

The 25th International Women On Wheels ® Ride-In on July 5th-7th geared up for three days of full throttle activities

Each year the Women On Wheels ® (WOW) sponsors the International Ride-In at various locations throughout the United States. This year's WOW conference took place in San Jose, California. In addition to motorcycle safety seminars and road tours in the Bay Area, attendees had the opportunity to participate in off-highway vehicle (OHV) training activities including all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and dirt bike training classes conducted in cooperation with Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) and Santa Clara's Motorcycle County Park.

This was the first time WOW and California State Parks partnered to offer specialized OHV training opportunities. At Hollister Hills SVRA WOW participants completed 6 hours of comprehensive ATV training, followed by a trail ride through the scenic terrain of the SVRA.



State Park Rangers and ATV instructors, Jackie Olavarria and David Dennis, with WOW ATV training students

Even with the temperatures rising into the 90s, the students kept a positive attitude. The spirits of Susan Konopka, an ATV student from Racine Wisconsin, were high. Susan was very proud to be the oldest participant to receive ATV instruction during the conference. Seventy-three years young, Susan began riding motorcycles when she was 48. She proudly received her Motorcycle Safety Foundation instructor card at 49 and taught for 10 years. Her goal is to find a way to ride ATVs more often in the future. Susan is just one of many conference attendees who expressed their passion for ATV recreation.



WOW participant at the ATV training course at Hollister Hills SVRA

Women On Wheels® was originally founded in 1982 in California by Arleen Ruby, an avid woman motorcyclist. WOW's mission, "To unite all women motorcycle enthusiasts for recreation, education, mutual support, recognition, and to promote a positive image of motorcycling," has earned WOW the Hazel Kolb Brighter Image Award by the AMA. The success of WOW is evidenced by nearly 3000 members, including over 90 chapters across the United States, Canada, and several other countries.

The 2011 conference was a celebratory opportunity for the WOW organization to gather and rekindle friendships in San Jose, the city where it all began 25 years ago. The partnership between WOW, the Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department, and Hollister Hills SVRA added a new dimension to the conference by introducing OHV recreation to WOW participants and creating new and lasting memories.

Link to WOW: <http://www.womenonwheels.org/>