



# H.O.G. Trails

Screw it, Lets ride!

## May Flowers Bring...

**Lilies** on KY Oaks Day!

Bouquets or baskets of **flowers** for Mother's Day!

And the opportunity for Derby City H.O.G. members to ride to a special location, have fellowship and ride the local scenery all weekend, for **"Escape From Derby"**. If you've never participated, you're missing out on great times with great people!

Here's the group from last year....



## May is all about the Ladies!

Beginning with the "Lilies For The Fillies" on Oaks Day, then honoring the incredible women who we call "Mom", on Mother's Day. In addition, this month is about the women Trailblazers of the Motorcycle World and communities of today!

Let's hear it for all the wonderful ladies, past and present, who have made your world amazing!





## Trailblazing Women of the Motorcycle World

**“First Cross Country Women Riders”:** In 1915, *Effie Hotchkiss*, experience rider and mechanic, rode from Brooklyn, NY to San Francisco and back with her mother, Avis, in a sidecar. Proving that women have as much endurance as men.

**“First African American Woman To Complete A Solo Cross Country Ride”**, in fact, *Bessie Stringfield* completed a total of 8, during the 1930's and 1940's. Covering the lower 48, Europe, Brazil & Haiti. The *“Motorcycle Queen of Miami”*, founded the *Iron Horse Motorcycle Club* in 1950.

**“The First Lady of Motorcycling”**, Dorothy “Dot” Robinson, competed in endurance races & logged over 1.5 million miles in her lifetime. Co-founder of *Motor Maids* in the 1930's, is still the most prestigious club for women.

**“Adventurist”**, Theresa Wallach, a British Motorcyclist, rode from London to Cape Town, South Africa in 1935, crossing the Sahara Desert! She later moved to the U.S. and opened one of the first motorcycle Mechanic Schools for women.

**“Moto Lady” and “Sturgis Hall of Fame Inductee”**, Gloria Tramontin Struck, born in 1925, is currently the oldest active female motorcyclist enthusiast in the World. She has written a book about women riders and her philosophy is “Live your dreams”



Effie and Avis Hotchkiss

Bessie Stringfield



Dorothy “Dot” Robinson

Theresa Wallach



Gloria Tramontin Struck

## Editors Feature: “What’s Your Favorite Ride?”

By: Chels “Cha-Cha” Watson

She called it “A Birthday Ride to Remember: Conquering the Back of the Dragon”

“For my most recent birthday on March 27, I decided to celebrate in the best way I know how -- on two wheels, carving through the curves of one of the most legendary motorcycle routes in the Appalachian Mountains of southwest Virginia. This breathtaking route spans 32 miles, challenging riders with 438 curves and reaching elevations of 3500 feet. It’s a test of skill, endurance, and sheer determination. Unlike its well-known rival, TN’s Tail of the Dragon, Back of the Dragon takes pride in its extended mileage and proudly displays a sign that reads: “Eleven...try Thirty-two”—a bold nod to the extra miles and twists it offers.

...(to complete) the ride there and back (to Louisville) in a single day was no small feat. The cold mountain air added to the challenge.... Each curve required precise control, reminding me this route is not recommended for beginners.

It’s a riders road in every sense — rewarding, exhausting, and undeniably exhilarating

Despite the long and chilly trek, I can say with certainty that this ride was one of the best ways to celebrate another year on this planet. The scenery was breathtaking, the challenge unforgettable and the experience (is) one for the books.

If you’re an experienced rider looking for a road that will test your skills and leave you with stories to tell, The Back of the Dragon should definitely be on your list.



Cha-Cha reminds me of one more Trailblazer for women riders, and that’s **Diana Marafioti**. She was the founder of American Motorcycle Driving School, Inc., in 1986. The first to bring rider education to Dutchess County, NY as well as the first to start and teach the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) classes.

She instructed for 20 years, achieving many awards.



Diana, pictured with one of her students, Ralph Lauren