

## History Corner by Jeff Whittinghill

### Remembering River City HOG Co-Founder Bill Simmons



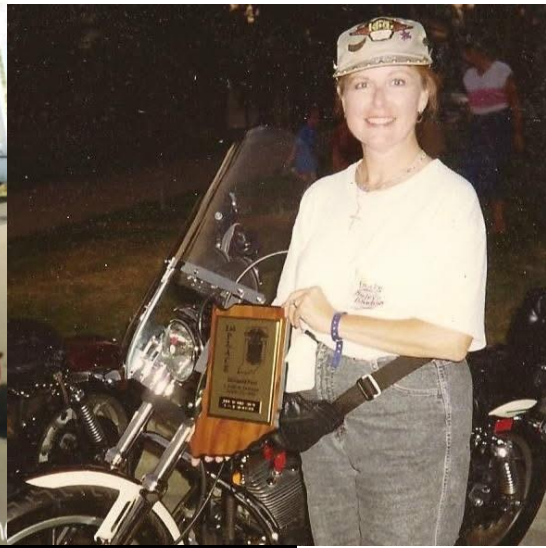
*Sadly, we lost one the founders of River City HOG on April 28, 2025.* Due to health issues, Bill Simmons stopped riding in 2015, but he and his wife Phyllis rode extensively throughout their lifetimes and are fondly remembered as super kind and devoted to service to others. Bill was a HADI Shriner, Mason, and Kentucky Colonel. Through his leadership experience and love for motorcycling, Larry Moran asked Bill and Sam Barter, Jr. to establish a local HOG Chapter. Thankfully they accepted the challenge, and a charter was issued to River City HOG 1210 on March 22, 1988.

I joined River City HOG at the age of 32 in August, 1989, and was riding a 1986 1100 Sportster. Bill, Phyllis, and the other 40 members of the chapter were very welcoming and helped improve my riding skills. The camaraderie within River City HOG was notable with many organized group rides, meetings, and events to keep riders engaged and grow the chapter. Bill was the “Dale Earnhardt” of the chapter...highly experienced, dressed in black leather, wearing a three-quarter black helmet, and riding a black Electra Glide Classic. Growth of the chapter wasn't just about numbers; it was about building a vibrant community, a shared passion that transcended age. We hosted legendary events, forged lasting friendships, and, most importantly, kept the spirit of the chapter alive.

*To honor Bill*, River City HOG presented him with a Certificate of Lifetime Membership during our annual Christmas party on December 2, 2016.



*It's also important to recognize Phyllis Simmons.* Bill and Phyllis were married for 57 years, and Phyllis shared that their first date was on a motorcycle. How awesome is that for a first date! She was one of the first women to join Ladies of Harley and ride her own bike. She had a highly customized Sportster that won many first-place awards. Phyllis remains a member of River City HOG and closely follows our activities on Facebook and the web page.



Phyllis with her bike and with Bud Burnett

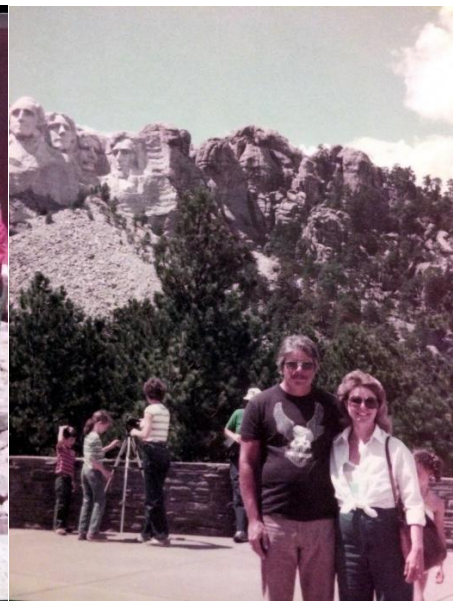


*Bill also had the honor* of taking his grandson Remington on his first motorcycle ride.

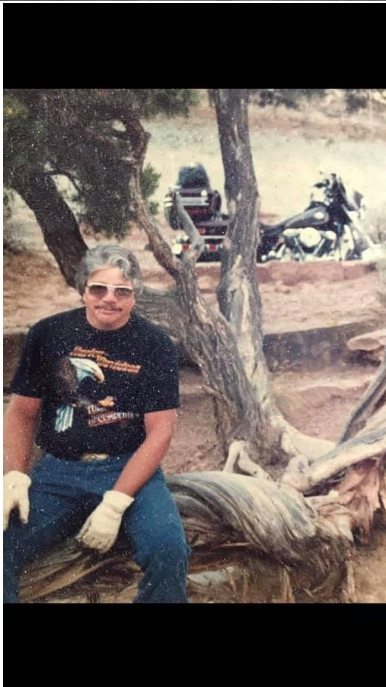
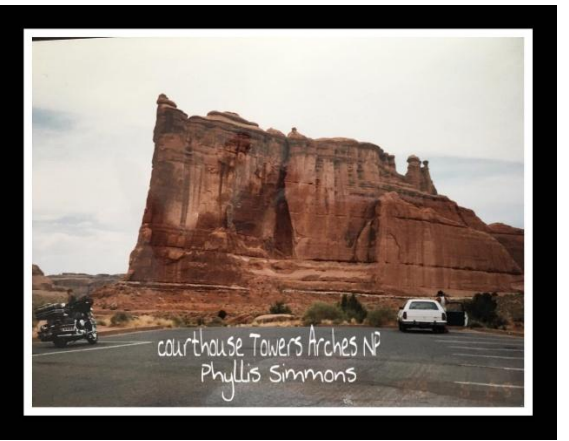


*We owe a debt of gratitude* to Bill and Phyllis for their contributions to River City HOG. We will always remember Bill and the many memories that were created through his love of fellow riders and motorcycling. His quiet strength and unwavering dedication laid the foundation for a thriving community, proving that true leadership is about fostering camaraderie and shared passion. The legacy of River City HOG, and the countless memories forged within its ranks, stand as a testament to Bill's enduring influence. It's a legacy I, and so many others, will carry forward, striving to emulate his spirit of service and unwavering love for the open road.

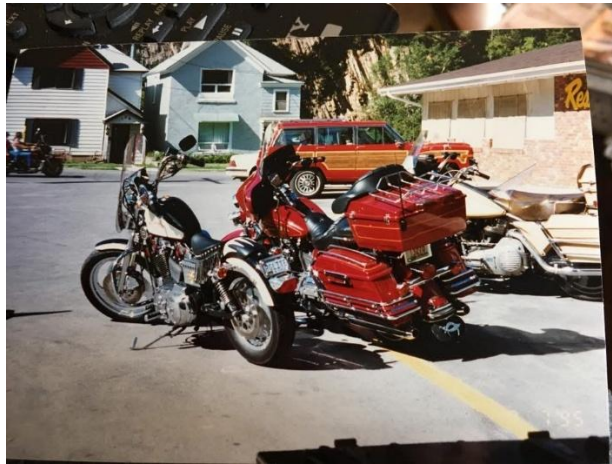












Bill and Phyllis with Sharon and Sam Barter, Jr



