

Let me take you for a ride.....

Hubby rides all week. Back and forth to work, to run errands here and there and the like. I, on the other hand, being what is commonly referred to as a "house mouse" usually have the kids with me so when a ride is set up it is after I have a sitter lined up for the day.

As Momma of our group, our scheduled ride day begins with me making breakfast for our motley crew. We range in numbers from the core 6 to as many as 12 or more. The menu consists of homemade biscuits and cinnamon rolls, egg bake, coffee, juice and a Mountain Dew for Hardley Dangerous (one of our crew who doesn't drink coffee). We meet around 8:30 to chow down before starting the day. After everyone has had their fill, we are ready to hit the road. No definate destination in mind, we just decide on a heading of north, south, east or west and get the wheels in motion. We are no more out of our drive and I can feel the tension being released from my body like a large weight being lifted from my shoulders. I close my eyes, take a deep breath and am ready for a day of riding. I don't really care where we go, the more miles the better. With the occasional stop us girls can get a bit tipsy, the guys do a good job of keeping an eye on us and staying sober to operate the bikes. After all, our job is just to sit on the back and look pretty! I can handle that. Don't get me wrong, I watch the traffic, fellow riders and as day turns to dusk, I watch for the deer, but I definately enjoy myself.

Hubby and I, along with Skid and his old lady are always at the front of the pack. We hug the ditch and Skid rides the

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center line. We are a bit hard of hearing after a long days ride - Skid's pipes are barking at us all day, but it's music to my ears. I'm amazed at how much I can communicate with Angie, Skid's old lady, while we are riding. The guys use had signals to let one another know we need to stop, turn up ahead etc. Baseball coaches could take a lesson! Being up front, and Momma of our little group, I am always turning my head to count bikes and, later in the day, head lights, to make sure everyone is still with us. Most of the group rides staggered, Skid and Lucky ride side-by-side most of the time. Comfortable enough in the other's skills as a rider to be that close as we barrel down the open road.

8am - 3pm

The scenery passes us by. Rolling hills, green lush valleys, farmers out in the fields have a friendly wave for us and fellow riders give us the occasional nod or "two down" sign. We stop at little places along the way. Places otherwise unknown to us had we not stumbled upon them on our ride. Going into a place is always fun. We are either met with smiles and nods or it's like the parting of the red sea as the "scarey bikers" come in. Ha! Gotta love it! We grab a bite to eat, a few hit the poker machines and some shoot a game of pool. We don't usually hang around long - gotta put on some more miles, ya know?

Springtime brings the beautiful greens as everything is just starting to bud. Summer's can be a bit warm - jeans, boots, leather and on the asphalt besides. Fall brings the rustle of the leaves behind the bike and the beautiful colors of the changing leaves. Every ride brings peace, camaraderie and the undeniable feeling of freedom. I am always in awe of all that I would otherwise miss if I were making the same trip in a car. It's just not the same. There is no comparison

Friends that don't ride often ask me, why? They see it as potentially dangerous, expensive and simply unnecessary pastime. I have tried to explain, even pointing out this is quality time for hubby and I. I am still met with blank stares and the shrugging of shoulders. I realize its not for everyone, but if the world had more bikers I think it would be a better place by far. We operate as a family, looking out for one another, helping, wrenching, counseling and consoling. A recent biker newsletter mention how bikers will stop for a fellow biker who is sitting along the side of the road as well as for cagers. How many times have you been broke down and been passed by countless cars without anyone stopping? Yep, a better place by far in my opnion.

Momma Kat

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