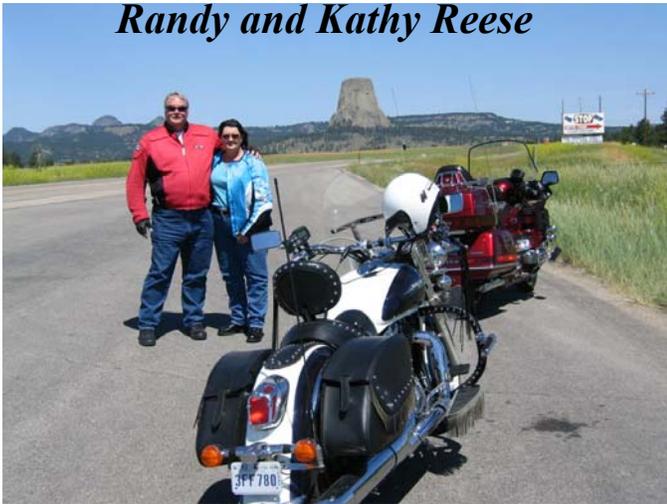


Member Spotlight....

Randy and Kathy Reese



Kathy – Born in Robstown, Texas which is near Corpus Christi. Enrique will take you there on the South Texas Ride. My Dad was in the oil business, so we moved around a little. We moved from Robstown to Lafayette, Louisiana where I went to grade school. Then, we landed in Midland, Texas where I spent the rest of my school days. I was a Midland Lee Rebelette – complete with cowboy hat and white gloves for our routines. I have one older brother named Trey and both of my parents were only children, so I didn't have a lot of relatives growing up.

After graduation, I moved to Austin to join my brother and attend the University of Texas - much to the chagrin of my dad, who was an Aggie. He used to write "gig 'em" on all the checks he wrote to UT for my orange blooded education. I graduated with a BS degree in fashion merchandising, but after working a short time in retail, I realized I didn't like the hours, it was still a very male-dominated business (and my feet hurt all the time). I took a job in a law office in Midland for a while, and then I moved back to Austin to marry Randy, my one and only true love. About two weeks after returning from our honeymoon, I took a job with the State Bar of Texas – where I have worked for the past 27 years in continuing legal education.

I never spent any time around motorcycles – until I met Randy. More on that later.....

Randy – I was born in Lubbock, Texas, but moved to my childhood home of McGregor (near Crawford by Waco) for the next 16 years. I was the oldest of 5 kids, and grew up in a large extended family. My parents were highly involved in all my brothers' and sisters' activities from church to scouting (I was an Eagle Scout) to all types of sports. After graduation, I attended Baylor and MCC before returning "home" to Lubbock to complete my schooling at Texas Tech. I graduated with a BS in elementary education and began teaching at Mahon Elementary while continuing school at night to earn my M.Ed and mid-management certification. I am currently Assistant Superintendent for Pflugerville ISD and will complete my 34 year career in education this June. I look forward to joining our other retired members on those impromptu mid-week rides that I have missed the last few years.

I've ridden motorcycles for 44 years, getting my first bike, a Cushman Eagle, to throw a paper route in 1964. Actually, my two younger brothers and I all ended up with motorcycles and threw every morning and afternoon paper route in McGregor for over 10 years. The year I turned 14 and all my buddies were getting their car licenses, the state moved the age to 16. This meant my bike was my only transportation until my senior year (made dating a little problematic). Even after I got a car, I always had a bike and it was my primary transportation until my mid-twenties. I've ridden everything from a Yamaha 60 to the Honda Super Hawk 305 and the original K model CB750 to several BMWs. I finally took the plunge in 1995 and bought my current favorite ride, a '94 GL1500. A couple of years ago, I slipped over to the Dark Side and bought an '02 Harley Ultra Classic. My Wing is still my ride of choice. Both of my brothers ride (Harley and Indian) and my dad, now 79, rides an '89 GL1500 himself. We love getting out on the road together.

Both of us – Kathy and Randy met at an Aqua Fest (remember that?) worker's party in August 1981. He asked her if she wanted to go for a motorcycle ride the next day, and she said, "Yes!" The next afternoon, Randy picked her up on his 1973 BMW /5 and they rode to the Hill Country. Along the route, the bike began to sputter, running out of gas, and Kathy thought to herself, "What's going on here? I don't know this guy! Is he some kind of serial killer and now we're stuck in the country?!" Randy simply put it on reserve and Kathy began to calm down. They were married less than a year later. Since that day, Randy and Kathy have logged almost a quarter million miles together and, in 2003, she decided she wanted to try to ride herself, much to Randy's delight. She bought a Honda VLX – a great starter bike – but soon realized it was too small to keep up with the "Big Dogs", so she purchased her current bike, a 1999 Honda Aero 1100. She found it herself on the internet, but was afraid to ride it when we went to meet the guy that was selling it. It seemed so BIG to her compared to her VLX. But now, it's no problem! She also rides the Harley on occasion.

The Reese's have been members of several motorcycle groups including Austin Roadriders, Southern Cruisers and Women in the Wind. They currently divide their riding passions between two groups – Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) and GWRRA. They've attended several national rallies and have traveled in 17 states. Their favorite riding area is in the Big Bend region of south Texas.

They have raised two beautiful daughters, Jennifer and Courtney, and both girls grew up riding to school with their dad on his bike. Both are college graduates and work in the Austin area.

Our GWRRA family is also very dear to us and we really enjoy the close friendships we have made with Chapter O the past few years. Our friends always have an open invitation to come visit us anytime and enjoy a cold libation on "Reese's Big Deck." We look forward to the upcoming year in helping our chapter further its mission of "Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge".