

Member Bio - Deane Crawford



I have been a motorcyclist for over 30 years, and a member of GWRRA for 20 years. I currently serve as the treasurer of New Mexico Chapter F, and over the years have also held Chapter F officer positions of Chapter Director, Rider Educator, and Ride Coordinator.

I started riding motorcycles as a kid in Boise, Idaho, buying a motor scooter at 14, the earliest age at which I could get a drivers license. I had several motorcycles before selling my Indian Chief 74 to finish college. I have five brothers, and each one had motorcycles as they were teenagers, too.

After college came marriage, kids, family, and challenging electronic engineering jobs, with no motorcycles for many years.

In about 1982 I bought a 250cc bike and started riding again. A series of motorcycles brought me to a Gold Wing GL1200 in 1989, then a GL1500 and now I ride a Gold Wing GL1800. I also enjoy riding motorcycles of various sizes and performance capabilities, so I currently have three other motorcycles besides the Gold Wing.

I started touring with my first Gold Wing in about 1992, and have since ridden all over the North American Continent, in all 50 States of the US (most states multiple times), all Provinces and Territories in Canada, and in 30 of the 32 States in Mexico.

My two favorite rides in North America were: First, from Albuquerque to northern Canada and Alaska, all the way to Prudhoe Bay, and Second, to New Foundland and Labrador, Canada. The Alaska ride covered about 11,400 miles, and the Labrador ride covered about 10,400 miles. Both of these rides were with my long time riding buddy, Norm Hoelting.

By now, it becomes obvious that my passion is in long range motorcycle touring. My wife, Diane, doesn't mind my going, and then we also go together to interesting places she likes.

Branching out, I started riding on other Continents. First came South America in 2006, riding with an organized group in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, and Peru. This 30-day tour was a tough one, along the Andes Mountains, riding about 5,000 miles, of which about 2,000 miles were on dirt and gravel roads (Bad roads!). This was not a Gold Wing ride, but a dual-sport ride, with my Suzuki V-Strom.

Next came Australia and New Zealand in 2007. Riding 32 days and 8,000 miles, this was a wonderful tour. Renting motorcycles, I and riding buddy Jack Dannenberg rode around half of the continent of Australia, in addition to the island of Tasmania, and the north island of New Zealand. Riding in the well known cities of Australia, and in the Australian Outback, this was a ride of contrasts and beauty.

In 2008, I and riding buddy Norm Hoelting rented motorcycles in Germany, and rode in Northern and Eastern Europe and in Scandinavia. At Helsinki, we parked the bikes and went by train into Russia. With 32 days, 14 countries, and 6,000 miles, Norm and I had another wonderful tour.

For a more detailed look at the above tours, go to the website www.deanemototrip.com.

Having ridden in 22 foreign countries, and over 300,000 miles on motorcycles, I am always looking for the next set of counties to explore, as well as the next place to ride in the US.

Yes, there are still many places I want to ride in the good old USA.

And, having been a member of GWRRA for these many years, I have enjoyed many close and lasting friendships that one could not find anywhere else. Motorcycling people are just the greatest!!

