Her husband bought her a Harley Sportster for a graduation present and she has been riding ever since. She wanted to find a "cool group of people to ride with", and Irene Hargett had told her about Women On Wheels®, so she thought she'd check it out. She rode with the MO Chapters on the Fall Foliage ride last October and hopes to attend the MO State Rally this year.

Terri's dream bike is a Harley-Davidson Panhead with a raked front; just like the one ridden by Peter Fonda, in "Easy Rider", and Nicolas Cage, in "Ghost Rider".

Terri loves riding and is a big

fan of the rock band RUSH, so her "Dream Ride" is to follow the same route Neil Peart did on his BMW, riding 55,000 miles across Canada and North America. So far, her favorite riding memory is when she was riding alone on some local back roads. She caught a glimpse of something white above her, when she looked up, she saw an eagle flying above her. She and the eagle "flew together" for about ten miles before he went off on his way.

As to the longest ride so far, Terri says she "not really sure. When I ride I really don't pay attention to the mileage or the time. I just enjoy the ride".

When Terri is not riding her Sportster, she likes to spend time with her family, ride horses, read Stephen King, watch football and NASCAR races.





Cycle Chirps Ageing Process at 70 mph-by Deana Foster



I'm in Knoxville today. That's right, Tennessee and of course, it is almost 70 degrees. Why oh why must I be so far away from my only stress relief (bikes) on such a perfect day for a ride? Oh well, maybe this weekend. I can't believe it is already the middle of February. I have so much to do for the state in such a short period of time! ARGGHHHHH!

By the time you read this, I will have celebrated my 50th Birthday and mourned the loss of my youth. (Sob) I haven't been that sad about aging nor have I really been thinking about it very much until just the last couple of days with the clock ticking away my 40s. Man, time sure flies. I have really enjoyed my 40s because during these ten years, I have accomplished many things. The biggest and greatest is of course learning to ride a motorcycle. I have gained self-esteem, courage, pride and most of all friends through motorcycling. I don't really know if I would have been ready for all of it any

earlier in my life. There was family and work and more work and more family. I also think that I can appreciate it more because I have the time and no distractions. No crying babies (or grand babies for that matter) to keep me from the road. In my 20s and 30s, the kids preoccupied my mind and my wallet!

There are those moments when I have regrets. Perhaps if I had learned to ride earlier, I would have traveled to more locations. I could have already ridden to Alaska and back a couple of times. I could have visited every state of our union and Mexico, perhaps even South America. Then there is getting off this side of the world and riding in Europe and Australia. I still want to do all those things and maybe I will make it.

I also think about my strength. Will I be able to handle my big bikes in ten more years? Will I be able to handle screamingly fast cross country trips? Will my buttocks allow me to sit in my saddle for hours on end without Monkey Butt Powder or 5 inch gel pads? Then there are my knees and my back and my shoulders and all those aching parts that right now at 49 only whisper that they are a little sore. I know in another ten years those same parts will be yelling at me to stop to grab more Aleve.

Whenever I get weepy about it, I

think about Arlene Crawford with all she does and it inspires me. She should inspire us all. That woman is AMAZING! You don't hear her complaining. Heck, she is always game for more and more and more! Double Heck, all of you amaze me. You are exciting, entertaining and special. You know that right?

I have been blessed just now, today, thinking about all of you as I write this. All of you out there riding in your teens, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s and beyond are women that mean a great deal to me. You teach me so much about friendship and passion. Your spirit drives me forward and your zest for life, at whatever age, makes me laugh and smile. Your excitement for this sport; this playful pastime; this "boy's" activity is what makes Women on Wheels® so great and what pushes me to strive for more. I only hope that I can ride up to your standards.

So here I go in 2011, 50 years old with a bike rocketing me down the highway to further self discovery as laughter spills out of my helmet and my heart. Nothing can stop me now...but just in case, I better not forget the Aleve!



Mary White-Show Me Director



My name is Mary G. White; I just turned 55 on the 29th of Dec. My husband Jerry and I have 7 children between us 4 boys and 3 girls ages from 36 to 23. We have 13 grandchildren from 15 to 5 months, 5 boys and 7 girls. I grew up in Springfield, Mo. and still have a sister there who also rides but who will not join WOW for reasons unknown. I currently live in Kansas City, MO. and I'm unemployed right now.

I ride a Vulcan 500 my first and only bike I also have a 45cc scooter. Not sure I have a dream bike other than a trike of some kind. I have always wanted to go to Europe and ride. The last National Ride-In was to Michigan it was a great time. I hope to make all State lunches this year; I had a great time last year and look forward to great food and rides.

