

Riding with Jane

By Jane Deschaine

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Everywhere I look I see people doing it. It doesn't matter whether they are at an event, in a large group, small group or just riding alone. Everyone is doing it. I see some women doing it. Then why did it intimidate me so? Why did riding two up make me so nervous?

I guess first and foremost I'm not very big. I could blame it on my Road Glide but I felt this way on my Sportster. I guess it's because I didn't do it very often. I mean really, who wanted to ride with me? Who was willing to ride behind a woman? Ok, ok a couple of guys I work with that are 'at one with their manhood' rode with me but that was only once or twice. This only left my daughter to ride with me. When my daughter rides she usually rides with my boyfriend and since I was a little apprehensive about passengers

I encouraged it. Lately though she has been adamant that she wants to ride with Mom.



Please don't see my apprehensiveness of riding two up to believe I was unsafe. On the contrary I chose to see her wanting to ride with me as an opportunity to finally be comfortable and at one with my passenger. That is really what its all about.... being one with the passenger.

When someone else is on the back of my bike I immediately feel the weight change of the bike, well duh, of course. With that came my fear. I tried to over compensate for the extra weight. It's as if I forgot how to ride. I would stop different than I did by myself. Not faster or slower, just different. Sort of out of rhythm to my normal stops. My feet would go down before they normally would. My turns became slower, wider; my leaning wasn't as deep for fear I would lean too far. So as usual I asked for advice.

The advise I received was this.....Stop it!! Ok, it was more in detail than that but not much. I was told to ride just as I do when I am the only one on the bike. Don't change anything about the way you ride just change your mind-set. I know there is extra weight, feel it and move on. When stopping, I allow for the change in distribution but I don't change how I stop. My feet hit the ground at the same time they do when it's just me. When turning, I don't make turns wider or slower or faster for that matter, I just turn. It took a little time for my brain to adjust but it did and now I love riding two up with my daughter.

Ride safe, have fun!
Jane