

PIPELINE

pipng systems inc.

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/INSTITUTIONAL MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

SUMMER 2007



Here's a photo of a few of Piping Systems' team members taking a break after a recent ride.

Motorcycles Are Everywhere!

(Warning: The following is a human interest story, so if you're expecting something about piping, beware!)

In 2004, not long after my father died, I felt the need to do something radical, something different, and something I knew he probably would not have approved of. Don't get me wrong; I loved my father dearly. He was my hero, my mentor, my business partner, my devil's advocate, and well, you know, my dad! Oftentimes when I was young and we were riding in a car, when he'd see a motorcycle, he'd make some type of comment like "look at that guy, he's going too fast, he's going to kill himself."

That June, on a beautiful summer day, a friend and fellow worker, Doug, offered to take me for a ride on the back of his Harley-Davidson. It was only a short ride, but it really sparked my desire to learn the sport of motorcycling. The desire was so strong that, within days, I had decided that I wanted my own bike. Another friend and fellow worker, Greg, had a couple of Harley Sportsters for sale. I went to look at them and fell in love with a cherry red 1992 883 Harley-Davidson Sportster. The shocks had been lowered and I was able to plant my feet

firmly on the ground. I bought it on the spot. Of course, now I had to go home to tell my husband...

Postponing the task for a couple of days, one night I waited until he was almost asleep and told him casually, "Billy, I have something to tell you."

"What?" he answered sleepily.

"Uh, I bought a motorcycle."

Sitting upright and definitely not sleepy anymore, he replied, "What, are you crazy? You don't even know how to ride a motorcycle?"

I said, "I know. I signed up for the Motorcycle Safety Course and I'm going to learn."

"Oh, just great," he replied, and needless to say, the conversation ended right there for the night.

To say he was not pleased is an understatement. In fact, our house was pretty silent for the next couple of days. The silence was finally broken when he approached me and asked, "So, what am I supposed to do while you're out riding your motorcycle with the guys?"

"Well, you could ride on the back," I said.

To which he replied, "There's no way I'm going to ride in the b___ seat!" (For those not familiar with the vernacular of motorcycle riders, there's a term for the back seat; it starts with a "b" and the place behind the driver is affectionately called the b___ seat. Let's just say it's a synonym for a female dog.)

So I said, "Well how about if you join me in the course."

That changed things a little. After he thought about it for a few minutes, we talked and both decided to go to the course together. My husband had ridden when he was a teenager and felt he needed to brush up on his riding skills. So, we both signed up to attend the safety course sponsored by the Motor Safety Foundation.

Finally, the day came to take the course. The first day was spent going through the rules and regulations of motorcycling and was all bookwork. At

continued on page 4



pipng systems inc.

32 Mill Street (Rt. 79)

P.O. Box 409

Assonet, MA 02702

TEL: 508/644-2221 • FAX: 508/644-2447

E-MAIL: psi@pipng-systems-inc.com

WEBSITE: www.pipng-systems-inc.com

Motorcycles Are Everywhere... *continued from page 1*

the end of the day we were asked to take a written test. The instructor we had was fantastic. He was very patient with the beginners and offered lots of anecdotal stories about his riding experiences.

The next day, Sunday, was when we learned how to actually ride. He had us on motorcycles, riding and able to stop, within two hours. During that day, after we learned the mechanics of starting and stopping, we practiced on a course. We were preparing for a practical test we had to take at the end of the day. If we passed, we were going to be given our license to motorcycle on the spot.

As I said, the instructor was patient, and I was lucky because the first time I took the riding test I failed! I was devastated! Since it had been so soon after my father died, I wondered if he was somehow involved in my failure. I quickly changed my thought pattern and talked myself into passing. I knew deep in my heart that if my father knew how much I wanted to ride, he would have been there supporting me, even if he did not approve. Luckily, the instructor offered to stay later for the

two or three of us who did not pass (not all women, might I add). I passed the second time. What a thrill!

After a few months, I decided that I wanted a new bike because I did not want to have to depend on a mechanic to change the oil and do other maintenance to my bike. My next bike was a 2005 Harley Sportster Model XL 883. That particular model was designed for short people and it was perfect for me. Chopper Blue was the color. What a difference riding that bike from the other Sportster. The engine was aluminum and rubber mounted and the ride was so smooth. Since the motor was placed differently, it was not top heavy like the other Sportster and less likely to tip.

Last summer, after my pestering, my husband reluctantly let me take a short ride on his 2005 Harley-Davidson Softail Deluxe. The ride was even smoother than my 2005 Sportster. It drove like a cream

puff. So, off we went to buy me a new motorcycle. This time I chose a 2006 Harley-Davidson Softail Standard... Fire Red. I think I'll be staying with this one for a while. I can still plant my feet firmly on the ground and I love it!



Both of us make it a point to ride safely. We never drink alcohol before or while riding. We wear appropriate safety gear and never take unnecessary risks. It's one of the few hobbies we have that we can do together. When I first looked into the motorcycle safety course, I read all I could about riding. One of the

statistics that I came across is that, of all the motorcycles accidents that occur, 90% of them involve riders who had not taken a safety riding course.

So, the moral of the story is, "Life is too short to wonder. Try it, you might like it!"

—Pauline L. Lally, President

Visit us online today at
www.piping-systems-inc.com



piping systems inc.

32 Mill Street (Rt. 79)
P.O. Box 409
Assonet, MA 02702

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

