

Rider of the Month Profile ~ MaryK Donnay

by the Breyer Law Office - The Husband and Wife Law Team

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RIDER OF THE MONTH

MARY K. DONNAY

Happy New Year riders!! We thought we would kick off our newsletter feature with someone who advocates so much for our riders, Mary K. Donnay. Mary K. grew up in New Brighton, MN. She moved to Arizona in May of 1972. She lived off 39th Avenue and Peoria. During that time period, there was nothing built north of Cactus Rd and there was desert space between Phoenix and Glendale. We asked her what got her into riding and here is her response:

"Growing up in MN, my family went RV'ing year-round, boating & fishing in the summer, snowmobiling in the winter. My dad taught me to drive all kinds of vehicles. He owned a variety of high performance cars. I miss the days he used to pick me up in one of his fast cars, like a Pantera or Shelby Mustang, and go for a ride, trying to find a road he could get the car air-born on. He knew of a couple of those roads in Cave Creek, back in the day. So, my dad passed on the appreciation for speed and performance to me.

My first husband rode a custom Harley. While being a passenger on his bike, he once took us up to 135 m.p.h. and said he could go even faster without me on the back. So, not wanting to hold him back, I chose to ride my own bike from then on and said, "I'll see ya when I get there". BTW, things get strange at 135 m.p.h. It's like an alternate dimension where everything becomes lines of color, and the wind is trying to pull you off the bike." Mary K started riding her own bike in 1979, and her first bike was a Custom 1965 Triumph Trophy 650cc. It had no front brake or fender, no turn signals, shocks, or speedometer. She didn't realize how crazy and dangerous it was at the time. Thankfully, she never has to ride a bike like that again.

After 6 more motorcycles, she finally got her dream bike, a 2006 H-D Road Glide, a fire red pearl. Now, her dream bike is a newer edition Road Glide!

Here are some questions we asked Mary K:

- » What is your favorite ride (US) also in AZ? "My favorite out-of-state favorite ride is around Lake Coeur d'Alene. The best in-state ride is Lake Mary Road (Coconino County 3) from Flagstaff to Clints well, then onto 260 into Payson."
- » What do you enjoy most about riding? "The solitude & serenity clears my mind, I enjoy smelling and feeling the environment."
- » Do your family members ride? "My dad rode until he was 83 years old, almost daily."
- » What do you do for fun when you are not riding? "Boating/fishing, RV'ing"

A few additional words from Mary K.

"I've had a strong sense to protect and preserve our right to ride for a long time, on the local and national levels. I joined A.B.A.T.E. of Arizona in 1997 and held numerous positions, including State Secretary, State President, Chairman of the Board of Directors and now Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors. I support the Arizona Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation (A.M.S.A.F) and am a member of the American Motorcyclist Assoc. (A.M.A.) and Motorcycle Riders Foundation (M.R.F) and other State A.B.A.T.E. organizations.

I encourage everyone to continue their rider education, ride like you're invisible, and attend Accident Scene Management Classes. I'm thankful to The Husband and Wife Law Team for their on-going support of the motorcycling community. They uphold the highest standards in legal practice and have made a difference in many lives."

Mary K. Donnay
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