

Member Spotlight...

Richard & Mary Seay



At the April 2006 staff meeting it was decided to "spotlight" a member-couple in the newsletter each month so that other members get to know a little more about them. The staff said we would start with Mary & me.

We are proud to be your current Chapter Directors (up to Dec 2006). I, Richard, got into motorcycles in Greenwood, MS in 1956 when Santa brought me a Sears Cruise-aire (Vespa) scooter when I was 12 years old. This led to a Harley 165cc two-stroke when I was in the eighth grade. I used these first two bikes to deliver a paper route and help pay for the Harley. Later there was a Honda CB 160, a Yamaha RT-360 cc Enduro, a 125 CC Penton motocross bike, three Kawasaki KDX-200 Enduros, a Honda XL-600 cc dual-sport dirt bike, a Kawasaki KDR-650 dual-sport dirt bike, and a Honda XL-650 dual-sport dirt bike. I retired from dirt-bikes due to age, brittle bones, and slow healing processes (maybe some maturity kicked-in also) and got a 1995 Goldwing SE. When I did not hurt himself on that, Mary let me upgrade to a 2004 GL-1800 Goldwing. Only on one occasion did I own five bikes at the same time, but Mary remembers this story differently.

Mary rode my 165 cc Harley once and the RT-360 Enduro once, but has never been an avid biker. Our son Brad owned a couple of dirt bikes that he and I rode together. Brad currently has a Kawasaki Ninja 636.

Mary was born and raised in Union City, TN. I was born in Gulfport, MS, but was raised in Greenwood, MS. I met Mary in Greenwood in the summer of 1961, where Mary's sister and brother-in-law lived across the street from my parents. We married in 1962 while I was a freshman at Mississippi State University. Five and a half years and one child later, I graduated as a mechanical engineer and we moved to Port Neches, TX. I worked for the Texaco refinery until retirement in 2002.. Mary supported me all through college by working for the Telephone Company, a wholesale liquor distributorship, and as a book keeper for a propane gas company.

In Texas Mary has worked for the Telephone Company, been a church secretary and pharmacy tech while raising two daughters and a son; all the while putting up with her fourth "child" – Richard.

We decided to move to Austin when I retired because our kids live in Dripping Springs, Pflugerville, and San Antonio. We bought a house in Dripping Springs to be near all the kids and two grandsons.

About a year ago I offered to buy a small dirt bike for the grandsons to ride on our property, but our daughter Kim put her foot down and said no! Unfortunately she remembered all the times her dad came home sprained, strained, bruised, and broken and would not agree to the same possible fate for her sons (smart girl).

My other hobby, besides motorcycles, is automobiles. I love to tinker with autos, watch any kind of racing on TV, and attend a couple of NASCAR or NHRA races per year. I have attended the Talladega Spring NASCAR race for 17 years in a row and the Atlanta NASCAR race for 11 years in a row, and just ordered tickets for the Fall-2006 race. I have been to NASCAR races in Bristol, TN, (twice), Daytona (twice), Rockingham, NC, Ft. Worth (5 times), Kansas Speedway, and California Speedway. My favorite nephew is a VP with Sprint/Nextel and has provided free tickets twice.

Mary's main hobby is sewing and quilting. She has sewn for many years but developed an interest in quilting about 20 years ago. She has made quilts for all her kids, grand kids, and now is making quilts for nieces and nephews. She donates quilts for children at Brackenridge Children's Hospital.

Mary is very avid about religion. She had taken several series of bible study courses over the years. Since moving to Dripping Springs she is completing her 3rd & 4th Disciple Classes this month ... a real undertaking of 30 to 36 weeks, six sessions of study each week and 2 – 3 hours of class each week for each study. Her theory is to do the studies while her memory is still somewhat available and what she learns will stay in her heart even if it doesn't stay in her memory.

Mary contends with systemic lupus, fibromyalgia and osteoarthritis. Since moving to the Austin area she has experienced some loss of sight. Her claim of stupidity is more of a warning to not depend on her memory or physical endurance.

Mary and I enjoy life, enjoy our friends and family, and enjoy our church. Our door is always open to friends and the coffee can be ready in 5 minutes.