

## Member Spotlight

### Candy and Charlie Brown oh yeah, and Harley! San Antonio, Texas



Candy grew up in Corpus Christi the oldest daughter of a Special Agent in the FBI, who was in charge of the Corpus Christi office. Although he was deadly serious most of the time, he had a magnificent sense of humor and was known to be the instigator of many practical jokes. Candy did not fall far from the tree in that regard. She graduated from W. B. Ray high school in Corpus and was enrolled in college in the nursing program when we met. I, on the other hand, grew up on a farm outside of Hutchinson Kansas where we raised pigs, chickens, registered Jersey milk cows and ran a dairy. We grew our own feed and I developed a love of machinery. My two wheel experience began when I found an old Whizzer Motor in a junk yard and in a few days it was mounted on my bike. It was very fast when it ran. It had to be fast because it didn't run very long. I had another short lived experience on two wheels, My dad being a horse trader traded for a Cushman Motor Scooter. It wasn't mine but I did get to ride it some till he traded that for a 65 hp Aeronica tandem seating Champion. My career in aviation began in that tail dragger. My next escapade on two wheels didn't occur until 43 years later when I got my first Gold Wing in 1997 at the advanced age of 57.

After High School I attended the University of Oklahoma at Norman and enlisted in the Naval Reserve. My thought, although I didn't know how I was going to get there, was to become a Navy Jet Jock. Well a path soon developed I couldn't make E 4 in the Navy Reserve so when I finished at OU they made me an Ensign and sent me to Pensacola FL for flight training. From Basic Flight Training I moved to Corpus Christi for advanced training and a couple of weeks later a class mate set me up with a blind date. Yep it was Candy. We were married 4 months later and on our way with nice shiny wings of Gold. For 23 years they paid me to take daily "E" ticket rides at Disney Land. I can't believe they were willing to pay me to fly airplanes. I would have gladly paid them to be able to fly. Everything evens out though and a few months later those suckers were shooting and firing missiles at us.

23 years later I retired from the Navy sad that I would no longer realize the natural high of flying off of an aircraft carrier and that I had to go to work in the real world. The business world was not that different from the ground portion of the Navy without the break of getting to go fly once or twice a day. It was a dog eat dog competitive world till I got a chance to sell my company in 98. I had been watching Gold Wing riders for a couple of years envious of the smiles on their faces. I was bitten with the bug. We bought a 1989 GL 1500 and spent a lot of time learning how to ride it. Eleven years and over 200,000 smiles later we are still smiling. On our third Wing now we have ridden in all of the contiguous 48 states and working on the last two.

Harley our attack trained Shih-Tzu has ridden with us in all 48. Although we enjoy the riding it is the people that we continue to meet and get to know that has made the difference and kept us riding. As the saying goes you don't grow old and quit riding, you grow old because you quit riding. You meet the nicest people on a Honda. We will be looking for you Honda Road Again.