I have met two, of what I consider my best friends, through WOW, Beth Shouse and Carolyn Clark. Carolyn and I were new to the group, less than a year, when Beth talked us into a trip to W.V. for Ride-In. Carolyn hated bridges and curves, the things that Beth and I loved. By the end of the trip Carolyn didn't mind the curves so much, but still doesn't care for bridges. Every time my husband, Jerry, called me we were laughing about something. So, the next time we did a long trip he had to go. It was to the Idaho national, he had a great time.

Jerry has been trying for years to get me to go to a larger bike but I'm happy with mine. It does everything I want it to, it keeps up with the bigger bikes and mountains are no problem. It was a great starter bike and is still a great bike to ride.

My son and son-in-law, who ride, used to give me a hard time about riding, until Jerry told them that I have more miles under my belt than they do. My number two son, Mike, used to ride street bikes, but went off- road when his son got big enough to ride a

small 4 wheeler. My youngest son, Jerry, had a street bike till he got out of control on a slick spot and totaled his bike; he is ok, he had all of his gear on. My number two daughter, Heather, also rides, but doesn't have a bike at this time. My husband is a ride instructor for the state, he teaches in many different places and I sometimes range-aid for him.

I am German, Irish, and Scottish, so a ride anywhere in Europe would be great, although I have a fondness for pasta.

Several of us went on the Women On Wheels® cruise last year in March and had so much fun that several from our group are going again in March of 2012. It was a 7 day trip and I missed my dogs, so I'm not sure I will make the San Jose Ride-In, this year, because that would be a two week trip on bikes for us and I'm not sure I want to be away that long, but Beth and Carolyn keep talking about the good times we would have and I know with them along it would be a great time.





Kathy Geckly-Show Me Vice-Director



I hiked my leg up and swung it across the back of a Yamaha Roadstar, wrapped my arms around my date and we were off. The wind blew around me and all my senses were heightened. It was one of the grandest moments of my life. I remember that first ride like it was yesterday but it was 7 years ago.

I signed up for the class even though I did not yet own a bike. My nervousness outweighed my excitement, so I got to take the class again.

My first bike I received as a Christmas gift, a Yamaha Virago. I now have a Honda Shadow. I am a novice still, but improving. My heart now stays where it is supposed to when I ride, not stuck in my throat.

My favorite ride is out in the country, no particular destination or direction, just ride and see where the road goes. Find a "mom and pop" diner along the way.

My biggest challenge is carving out the time to ride. I work as a nurse

in gastroenterology, colonoscopies and such.

My other interests include dancing, flower arranging and reading.

I was raised on the East coast but have been in Kansas City for 28 years. It's home.

My four children are raised and I have one grandson. They are still the light of my life and my inspiration.

My dream rides?

- Wouldn't it be great to take 3 weeks and travel Route 66, beginning to end. Take off the watch, turn off the cell phone, stop when you want. Really, really get away.
- Farther down the road with lots of miles under my belt I'd like to go to Alaska and ride. I hear it is pretty rugged.
- I'd like to travel to all the National Parks. The vastness of this country offers an endless supply of roads, terrain, and experiences that will span decades. The adventures are unlimited.

I discovered the WOW group online. The first meeting I went to impressed me as the gals were so warm and welcoming. They have been very encouraging, supportive and patient with this novice. I look forward to lots of fun times with them.



Mark Your Calendars

Saturday,

April 2nd

Missouri Mileage

Kick-Off Ride

Meet For Pictures

Ride to Lunch

Rack

Up

Miles

For

Missouri

Carolyn Clark-Show Me Secretary



Carolyn B Clark is 44 years old and is the newly elected Secretary of the Show-Me Riders Chapter for 2011.

Carolyn grew up in Northern Idaho with her parents and one older brother. She graduated from Sandpoint High School in 1984 then attended North Idaho College for a brief time. She later received an Associate of Science in Medical Records from Boise State University. She returned to school a third time and graduated summa cum laude from Park University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting/Management.

Carolyn has worked at Truman Medical Center for the last eighteen plus years and is currently the Operations Manager of Health Information Management.

She has been a single parent for the past 3 years and has three children; Ryan (23), Jason (21) and Allison (14) and three step-kids; Genesis (23), Aaron (21) and Ethan (18). Allison is the only one left at

home!! Both Ryan and Jason are planning weddings soon. She is happy to say she is not old enough to be a Grandma yet!

Carolyn currently lives in Independence MO and has lived in the same house for the last seventeen years.

Carolyn says she doesn't exactly remember when she started riding, but recalls riding on the back of both her brother and father's bikes as a young child.

Carolyn says, "In my younger years, I was definitely more into the 'real' ponies, rather than the iron one I have now. After a couple of years of not being able to coordinate schedules with my then husband, so I could ride as a passenger with him, I decided to take a motorcycle safety class in 2002 (I think). I wanted to make sure I could actually drive a bike before I bought my own!"

