

# Over 45 years of being on 2 wheels.



**M**y earliest memory of 2 wheels is one of me while we were still living at Hickory Hills Lake in Massachusetts. I would have been 6-7 years old and I remember getting my first bicycle and it was a boys bike, with the high bar. Problem was I guess it was planned I would grow into it. I had to push it and then step on pedal and swing my leg over to get started. That did not leave me a lot of options for stopping. I recall there was a grassy spot beside the driveway and my choice was usually just lay it over in the grass and fall off. My next memory is having a bicycle at Menwith Hill in Yorkshire England and I used it to deliver the Daily Bulletins as my first job. Well second job actually, I had been babysitting for 25 cents an hour. So for this second job I rode over the commissary and bag groceries for tips. That was until the GI's discovered how much we made and they took over bagging.

## Terry McPherson

I did not have a bicycle in Tomales as I finished grammar school and high school. I had a buddy that had a Honda S90 motorcycle and I rode on it with him a couple times and he even let me drive it once in a while. I wanted to get one, but dad would not allow it. Not sure why he was against it. When he was a younger man he had several motorcycles. In fact he was racing them in his 20's and his first wife not happy about it. One race he and another guy headed for a jump and neither gave way causing them both to crash. His wife was mad and told him either the bikes go or I am going. So he got rid of his bikes, but said it was a mistake, she left a bit after that anyway.

It was funny, he would not let me get a motorcycle but he had no problem with me getting the Hydro Cycle for the water. It was the first personal water craft they made. It was 9 ft long and had a 35 hp Mercury on it. I had my Bugeye Sprite and had found a trailer hitch for it that dad had brought back from England. So I had mounted it on the sprite and towed the Hydro Cycle with it. I wish I still had photo of me towing it...



## Terry McPherson



So anyway as soon as I got married and moved out of the house, I bought a Honda S90 for myself and it was fun. When I was finished with college, wife and I leaving California we had my Honda S90 on the tongue of the trailer and the Hydro Cycle on top of trailer.



We moved to Tucson, AZ and used it to commute to work. But it was hard to do. When it rained there, it would pour for an hour or

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two and then dry up. But the roads were curved to act as gutters to run off the water. So I would be driving home from work and find a street that was like a river and I was not able to get across it on the bike. I had some detours to make to get home. Then one day I was off and was riding it out in the desert and it started sounding funny. I found it was low on oil and though I made it home, it was not salvageable. So I sold it for parts.

Next when we were living in San Antonio, TX I found that Harley was a distributor of an Italian motorcycle that was 125cc. It was funny it was made with two different frames, one normal and one short mini bike like. Turns out wife was interested in riding so we bought two of them and road them together often. But when she got pregnant, she was not so interested in riding. I traded the two of them for a Honda 350 to use to commute to work. I liked commuting but I did not like riding in the rain. Some days it would rain while I was at work. But not when I headed home. One day after it had rained I headed home and sitting at stop light. When the light turned green I started out and the rear wheel spinning and sliding and I laid bike over a bit. But got it back under control and thought all was well. When I got home I found I had managed to let the bike lay over enough to burn my leg on the exhaust pipe pretty good. Don't remember when I got rid of that bike, but know I did not have it a couple years later.

## Terry McPherson

When we moved to Yellville, AR to help run the Trout Farm, I found a Honda 650 and put a fairing on it so I had some protection from the cold and from other cars throwing up dirt. The Trout Farm was down a dirt road 7 miles. When I got divorced the first time, I got the bike and she got the car. So my birthday was coming up and I started my habit of buying myself a car around my birthday. I rode the Honda 650 to Little Rock, AR and used it for my down payment for my 79 Trans Am.

When I was stationed at Ft Riley, KS I bought a Honda 950 with no windshield and high handle bars. Never really enjoyed riding that one and when I left Ft Riley I sold it. I was going to Germany anyway and I was not going to have one over there. With mostly cold n wet weather it was not going to be a time for me to ride.

When I came back from Germany in 1991 to Reno, NV it was a great place for a bike. I was not happy with the NV DMV. I had my Texas license that had motorcycle and commercial included. NV would not give me either of those. Just a regular license. Also they had a motorcycle driving test that you had to bring your own bike for. Of course since I did not have a motorcycle license, the dealers would not let me take a bike for a test drive. So I bought a bike I had not been able to ride. It did have a nice faring that extended down in front of bike. I rode it for about a month and then finally took it into the DMV and took a test and got my license.

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While we were living out in Virginia Foothills, I occasionally would take the bike out and ride some of the dirt roads and up around in the hills. Yes, I knew it was a street bike but TJ had gotten a little mini bike and I would go with him. One time I had gone down this hill and I could not believe that it would not come back up the hill. I made several attempts before I finally got it out the little valley I had gone down. Apparently in trying to get it out and since not much air going over the engine and it was air cooled, I started having problems. I had overheated it.

I had been looking to trade it in anyway and had looked a couple times at the Honda Dealers used 1000cc and 1100cc Goldwings. But I found they did not handle well in the city. More made for highway bikes. So when I took my bike in to have Honda try to fix and or rebuild it, the salesman I was friends with suggested I try riding a used 1200cc Goldwing he had for sale. He put a dealer tag on it and I headed out with it. It rode great. I took it over to show my wife and give her a short ride. So I was gone on my "Test Ride" a couple hours. Of course in the early 90's people did not have cell phones so much so the salesman could not find me. I finally was riding back into the dealership and the salesman came out all worried i had wrecked or something. I told him I would take the Goldwing, for him to decide how much trade in I could get for the one i had in shop and get the Goldwing financed for me. I turned around and left. The next day he calls me at

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work and says I have to get that bike back to dealership and get the dealer plate off it. I drove in and we did the deal and I got new plate and I rode that bike for the 15 years. It was a great bike. I even won some events at one of the bike rallies I went to. It was an 84 1200cc Goldwing.



Honda would not support bikes that were over 10 years old, so I found a retired Honda mechanic that was supplementing his retirement working on bikes.

When I moved to Dallas area in 2006, I joined the Goldwing club and started riding with them. They on occasions gave me a hard time about it being too old and hard to maintain and I should upgrade. So finally I decided to put an ad on Craig's List just to see if anyone might be interested. The next day a guy called from the Waco area and wanted to come up to look. He showed up and took it for a test ride and came back and pulled out the cash for the asking price and bought it. I guess I had it priced too

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low!! I went back on Craig's List and found a newer Goldwing 1500cc and it was the same color as well. Bought it and rode it for a couple years.

Then as my birthday was coming up in 2010 or 2011, I was having trouble riding in the full sitting up position that was required for the Goldwing. I had decided to get another bike that had the controls out front of the engine and easier for me to ride. So I sold the Goldwing and bought a very nice Honda VTX1800 and liked how much easier it was for me to ride it.



I also found out how much heat all the faring on the Goldwing had been keeping off of me when riding. With this new bike I found sitting at lights and in town driving, it was incredibly hot. Also I found that I just was not enjoying riding like I used to and was rarely actually taking it out. So I sold it and ended my life on 2 wheels. I was sad a bit and looking around for something else to do for my hobby. I noticed the sailboats on Lake Ray Hubbard and thus started my Life on the Water!!