

Member Spotlight...

Tom & Dawn Sprague



Tom and Dawn are a mix of the best of New England and the best of Texas. Tom was born in Dallas Texas and Dawn was born in Chelsea Vermont. Dawn spent time in Florida and Connecticut and finished Jr. High School in CT. The family returned to Vermont and she graduated from Stowe High School. There were a whopping 21 people in her graduating class. Dawn went on to graduate from the University of New Hampshire with a Degree in Physical Education and got her Mrs. Degree the same year. That is where Tom comes in to the story.

Tom was given greetings from the Armed Forces in the spring of 1968, and asked to stop by to see what kind of physical shape he was in. This was just after the Vietnam Tet offensive of Jan 68, and the Army was taking anything that was able to walk. Being naturally lazy, and not wanting to walk, Tom decided to join the Navy. After boot camp in Great Lakes, and advance electronics training, Tom was assigned to the USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN635). The Sub was just coming off patrol and starting an overhaul in the Portsmouth Navy Shipyard (Portsmouth New Hampshire). Tom had a friend attending UNH and was introduced to Dawn on May 30, 1970. This is also Dawn's birthday. Tom was later informed that Dawn called her mother a day later and announced that she found the person she was going to marry and would not be home for the summer. It only took Tom two more years to realize it was useless to resist and they were married on 1st of July 1972.

Well Tom had two more years to enjoy being employed by the government and during that time Tom and Dawn lived near Groton CT. Upon being discharged at the end of May 1974 Tom and Dawn decided a vacation was well deserved. The two took the summer off and drove around the good old USA with a Truck and Camper. No kids and free of the military obligation it was truly a fantastic summer. We ended up back in Dallas the end of September and settled down to earn a living and have kids. After Zachary and Amber were born we had the opportunity to return

to New England and took a transfer with a company to work near Boston. We lived in Derry New Hampshire. Next was the opportunity to take a position in Hartford CT, and we moved to South Windsor Ct for about 2 years. Another opportunity came up and we moved to Chicago for about 7 years where Zachary and Amber attended primary and started secondary school. With the kids just 3 years short of finishing school Tom was presented with the opportunity to relocate with Motorola to Jakarta Indonesia. Both kids graduated from Jakarta International School, and returned the USA for college. Dawn and Tom stayed in Jakarta for about two more years. At that point Tom was given the opportunity of a director position working for Qualcomm in San Diego. The timing was right and so off to San Diego. In about two years Qualcomm sold the division Tom was in to Ericsson and Tom stayed there for two more years as a Vice President for deployment. With the kids out of college and Tom looking to strike out on his own he started to work as a consultant to the Wireless industry, and still is doing that.

Tom was always interested in motorcycles. but his mother was not friendly to that persuasion. Tom first got the chance to do some riding on a home leave from the Navy. His brother had purchased a 650 Triumph, and one Xmas leave Tom must have put 5,000 miles on his brother's bike. At that point Tom was hooked on biking. Well that was shorted lived and while in the navy Tom was never had the opportunity to purchase a bike. Then came the working long days and kids, etc. Upon returning to the USA and living in Southern California Tom decided it was time to get back into biking, and purchased a Yamaha 650 Vargo. Tom was out riding almost every weekend. S. Calif was a great place to ride. The opportunity came up to purchase an 1100 Honda Shadow ACE. This had the power to now pass Tom's friend who was riding a Harley wide glide. All this time Tom could never get Dawn to ride with him, until one day Tom's brother announced he had two extra tickets to the San Diego Padres game. Tom called Dawn and asked her if she would like to go to the game. Well she was excited about attending the game up to about when it was time to leave. At that point Tom got out the bike and with a little protest Dawn finally agreed to not fight the traffic and go to the game on the bike. Dawn decided it was not that dangerous and Tom was not that bad a biker and she started to take the weekend rides with Tom. After a year of Dawn riding on the back of the Shadow Tom decided to make it easier on her and make the move to the Gold Wing. What a difference the Gold Wing made in riding and the two started to make long trips. In another year we decided to depart all the crazies in Calif and return to Texas. Upon getting to Austin I looked for some people to ride with and found everyone in Chapter O. Hobbies for Tom and Dawn include Golf and Traveling. Tom likes to Scuba Dive and Dawn likes to snorkel. Tom likes to mess around with computers and photography. Tom has a secret desire to compete in a triathlon. Dawn is very handy with art and crafts. Ask her about paper toll. That is our story and we are sticking to it.