

Riding with Jane

By Jane Deschaine

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Sadly enough it is time for me to bid adieu to an old friend that has been dependable, fun and quite nice looking, my Sportster. Before I do I would like to tell you why this time has come.

My first bike was a 1983 Yamaha Virago, not a big bike but a good first bike. When I got back into riding after I had my daughter I bought a 2000 Sportster Sport. It was tall but I had it lowered, added a few custom pieces and wow, it was mine for life! I put about 45,000 miles on it and never thought twice. I always had people ask me, "Jane how do you put that kind of miles on a Sportster.

Does it beat you to death?" "No", I'd tell them, "I love my Sportster it fits me perfectly, plus I've never ridden a bigger bike so I don't know any better." I would see big bikes and think, gosh I can ride circles around them because



my bike is smaller and easier to handle. Riding a bigger bike really wasn't in the picture for me. Plus it had been drilled into me that women rode small bikes. I would see women on big bikes and wonder if it was too big for them, little did I know.....

About two years ago I was at an Agent Orange Run, my daughter and I had won a couple raffle gift certificates for 1-day rentals at Eagle Riders. Since my daughter was too young to ride of course that meant

I had two days of bike rental. On Labor Day weekend of that year we decided to go out of town and thought this was the perfect time for me to rent a big bike and see if I liked it, I rented a Heritage. That was a mistake, I liked it, better yet, I loved it! The size was a little intimidating but by the end of the weekend I was used to it.

This past November I bought a '05 Road Glide and have never looked back. Please keep in mind that I'm only 5'4. It was tall but I had it lowered, added a few custom pieces and wow, it's mine for life! I see small bikes and think, gosh I can ride circles around them because my bike is bigger. Sound familiar? It's a touring bike but is actually "easier" to ride than my Sportster!

We, as females in the biking community are lead to believe that we should go smaller because it's easier to handle. I agree with that when you first start riding, it builds your confidence, but don't be afraid to go to a bigger bike. Whether you ride Harleys, Hondas, or Yamahas, etc., if you are more comfortable starting with small bike go ahead and start smaller. But when it comes to the point that you think bigger is better, go for it because it is!

Ride safe, have fun!

Jane