

Dexter and Linda Poullard



DEXTER: I was born and grew up in Cajun Country, USA in a little town named Crowley, Louisiana. With no industry or other means to make a living other than rice farming (we didn't have a rice farm) and, no money to go to college, it was off to Viet Nam or enlist in the military and hope for the best. Shortly after enlisting at the age of 17, I was nominated to the Military Academy at West Point where I finished my military obligation and received two years of some of the best book-learning a country boy could ever hope to get. I served 8 plus years defending my country but lost my wife in the process - she just wasn't cut out to be a military spouse. Bouncing around after the military took me to many places, jobs and countries including working in the oil industry. As all of you know, "all good things must come to an end" so when the oil industry went bust I bought myself a moto-cicle, let my hair grow, stopped bathing and started living life like a deranged fool. I rode to Austin on February 12, 1986, on a 1985 Honda Goldwing Aspencade, met a sweet little red-head girl, sold my moto-cicle and, have been her deranged fool ever since.

LINDA: I came into the world many, many years after Dexter was born (OK, only five years). I was born in Harve de Grace, MD. Prior to starting school, we lived in and around Louisville, KY. When I was about five, my mother married my stepfather (a military man) and, consequently I became one of those "army brats". Though, at the time I hated moving from place to place every other year, as an adult I can appreciate the experiences that I did have and how my exposure to other people and cultures have made me the person I am today. I wound up in Texas quite by accident. As a high school graduation gift, my parents gave me an (open ended) plane ticket to Austin to visit my sister who was stationed at Bergstrom Air Force Base. The plan was that I would stay for two or three weeks. To make a long story short, I never went back home. I married, had two children (Lauren and Jason) and eventually went to work for IRS (I can hear you "booing and hissing" now). Well, the job and the children worked out but the marriage didn't. I divorced and commenced to raise my

children pretty much on my own. Life was good, I was content and then fate stepped in - a new neighbor moved into the house across the street.

When I first saw Dexter (in 1987) moving in across the street I said to myself, "Self, now there is a tall, good-looking drink of water." But, I had no intentions of anything happening between us - remember I was content. After a short while we eventually met and, being the gentleman that he is, he offered to do little things around the house for me that he thought "a poor single woman with two small children shouldn't have to do". I didn't want to be rude and refuse his help so what else could I do but let him? Anyway, long story short, we eventually moved in together and married in April 2000.

Around 2003 or 2004, Dexter started to get the itch to buy a motorcycle. Even though he previously owned a Goldwing, I was totally against it since I knew several people who had been hurt from falling off motorcycles. Up until 2006, his mother, his boss and I had convinced him not to get one - or so we thought. Then one day he walked into the house and stated that he was going to buy one. I knew then that this particular battle was over. So, off we went to the Honda dealership.

When we reached the dealership I knew that Dexter had already been scouting around since the salesman greeted him using his first name as we walked in the store. We picked one out, purchased it, brought it home and life hasn't been the same. Thank goodness that all of the big projects around the house had been completed prior to buying the bike or they probably never would get finished now.

If it is at least 55 degrees, we are normally riding somewhere on the weekends. Since getting the bike, we have logged in 13,000 plus miles. If we aren't riding by ourselves, we are riding with fellow Chapter O members (usually in search of a good place to graze).

In 2008, among others places, we plan on riding to the District and Regional rallies in addition to Wing Ding in South Carolina. Since joining Chapter O in 2007, the members have become an extended family to us. They gave us the honor of asking us to be their 2008 Couple of the Year, which we graciously accepted. We look forward to putting our best foot forward in representing the Chapter wherever we go and helping to inspire both pride and active participation in GWRRA and Chapter O.

Disclaimer: Names, dates and locations may have been changed to protect the innocent and the guilty.