



2005 (HANGING GEARS) Meet 10 Riders



Linnea Johnston
Cedar Ridge, California

- Diagnosed at 33 with no family history of cancer. Now 36.
- A mother, sister, wife, daughter, Linnea has been a Harley rider for 17 years.
- She sky dives, bungee jumps, belly dances, sews, bakes, and gardens.
- Her son believes she is the warrior princess.
- *"I have learned my limitations. My soul has been re-kindled. I am finding my strengths. I am once again happy. I am thankful to be alive."*



Paula Tomlinson
Redmond, Washington

- Diagnosed in May 2004 and an Electrical Engineer at Microsoft in the Mobile Devices Product Group, she credits a breast cancer screening program on the Microsoft campus for saving her life.
- Married with three lovely dogs.
- Private pilot and owner of classic 1951 Ryan Navion.



Janet (Jan) Downes
Bellevue, Nebraska

- Diagnosed at 40, has a family history with cancer, now 47 and still struggling with cancer.
- She gives lectures to schools, churches, and other organizations about breast cancer, even while battling it.
- Has 3 children and 2 grandchildren.
- *"I decided that this cancer likes me and I am stuck sharing my body with it."*



Gayla Winn
Norman, Oklahoma

- Diagnosed at 27; now 29
- At 5' 2", Gayla is new to motorcycles
- *"I want to spread awareness about breast cancer issues facing young survivors, and put a face--my face--with this cause so that people realize that no one is immune. Some might be surprised to see a 5ft 2in 29 year old dental hygienist and breast cancer survivor from Oklahoma ride a Harley, and I hope they NEVER forget."*



Rhonda Witharm
Hayward, California

- Diagnosed at 45 and still fighting.
- An experienced rider, participating in both the U.S. and Australian rides
- A former Fremont police officer, now a technician in Berkeley National Laboratory Physics Division
- Rides with other organizations such as Women of the Wind
- *"Breast cancer survivors embody that spirit, embracing life with almost superhuman courage, endurance and determination. Some of them will win, some will lose the battle, but all will give it the fight of their lives."*



Michele Rhoden
Bartow, Florida

- Diagnosed last year, she is 33 years old.
- An experienced rider, she is married with two boys.
- *"I know by doing this ride we are going to make sure a lot of young women get to see their children grow and get to hold their grandchildren one day."*



Cathy Huston
Grand Rapids, Michigan

- Diagnosed at 33 with no family history, now 42.
- The only rider participating in all three rides – US, Australia and UK.
- *"I took part in the first "Changing Gears" ride in California last Oct. It was a life-altering experience to say the least. I was honored by this group of women who chose me to lead the ride and that they gave me my motorcycle (biker) nickname of "Fearless"..."*



Gigi McKay
Belfair, Washington

- Diagnosed when 29 years old, mother of two.
- Experienced rider, since 12 years old.
- Former Police Officer and riding instructor for women.
- Had a second child in March 2004 after doctors said it would be impossible because of all her cancer treatments.

Olade Olayinka
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



- Diagnosed at 28, now 37 and enjoying 9 years cancer free
- Treatment took 35 radiation sessions, 5-year chaser of Tamoxifen, bone marrow transplant, and 6 rounds of chemo
- Describes cancer treatment like her old bike, *"The mechanic said he was going to get rid of the cancer (the rust), flush the systems and replace some parts."*
- A public speaker and advocate for breast cancer awareness, she is concerned because African-American women have a higher mortality rate from breast cancer.
- *"When I'm on that Harley, I'll be screaming in the wind with joy and riding to make sure our message gets heard"*

Cathy Gailey
Fayetteville, Georgia



- Diagnosed at 33 with no family history; now 40 and cancer-free 7 years.
- An experienced rider, she and her husband of 20 years plus two children enjoy family rides on his Road King Classic and her Sportster 1200 Custom bike.
- A Realtor, Cathy also chairs the 2005 Relay for Life event for Fayette County, Georgia; belongs to the Moo Cow Bikers Club; and plays drums.
- For her first chemo treatment, she wore a Cat in The Hat costume; and before losing her hair, her kids clipped their initials in it and gave her a mohawk before shaving her head.