

Member Spotlight

Duke and Chela Thompson



Chela and I have each had two lives; the ones before 1979 and the one after. Yes we met and married in 1979. At that time I was riding a 79-CB550 (one of the first drive shaft bikes) Later I moved up to a CBX and then to our GL1800. I say 'our' because this is truly our bike. Oh yes she loved to ride with me on the other bikes but it was her idea to go to the Goldwing, and you know I did not object. Our most memorable ride (so far) was last summer when we went Border to Border for 5,000 miles, with a 3 day lay-over at The Grand Hotel on Mackinaw Island.

We are in the 29th year of our honeymoon. Between us we have 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls. They are all grown and on their own leading productive lives. (We are thankfully proud of our kids.) We now have 5 grand kids and the oldest is graduating from High School this spring. The youngest is 1. (I don't think we are done having grandchildren yet)

Chela retired from teaching 3 years ago. She was a High School Math teacher and one of the first certified Geometry specialists in the state of Texas. I am so proud of her. As the wife of a Methodist pastor, she has followed me all over the state and picked up teaching where ever we landed. In one town she taught at a "AA" school where she was the entire math department from 7-12. In another she became the Dept. head in a large and growing district. She has taken on special classes and developed curriculum for students that had failed the exit test three or more times. At the present time she is a transcriber for the Bexar County D.A. (no papers to grade, no homework, **no tests, no sponsoring** of clubs and teams, no overtime, no evening meetings, and no work on weekends: And they pay her!!!) The only thing she misses is June, July and August.

When we met I was on leave from the ministry. I was managing a 24 hour car care center with 12 bays. Later I worked for ATT as an account executive in the aero-space industry. After paying off all my child support responsibilities, Chela and I went back to the ministry as a way of life. In June I will **Retire**. I got my first license to preach in 1950, and have served churches in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Texas. I will be 70 years young in August (Chela will be inviting you all to a party in the Hills). We are looking forward to many years as GWRRA members, with lots of trips and meals.

See you on the road,

