

MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

George & Frances Weiss, while not southern bred, have truly acclimated themselves to this area. George, born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1927, was raised in Colorado, and Frances, born in Sheridan, Wyoming, in 1938, was raised in southern California. But it was the state of Indiana where their paths would cross and change their lives forever. Both had previous marriages and lost their beloved spouses to death. Interestingly they each had daughters who had become best friends and got the two of them together! They were wed in May 2007 and together have 5 children - 2 sons, 3 daughters - 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. One of the daughters moved to the great state of Georgia and when George brought Frances down to visit, they got some of that Georgia sand in their shoes and decided to become “Southerners”! They still own a home in Indiana, where they make occasional trips. However, it’s now on the market, so anyone looking for a home in that area may possibly negotiate a deal!



George was one of 10 children, of which only six are left and they and their families are scattered from coast to coast. Frances has three sisters, but the only family they have in this area is the daughter and her family who is the reason for their move to the South.

While Frances spent most of her earlier years being housewife, mom, homemaker, etc., George was providing for his family by working as an industrial engineer for a firm responsible for excavating equipment used for construction jobs.

George states that as a kid he spent a lot of his time hanging out with the National Guard, using every opportunity available to get into the “grounded” cockpit. He later spent three years in the Marine Corps - during WWII - working as part of the ground crew. Initially he took some flying lessons in Indiana, and for his 80th birthday purchased flying lessons for HIMSELF. Now, at 82 years of age, he is currently taking lessons in a tail dragger, working on getting to solo! What an inspiration for some of us “adults” who are too timid to “go for it” or have adopted the adage that you “can’t teach an old dog new tricks”!

Along with son Bobby, George attended Airventure 2009 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, this summer. Bobby is an aviator himself (who flew helicopters in Vietnam) and a member of the EAA. Both men experienced their first glider ride while at the air show.

How they found EAA172 may be insignificant, but the fact that we have them as members is not! While Frances is not eager about recreational flying - enjoying commercial flights on the larger planes - she’s an avid supporter of her husband’s passion. Both of them never fail to show up for work days when they are in town and pitch in to clean bathrooms, sweep floors, whatever’s needed to maintain a clean clubhouse. Many thanks to both seniors who hang in there with support for the club as well as ANY junior!