

Member Spotlight

Mark and Lynn Heene



Mark always wanted a motorcycle, but “mother knows best” and that dream was not fulfilled until adulthood. However, Mark did sneak rides on a friend’s Honda CB160 and took Lynn along once. Lynn and Mark were introduced to dirt bikes in 1994 when on a trip to Terlingua Ranch near Big Bend for Christmas. Close friends Jeff and Leslie were there with their dirt bikes and kept saying, “you should get some too”. The next thing Jeff had Lynn on the back of his bike teaching her how to shift then put her on Leslie’s and off she went. Her exact words getting back to the cabin was “I want one!” By the next December, Mark had a Honda 200 and Lynn a Honda 100, and the fun began. Just about every December we would be at the ranch riding. In the spring of 2001 we both took the motorcycle safety course in anticipation of maybe renting a Harley in Hawaii on our vacation. We never did rent, two weeks before leaving we were proud new owners of a Kawasaki Vulcan for Mark and a Yamaha V Star for Lynn. June 2004 we bought the family bike, our 2003 yellow Goldwing. The rest is history.

Lynn was born in Pontiac, Illinois, and raised in Coal City, Illinois. In the eighth grade she moved to Silvis, Illinois, where she met Mark. Mark was born in Moline, Illinois, (the home of John Deere), and grew up in Silvis. Mark met Lynn freshman year of high school and they were married in 1973. Mark attended the University of Illinois, graduating with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering. Lynn graduated from Black Hawk College in Illinois with a Practical Nursing Diploma. The move to Austin occurred in 1976 with Mark’s first job at Eagle Signal. Lynn went back to school and graduated from

Brackenridge Hospital School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse, and worked in her specialty field of neurology, both in the intensive care setting and as assistant to a local neurologist for many years before working in the insurance industry before semi retiring after 23 years. Mark started working for Motorola in 1978, which became Freescale Semiconductor in 2004, as a Design Engineer. We do not have children, but we do have two dog daughters, Sadie Mae and Koty Belle, both miniature schnauzers and a twenty year old white dove, Dopey.

Our other family hobby is scuba diving. Again it was all Mark’s fault - friends were going to Cozumel for a vacation and invited us along. Lynn was not happy when informed they were signed up for scuba classes; she could not tread water and was not a good swimmer. We prevailed and completed classes. Little did Mark know that he would create a “Scuba Monster”; we progressed on through advanced, rescue and dive master training. Lynn was asked to be an instructor for Tom’s Dive & Ski by the owner, she jumped at the chance and in 1989 became an instructor. Through her instruction Mark became an assistant instructor. In 1993 Lynn became an Instructor Trainer for Scuba Schools International and a few years later an Instructor Certifier. She continued teaching for Tom’s Dive & Ski until 2001.

Mark’s other hobbies are Electronic gadgets, internet surfing, metal working, woodworking, golf, a little fishing, and travel. He really likes travel and looks forward to the day when he will have more time to travel around on the Wing and see the country. Lynn’s other hobbies are memory books and stamping. About five years ago a friend introduced her to scrap books and stamps and the books kept getting more elaborate. Soon Lynn started making memory books for others. Mark gave up and let her convert one of the bedrooms to a craft room. It was the least Mark could do since Mark has a wood working shop. Lynn is also an avid reader who enjoys history and antiques, and a new addition to the craft room is an embroidery sewing machine.

Mark and Lynn enjoy their life, wish they lived closer to family, and are grateful for their many friends, especially their GWRRA family. Come by for a visit any time, the welcome mat is always out.