She said that the class went great and she proceeded to purchase her first bike, a 1983 250 Honda Rebel. After a riding season and with a Ride-In, in West Virginia, in the works I was persuaded to make the trip. She really didn't think she was ready for a bigger bike, but she bought her second bike, a 1982 550 Honda Nighthawk. She was skeptical of the bigger bike for awhile, but by the time she got home from WV, she was sold! Her Nighthawk eventually wore out and she bought her current ride last August. She is now the proud owner of a 2006

1300 Honda VTX. "I never thought I would get a bike that big, but with the prompting from a couple of special WOW gals, I jumped in with both feet and I don't regret it for a minute. What a feeling of power "Ms. BlueBell" has. Since she only has about 10,000 miles, I am sure we will be happy together for a very long time."

Carolyn says that one day, she would like to do an Iron Butt ride just to be able to say she did it, and OK, maybe for the pin and license plate holder. She says that "It was actually my first distance ride to the State Fair, about 100 miles, that I discovered the best part of riding. I got my first pin for my vest and I have been on a mission to collect as many pins as possible. It doesn't matter to me where I end up so long as I can get a new pin, cause riding to me is all about the pins and you can never have too many!!"





Women On Wheels®

Missouri WOW Chapters

Golden Valley Gals

Heartland

Lady Cruisers of the Ozarks

Ladies of Roubidoux

Show Me Riders



Missouri

Women On Wheels®

Our Mission:

To unite all women motorcycle enthusiasts
for recreation, education, mutual support
and to promote a positive
image of motorcycling.

2nd Annual Missouri Mileage Kick-Off

Make your plans now to attend the
Missouri Mileage Kick-Off,
April 2, 2011 in Jefferson City.

Are YOU Going to San Jose?

The place chosen for the next ride-in is the Hayes Mansion Hotel. Built in 1905, the Hayes Mansion Hotel was a privately owned estate until 1950. This 100 year old, 26 acre site located fifty miles south of San Francisco in the Silicon Valley of Santa Clara County, is close to wineries, shopping, parks, golf, museums and only an hour's ride from Alcatraz and the San Francisco Pier.

The rooms start at \$89 per night, this rate is good from July 4th through July 8th. The standard room includes dual-phone lines, a large work desk with lamp, wired and wireless high-speed Internet access, full-size ironing board and iron, an in-room safe, coffee maker, refrigerator, bath robe and slippers. Parlors and suites also include a flat-screened television and a comfortable living room space. You can call the hotel for the room rates of the Parlor and Mansion suites.

Direct Number: 408-226-3200

According to the National Weather Service, the mean temperature in the area is 84.6 degrees in the summer, with July being the warmest month of the year, of course. The temperatures run in the mid to upper nineties during the day and moderate to the upper sixties and lower seventies in the evening.

The GPS coordinates are:

37°15' 44.33" N 121°49' 14.76" W

The hotel is located just off of the Monterey Highway (82) adjacent to Edenvale Garden Park. The trip to the hotel from Missouri is between 1650 (Kansas City) and 2100 (St. Louis) miles, depending on the route you choose to take.

There are already plans and some rumors for some interesting



rides. There will be a bus tour of San Francisco, there is talk of a ride on Highway 1, the coast highway you seen in all the movies that are set in California. This year there will be both an ATV school and a Dirt Bike school. Some are considering rides to Oregon, Washington and even Canada before or after the Ride-In. So check your piggy banks, start planning your routes and line up your riding buddies.

See you in San Jose!



Upcoming Events

- **March 18th-20th:** Heart of Iowa Cabin Fever Rally, Quality Inn, 2601 E. 13th, Ames IA
- **March 26th:** 1st MO State Lunch to be held at Ethyl's Smokehouse and Saloon, 8505 Veterans Memorial Parkway, in O'Fallon, MO., at 1 p.m.



- **April 2nd:** 2nd Annual Missouri Chapters Mileage Kick-Off, in Jefferson City. Meet at the Capital @ Noon for pictures and then ride to lunch.
- **June 3rd-5th:** 12th Annual WOW MO State Rally, sponsored by the Lady Cruisers of the Ozarks, in Neosho, Missouri. Information will be in your mailbox soon.
- **June 25th:** MO State Lunch, Ironhorse Steakhouse and Saloon, 1020 Southwest Pense, Roscoe, MO. Host Chapter: Lady Cruiser of the Ozarks.
- **July 5th-7th:** 25th International Women On Wheels Ride-In, Dolce-Hays Mansion, 200 Edenvale, San Jose California.



- **July 23rd:** Panhead Billy's, 5701 Old Highway 40, Kingdom City, MO 65262