

## MEMBER BIO – CHERYLE WALTER



First off, I am Canadian, originally from farm country in southern Ontario. I left my parents and siblings in '73 to move with my "practice" husband to northern Alberta and a tiny community called Fox Creek. We later moved to the west coast of British Columbia where my two sons, one daughter, and three grandchildren currently reside.

Hobby-wise I love flowers and have always had a full garden, until we hit Albuquerque that is. I love animals and nature in general. I am an avid reader, love to travel, play cards or board games. I also knit and crochet scarves and hats for the homeless, make blankets to donate to Project Linus (an organization that provides comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans); I also enjoy embroidery, cross stitching and I also do a little quilting and scrapbooking.

About 4-1/2 years ago I met my "permanent" husband "Bud" on the computer of all places. He lived in Bellingham, Washington and I was still in British Columbia. Bud had a small Honda Shadow motorcycle. It was very evident that would not do for both of us so we started shopping for a larger bike. We ended up with a beautiful blue 2000 Harley Davidson Ultra (you know, the bike from the Dark Side). We called it "Bear" since Bud's grandkids had given him a biker teddy bear to put on the handlebars of his motorcycle.

Then the "fun" began.. "What do you mean I cannot take enough jeans to have a clean pair every day of a week-long trip?" "How can I fit everything into the same size bag that I would normally just barely get all my cosmetics into?" Where do I put my books, my hobbies to take to keep me busy when we have quit riding for the day?" This is unacceptable! You see this is a woman that when flying up to Canada would take two full sized suitcases plus a carry-on for a 10-day stay! Well that was then and this is now and I really can wear the same pair of jeans three days in a row and I can now fit all of my cosmetics into a zip lock sandwich bag. An iPod and Nintendo DS (a handheld game player) and even a little needlework project all fit nicely in the bag with everything. We put lots of miles on Bear travelling to various parts of British Columbia and all over the northwest. We had many great 7 to 10 day trips during our vacation time and many weekend rides. Trying to fit these rides in between rain showers and snow was a challenge that's for sure.

Then we decided we might enjoy three wheels so we converted Bear to a trike. With the three wheels came a new name, "Trog" (part "trike" + part "hog"=Trog). Our first long Trog ride was to Jasper in northern Alberta where we eloped much to the dismay of our children ("How could you not tell us, what, no party?"). We will celebrate our 3rd wedding anniversary in August this year. With marrying Bud I inherited two more daughters and three more grandchildren.

Bud and I both had a curiosity about New Mexico and decided this might be a retirement destination. In August 2007 we flew to Albuquerque and on our third day here we purchased a home in Paradise Hills. We attended our first Chapter F meeting (and joined GWRRA shortly thereafter) in June 08. I can honestly say that was a day that changed our lives here in Albuquerque; everyone was so friendly and welcoming. It was hard for me to leave my friends and family behind in Canada, but almost instantly we made some great friends who have fast become like family to us. When I count my blessings, Chapter F and some good friends in Chapter W are very near the top of that list.

We have also recently made the move to a 2005 Gold Wing! Giving up Trog was like giving up a child. But did I mention I don't consolidate easily..... well now we have a great big wonderful trailer for all those things that I long to have with me on a trip. ha-ha Cheryl

