

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Marcus Jakob was born in Schweinfurt, Bavaria in Germany. He was raised for the first 24 years in Germany, then moved to North Augusta, SC. Marcus is married to Staci Jakob. They were married in 2004 and have one girl - Isabella - born in 2007. He said that he met Staci "on the desk of her mother, who used to work with me and had a picture of her on her desk and I kept telling her that one day - I will marry this girl ... and that's what happened. Staci is not actively involved in aviation but she enjoys a breakfast at the lake every now and then, flying there with our little SeaRey."

Marcus is the Engineering Manager at Venture Aerobearings, a newly founded joint venture between SKF and General Electric Aviation to make bearings for GE turbine engine applications. He has been with SKF 18 years and throughout different countries to get factories to achieve Manufacturing Excellence.

When asked about his first aircraft flight Marcus said "My first flight was with a plane, called a TAXI - it's actually an RC-plane. When I was about 7 years old every Sunday my dad, two brothers and I went out to fly our beautifully built TAXI. We always came home with a few plastic bags full of our not so beautiful anymore looking TAXI. Then off we went to rebuild it again for the next Sunday. Never give up! That's how my dream of flying was born. My actual first flight was in a glider in Germany, which got me hooked. My first flying I did myself was actually in a powered parachute, which I owned for three years. Then I got tired of not being able to go anywhere and got my pilots license."

Marcus' pilot ratings are Single Engine Land and a water endorsement for the SEAREY. He said that he has a little over 250 flight hours at this point.

He owns a SeaRey amphibian - restored and rebuilt after Richard Fender's engine failure. Richard was the former owner.

For the question "What is your favorite aircraft you have flown?" Marcus answered "I wish I could say more here. I have not really have had many opportunities to fly many more aircraft. I would love to go up in a RV-10 or similar sometime. So for now it is my little SEA-3PO SeaRey."

The favorite thing Marcus wants to do with an airplane is go to remote places, land on beaches, fly under bridges, and just play around on the water. The ultimate aircraft he would like to fly is an RV-10 to own, an F35 for a weekend, something sporty and quick with enough room to carry his family.

As for something most people not know about him that he is willing to share, Marcus said: "The way I met Gary Ward . . .

I just had finished the test flight period for my SeaRey and heard about a fly-in in Lincolnton at Gary Ward's, whom I hadn't met yet. So I took my wife Staci in the plane and after playing around on the water for a while, we decided to fly over to the fly-in. Some of you might know that the landing gear of a SeaRey is pretty weak and so was mine until I modified it, which was after the fly-in. Anyhow - so we flew into Gary's strip, setting up for a landing, which was beautiful and when turning around at the end of the runway, the right gear collapsed at idle speed. Of course it was my wife's side, which couldn't have been because of her weight - she's just a little over 100 lbs. So, here we are, sitting in the middle of Gary's runway at a fly-in, basically blocking the runway for everybody else. All people that flew in already landed, so that was no problem.. I went over to meet Gary and asked him for a piece of aluminum angle and a fellow Powered Paraplane pilot and good friend, Woody King, helped me to get things together I needed to get the plane back on its legs. Gary was right there to help me out and let us know where we could find tools and such in his 5S'd workshop. He briefly mentioned that he was about to give a little demonstration in his EXTRA at that time, of which I didn't think much of."

"Once back on the runway, completely head down in the plane and working on the gear, I heard somebody say 'ya'll watch out - here's Gary on its way!' All I know was that five seconds later I bumped my head, pooped in my pants and looked straight up and there was Gary - taking off upside down - as if I could touch him if my pants weren't full!"

"We've been good friends ever since. I will never forget that shock at that moment. Now I am still waiting for Gary to take me up in his MX2!"



Marcus and Staci in front of the SeaRey at Boshears 2006.