

Member Spotlight

Yankee vs. Texan

By Robby & Tricia Winfield
November 4, 2008 (Our anniversary)



What do you get when you put a Texan and a Yankee together? The answer is us!

Robby (dat's me) was born in Kingston, NY a Yankee or as Tricia calls me a Yorkie. My family came over on the Mayflower and was one of the original settlers in the Kingston area. I am an IBM brat by birth. My father went to work for IBM in the late 1940's in up state New York. When I was 6 months old IBM (Stands for "I Been Moved") transferred us to Lexington, Ky. We were there for more than 9 years. In 1966 my father was informed we were transferring to Texas with IBM and to Austin to help build the facility and get it on line. That's how I got to Texas. The rest of the family followed in the summer of 1967. I am number 5 of six boys in our family. My little brother and I were a second set of children for my parents. With the brother just older than me being 12 years older than me. The oldest of the 4 older ones was almost 19 when I was born. Some of you may have met my brother Dennis and my sister in law Bunny his lovely wife at the Rally in Corpus Christi for Chapter X. Dennis was number 3 in the brood he is 13 years older than me.

I graduated from Anderson High School in Austin in 1975 and went one semester to Texas State University. I decided collage life was not for me. I was more of a hands-on type person. After that I then went to work full time in a machine shop and I have been in the manufacturing and assembly industry ever since. Along the way I served a tool and die makers apprenticeship and I have extensive management and quality education.

I bought my first motorcycle at the age of 15. It was a Honda SL-100 and I put 34,000 miles on it the first year. I used to ride with a group of kids who all had 90 & 100cc bikes. When the weather was good we made almost weekly trips to Port Aransas. Ah to be young and crazy enough again to ride that many miles on a small bike. Other bikes I had along the way were a Honda CL-100, Honda 750-four, Suzuki 750 Water Buffalo, and a Honda 350-four. The last one was sold to pay for my divorce in 1984 and I did not ride

again until---- well keep reading later on in the article I will discuss that.

Tricia was born in Goldthwaite, TX. Where in the heck is Goldthwaite you ask? Easy answer 90 miles straight up the "mother road" US 183 from here in Cedar Park, TX which is where we are currently living. Tricia also comes from a family of 6 kids. She is the baby girl and the fourth of the six kids. Tricia is a graduate of a class of 27 people from Goldthwaite High School in 1977. I don't think they have that many graduates each year now a day's or maybe they do. She has an Associate Degree in Engineering Design Graphics. Her most recent accomplishment was obtaining her Realtors license.

She is a Texan through and through. Her family can be traced back to the 2 Tumlinson brothers who were 2 of the original Texas Rangers (not the baseball team either) and even back to North Carolina and then back to the Mayflower. Her family hates Yankees the way any self respecting Texan should. It started with the carpet baggers I guess. So how did she end up with a "good for nothing" Yankee? Well she use to work for me that's how we met and one thing led to another. The rest is as they say is a scandal or is it history?

Tricia currently works full time for Austin Energy as an Engineering Associate and part time for JB Goodwin Realty. I am working for a small machine shop in Pflugerville and I am working on funding to start my own machine and fabrication facility now.

Tricia and I have been together for 20 years 8 months, 2 days, 47 minuets, 15 seconds but who's counting. We have been married since November 4, 1989 whew that long? We have 5 kids between our 2 previous marriages and 4 grand children. Our hobbies include camping in our RV, fishing, hiking, and traveling our great country. We love to meet people when we travel and see historical parts of the country. We also love the tourist traps along the road. We like making things too. I foresee us making motorcycle accessories in our future. Imagine that.

I decided I wanted to start riding again earlier this year. I decided I needed to go take a MSF class so in June I scheduled a class. While I was scheduling my class I leaned over and asked Tricia if she wanted to go watch. "Go watch she replied I want to take the class too!" So off we went. We both bought bikes in July, our Gold Wing and her Honda VLX 600 Deluxe. As you get to know us you will learn we do everything together we even quite often dress alike. Although I do not look as good as she does in heels and a dress. (Don't believe a word of this----Robby has cute legs just like a bull "frog") but that's a future article.

See you on the road. Shiny side up rubber side down as God intended.