

# Member Spotlight

## Diane and Court van Sickler

Our story begins in 1966 when I first set eyes on one of the most beautiful girls I'd ever seen. It was her eyes and beautiful hair that first drew me to her and, boy could she twirl a baton.

Diane and I met in high school in Levittown, New York and at first didn't hit it off as well as I'd hope we would...But once she came to realize that I wasn't really such a bad guy we started dating. One of my first stunts on a "motorcycle" involved showing off how I could control Diane's father's Vespa scooter; which I promptly lost control of and gently crashed into their garage. Once I figured out that showing off was not going to work I realized that I needed to behave myself. Needless to say I didn't even think about getting a bike, besides I couldn't afford the insurance in New York. Eventually she decided that we were meant to stay together, a decision I still question her about every year.

We married in 1969 and were off to the first of many assignments in the Air Force at Wheeler AFB, Hawaii. From there I went to Bergstrom AFB, (Austin) Texas to start my career as an Air Traffic Controller and, because of numerous TDYs for training, Diane returned to New York to eventually give birth to our first daughter, Wendy. I started riding borrowed motorcycles around the area but didn't get a chance to ride too often, primarily because of work, family, school, etc.

After spending some time in Southeast Asia, we were stationed at McDill AFB, (Tampa) Florida, where our second daughter, Christina, was born. From Florida we went to the Defense Language Institute (DLI) at Ft. Ord, California for Spanish language training. Then we were off to Spain.

Following the tour in Espana we were off to "Sin City"; Nellis AFB, (Las Vegas) Nevada, home of the Air Force Thunderbirds (and Area 51). This is when I finally got a chance to buy a motorcycle; a Yamaha 750. After a short stay we were winging our way to Hickam AFB, (Honolulu) Hawaii; and we took the bike. After the fun in the sun tour we made it back to Texas with, what turned out to be our last assignment, at Randolph AFB. Finally, I was able to keep my promise to Diane; get an assignment where she (and our daughter, Chrissy) could own and ride horses. We left the Yamaha in Hawaii, and I bought an 89' Gold Wing.

Rode the Wing for years, several of it with (the old) Chapter H. After my second knee replacement the "girls" (Diane and our daughters) convinced me to get off the bike. To keep peace in the family I did; however, that only lasted about 4 years then I got the current ride, a 95' Gold Wing.



Court & his Wife Diane