

## A Sisters point of view

I would like first off to say that I have enjoyed reading the Free Rider Press and have met Preacher and his ole lady Lorie, good woman and oh yea and he is a good man too.

I had a conversation with Preacher one day and he told me that he would like to have a woman's output on riding. Now I know there are many women out there that have been riding their own machines a lot longer than I and I hope with this article I do not step on any toes of the for mother bikers who were there before me.

I have been on some type of ride since, oh boy, had to be under 10 for there is no memory of not riding something (dirt bike or motorcycle). When I got old enough to ride a machine on the streets and think I could get away with it I was doing it. Heck, I would take my on/off road dirt bike on the road when I thought it was safe. I finally got my drivers license and then went for my motorcycle license. Now this was not a regular thing for a girl to do in those days. I got a lot of crap (I am being good with use of words here Preacher) for wanting to ride my own machine. Men could not understand why a woman wanted to ride her own machine and not just be happy with riding on the back. Now do not get me wrong, I have been on the back and it never felt right to me, my ole man now tells everyone I do not belong on the back and has never had a problem with me riding my own machine.

Well I was a woman that did not like being on the back, I wanted to feel the breeze myself and I wanted to have control over my machine. For this desire I had and will always have, I went through a lot to be able to do this one enjoyment in life that had no other feeling. Not even sex sometimes can beat the feeling of being in the drivers seat of my machine and just

going down the road leaving cares behind me and just enjoy Mother Nature.

In those days a woman could not go certain places I found out. When I was young (under 18) I could not figure out why was there such a big fuss about me wanting to ride my own machine, heck I had the same desire that the men did. But I was to find out that to ride a machine of my own and do it with freedom (that now a days some women riders feel they just have the right to) I had to be beat, called a dike, prove myself to men who rode motorcycles and there were other things but I will not go into all of them. I tell some women I run into that when I first started to ride, I started to think my name was Butch for I was called that for many years. Even though I hated the feeling of being careful of what town, city or area I rode through I could not and would not stop riding my machine.

I am 42 now and a lot younger than some women who are riding now and God bless those women that went through some of the stuff I went through and are still riding. What made me think of writing this certain article was a letter from KNUCK in the May issue of Free Rider Press. He mentioned the "BROTHERHOOD OF BIKERS" and it made me think yea there is a brotherhood and always has been up until maybe 8 or so years ago and then something happened. Now I was not ever really in the brotherhood for I was/am a woman but I tell you, I did earn the respect of many men that I rode with. Sometimes when I was on a ride with some men (friends) and someone broke down, that out of all the toolbags I seemed to have the tool that got the job done (usually duct tape). So in ways I was accepted but then there were other times I was not. I could not ride with them because of the people they were going to see or ride with, so either I did not go, or I rode on the back. But I saw the brotherhood and understood it and accepted it and also watched it change over the years. There is now a different type of person out riding motorcycles then when I first started. It is a group of people (riders, RUBS, yuppies, or bikers of the future, or whatever you want to call them) I feel have not learned the meaning of respect and they are people who just want a certain lifestyle for the weekend.

Being a woman I was happy to see more and more women getting in the drivers seat. Yea it is about time, but now I see that women now riding have the same disrespect if you want to call it towards older women who ride and have many miles under their belts. A long history of riding, and the fight that we older women had to go through in order for it to be so acceptable for women now to ride. I see us older women getting the same lack of sisterhood/brotherhood that we did years ago. Women who rode were far and few between and when you ran into one, you felt a sisterhood. Even to this day I feel a sisterhood with those women, the for times we went through only she an understand. I understand KNUCK and agree with him, but I also want to say KNUCK that it is hard to teach someone something they think they already know.

Thanks Preacher for giving me the freedom to be able to write this type of letter.

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