



Illinois

Red Hawk Riders

a chapter of Women on Wheels®

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Lynda DiGregor

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Suzanne Palm

Co-Director
Newsletter Editor
Secretary

Martha Alexander

Treasurer

Susan Snyder

Secretary

Marge Thiessen

David Thiessen

Ride Coordinators

June 15th Meeting

WAS HELD AT Elgin Community College this month in lieu of a regular meeting so that we could attend the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Experienced Rider Course as a group. Those in attendance were: Cindy Carroll, Lynda DiGregor, Valerie Money, Suzanne Palm, Maxine Smith, Susan Snyder, Marge Thiessen, and Dwayne Young.

The weather was warm, sunny, and breezy—perfect for being outside on the bikes. The instructors were both knowledgeable and personable. I think we all agreed that it was an educational experience that we all benefitted from. To see e-photos of this day, go to www.photoisland.com. Log-in ID: lynnalou. Guest Password: safety.

Upcoming Rides

**Women On Wheels
16th International Ride-In**

Gilbertsville, Kentucky

July 9, 10, 11

We have one six-person cottage reserved for this event. Camping is also available on a first-come first-serve basis. You can get more Ride-In information from your WOW magazine or from the Women On Wheels web site at: www.womenonwheels.org.

Davis Rally

New Hampton, Iowa

September 6, 7, 8

Rides, food, entertainment, games, etc. Lots of vendors on site. Camping/tenting. 240 miles each way. Contact Marge or David Thiessen if you're interested in participating in this event.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

When: We meet *every third Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m.* Meetings usually last an hour or so. If you'd like to have breakfast at the meeting, please be sure to come a little earlier.

Where: The **Colonial Cafe** at 6000 NW Hwy. (Rte. 14) in Crystal Lake, Illinois. For more information, e-mail us or try the MapQuest link on our web site at: www.redhawkriders.com. Hope to see you there!

**NEXT MEETING:
July 20, 2002**

Illinois Red Hawk Riders — a chapter of Women On Wheels®

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IRHR Business

WOW Membership Renewals

Don't forget to check your WOW membership expiration date and be sure to keep it current.

Information Updates

Remember to e-mail Suzanne your new WOW membership expiration date as well as any other new or changed information, such as phone number, address, e-mail, etc. so that the IRHR database can be kept up to date.

Thank you!



Susan Snyder on her 2000 Harley Davidson 1200cc Sportster.

To help us get to know each other a little better, this new feature article will introduce a different Illinois Red Hawk Rider member each month.

This month's featured WOW member is Susan Snyder, IRHR Secretary.

I call home Huntley where I share my life and garage space with my husband, Art. We have been married 31 years and have 2 adult children. Our son and his wife live in their new home in Huntley and our daughter is engaged and living in southern California. When not riding I am teaching school during the week. I am a resource teacher for gifted children, K-6, in the Cary school district. Art and I like to antique, go to flea markets and camp. The camping is new for me, but I love it. We also enjoy anything historical, so museums and the like are a favorite also. We have one cat that is large enough to be two.

I own a 2000, 1200 Sportster. I also owned a 250 Suzuki; my learner bike and a 750 MBW from 1977. We still have that and Art has been restoring it. I began riding only 4 years ago and that was initially on the back of Art's bike. I feel I am a novice yet, with more than 10,000 miles to my name. Art rode as a kid, but when we married he gave it up and we raised our children. After they left he wanted to resume his love. The t-shirts and caps I bought him through the years just weren't cutting it! After riding with him, I decided I'd like to learn, just to say I did it. I took the MSF class and failed the first time. I didn't even know what a clutch was not having driven a stick shift car. I took it again, and might add, with much better instructors, and passed. At first, I still didn't ride much myself and only locally. I then began to gain some confidence.

I now love over the road riding and even am riding into major cities on expressways. I love the feel of my bike, as it seems to fit me well. I have continued to improve my skills with very helpful hints from Art and other riders we have gone out with. I am a better rider, I think, because I am willing to listen to suggestions for improvement. I recognize this as a dangerous sport (we have been down in a serious accident) and want to make this pleasurable and not frightening.

I have had two trips that have been what I would call favorites. This past summer Art and I rode our bikes to Arizona to visit relatives and go to the Grand Canyon. We had many wild and wonderful experiences and that is when my camping enthusiasm began. I also enjoyed staying with family in a soft bed and readily available shower. It was a 17-day adventure and a thrill to handle the bike that amount of time in mountains and all kinds of weather. My favorite short trip is actually with this WOW group when we went to Galena. I loved the roads and the camaraderie. I was disappointed when we couldn't make the Sparta trip. I enjoy this group of people very much and feel I have found the people who understand my feelings about riding and accept my limitations. I am ready to go anywhere and hope to ride to every part of the USA.

My best advice to other women, is know your limitations and don't try to ride beyond them. Pick a skill and work on improving it. Listen to people who have experience. After I improved on hills and stopping, I made my next goal better parking. Be safe and ride proud.

--Susan