

Member Spotlight

Ron & Maria DeLaughter
New Braunfels, Texas



Ron and I both come from military families, both our fathers served in the Air Force and we met while my father was stationed in Germany and Ron was on his first overseas assignment fresh out of basic w/the Army. We were introduced by friends and were set up on a blind date. The rest is history. Ron was already into bikes when I met him as he had a Honda 50 scooter while his dad was stationed in Ramursel, Turkey. When we got married, we came back to Germany, Gelnhausen and Spangdahlem to finish his tour and enjoyed 4 years there. Stateside we were stationed to Colorado Springs at Fort Carson and our son Scott was born there. Great scenic state but not much of a bike riding season. Went overseas again to Panama and had 3 years of Ron working long days and supporting an Airborne unit. Finished our tour there and ended up in San Antonio at Fort Sam Houston where Ron was commissioned to a warrant officer and he got his first real motorcycle a 81 Yamaha XS 1100 which he loved riding almost as much as golfing. During that time he had a hectic work schedule, and when we could we would ride in the area we now call home, the Hill Country. We took the bike to Frankfurt, Germany on our next tour, even rode the autobahns with it, and attended our first biker's rally in 1988 in Hanau, Germany. Sold the Yamaha to a fellow soldier when we left and in 1990 bought an 82 Aspencade Goldwing upon arrival to our last duty station, Fort Hood, TX. Ron retired in 1992 and we came home to San Antonio to be near my mom and find new jobs after retirement. Took several trips on the bike pulling a trailer but found the power insufficient and after 5 years, sold it to buy a truck for our son who had just turned 16. That ended our bike riding until Oct 2001 when we purchased our brand new 2002 GL 1800 Goldwing soon after buying our retirement home in New Braunfels and settling down on 3 acres in the country. We bought back the old bike trailer from the guy we sold it to and refurbished it and are still using it today. Ron currently works in the main post office on Perrin Beitel (since 1995) and Maria is working for the Army at Fort Sam civil service as an editorial assistant (w/20 years). In April 2006 Ron decided to start a home business (Cowhide Covers) selling a Goldwing leather remote control covers for the GL 1800s and that one item got us off the ground and running. We now have 17 various products and looking for more and currently have 11 vendors who sell our products. We have a website at www.cowhidecovers.com. Ron plans on retiring from the Post Office at the end of 2009 and taking on the business full time. I hope to retire myself but plan to see how the business is doing and our retirement fund is going. We celebrate our 33d wedding anniversary in Dec 07 and had our first grand child this past summer...a little girl....Nadia Rose. We joined Chapter U in July 2006 and have enjoyed the time we have available with the club. We are looking forward to Ron's retirement so we can really do some traveling and that much promised trip to Hawaii that Ron has said we are taking and also look forward to all our great years ahead with Chapter U. Being members of a caring and active bike club is what we always wanted. This is living the Good Life for us. Now the fun really begins!

