

Women Riders Gather in Colorado



Jasmine Bluecreek Clark, Author of *Women in the Wind*

I am blessed in that I do get to ride my custom FXR, Scarlett Dancer, to many motorcycling events each year. Being I'm a woman, often I attend events especially designed for us chicks. They have all been fun and often offered up some learning experiences for myself and others. (Sometimes - learning when to stop partying at these events can be the most valuable lesson of all!) But that's another story.

I want to tell you about the most exciting women's event that I have attended to date: The AMA International Women & Motorcycling which was held in Athens, GA in 2006. Yeah, I know - that's going back awhile, but in case you've been snowed in under a rock or something lately and haven't heard - the AMA has picked Keystone, Colorado for the 2009 women's event.

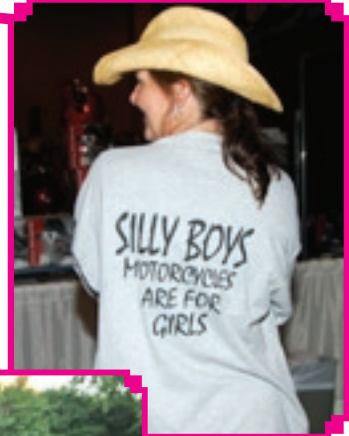
Believe me; riding up to Keystone in August is going to beat riding to Georgia in July! I figure I won't be the only woman rider to think so either. It's just plain ugly, hot and sticky down Georgia way in July and well... summer mountain riding is just heavenly most of the time. As long as we don't get sudden snow, hail or sleet - things will be fine, and even if we do - it won't last long, right?

Steamy hot weather aside, the 2006 event far exceeded all my expectations. I was impressed by how many of the participants had nothing but praise for the entire event. Usually someone has a gripe or two during these women-things, but not at this one.

During free time while enjoying an ice-cream social, I was impressed with how the women we're discussing what they had learned from the myriad of well put together workshops offered. They were discussing the great advice offered up on a variety of subjects by seasoned riders and other female motorcycle professionals. They were discussing a woman's self-defense lecture (which I missed) and what they had learned there. It mattered not whether they were hard-core long distance riders like me, or newbie's with only a few miles under their skirts. I am convinced that every woman at the conference took something wonderful home with them.

This included new friendships; the camaraderie over the 4-day event was quite remarkable. That being said, what about those women? Who were they, where do they come from? What do they ride? Why do they ride?

I met women from all over the world. They rode all different brands and styles of motorcycles: Sport Bikes, Cruisers, Dual Sports and even a few Scooters. Fortunately many, but not all, of them spoke English as a second language; this helped greatly with communications. I met a pair of



young Chinese female riders; I met two (older-than-me) amazing British women who were riding BMW dual-purpose motorcycles. They had taken the whole summer off and had already toured S. America on those bikes and we're

launching their tour of N. America from the Athens, GA event. I made friends with some wonderful Australian women and also renewed friendships with American lady riders that I knew from before. There were lady riders from virtually every corner of the world enjoying each other's company and the events at hand. It felt like EVERYONE was there!

There were booths galore with lots of fun things to shop for. Women's merchandise was adequately represented among the vendors, along with general mc gear, and accessories. The manufacturers demo rides, with every brand imaginable represented, were also a big hit.

So... should you ride up to Keystone August 19-22? I strongly recommend it! I expect the 2009 conference will be even more fantastic. Each of these AMA Women's' Conferences is a once in a lifetime event. You could easily share an amazing, fun, cultural and educational experience with these incredible ladies. That includes you guys too!

For more information and/or to register, visit WomenAndMotorcycling.com.

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