

## MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Frank J. Christian, born in Gulfport, Mississippi, in October, 1935, was the second of 8 children - 6 boys & 2 girls. His father, who was a photographer, had temporarily moved the family there for a work assignment. A month later, however, it was back to Augusta, GA, where Frank continues to reside.

With a sparkle in his eyes, Frank reflects that his interest in flight probably began at the age of 4 years, when he dreamt of being able to fly (on his own - no airplane, mind you!). He took his first airplane ride when he was 6 years old, and soaring in the air brought back memories of that DREAM. He recalls thinking he must be destined to acquire THIS skill! Fortunately, he was able to start flying in his early teens at Daniel Field with Roy Harris, Jr., a family friend.

Frank would go on to graduate from Richmond Academy and continue his education at the University of Georgia extension in Augusta. Subsequently he would enter the Air Force (AF), where he continued to enhance his flying skills! His stint in the AF would result in a dramatic change in his life, as it was a tour in England where he met his bride, Jackie. His exit from the Air Force would bring him back to Augusta - his roots - and the photography business, where he'd learned the trade at a very early age.

Frank's business ventures were very successful and carried him all over the world, allowing him to meet VIPs from Hollywood stars and golf professionals to TOP-notch politicians (including a visit with a former US president) and radio personalities. He also claims the title of author for a book which was published that earned the honor of being the #1 sports book in 1998! This book details the history of the Augusta National Golf Club and Masters Tournament with outstanding photography!

Frank maintains that flying has played a dominant role in his life, and his airplane collections have included a Taylorcraft, Luscombe, Thorpe T18, Mooney M20, Tri-Pacer, Stinson Voyager, and RV6. His only son, Edward (who is also one of us) is a current Delta Airlines pilot, flying a 777, and grandson Will (also one of OURS) just recently soloed at 16 years of age!

Frank once had a contract to fly traffic routes for a local radio station (WBBQ), and it was there that he became friends with Harley Drew, our guest speaker for last month. Frank also started a Flying Tiger Club for youngsters who were issued a membership card that entitled them to discounts from various merchants. He has an instrument rating, commercial license (helicopter & fixed wing) and multi-engine rating.

Frank served as chairman of the Augusta Aviation Commission for 2 terms and was chairman of the Civil Service Commission. He still dabbles a bit in politics. If you read the July 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Augusta Chronicle, you probably saw his picture in an article where Harrisburg residents/property owners were demanding action to "eliminate" drugs and irresponsible landlords. There he was, carrying his message!

He sold his business (Frank Christian Studio) 10 years ago, and while his life continues to be full and satisfying, he maintains his family as Priority #1 - daughters Laura and Amy, son Edward, 4 grandchildren. He and Jackie also own a home in England, where they generally spend their summers. Frank has been an EAA172 member since its early years, and we claim him as OUR photographer. Thanks to THE MAN for his dedication, loyalty, political perks and photography! We love ya, Frank!



**Frank (right) with his son Ed**

