

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Eddie Dewayne Booth came to be on December 9, 1937, in St. Joseph, Missouri, home of Jesse James & the Pony Express! His dad was an electro-typewriter/engraver and mom was a homemaker/gourmet cook who spent most of her time raising Ed and his two siblings. The family left the “Show-Me” state when the kids were small, and Ed would grow up in Peoria, Illinois. Mrs. Booth must have done something right, as she has already celebrated her 101st birthday (hope you inherited those good genes, Ed)!



Ed & Mary Booth

After high school, Ed entered the Navy for 4 years and was assigned as a radio-man on board a destroyer tender. The Navy was good to him, primarily by his temporary assignment to Charleston, South Carolina, where he would meet a local high school senior who would steal his heart! Prior to matrimony, Ed completed his stint in the Navy and Mary her education in X-Ray school.

Ending his Navy career, Ed accepted a job with Western Union in Illinois but was able to transfer to South Carolina. Though Mary has made a “Southern boy outta Ed”, as they currently reside at Twin Lakes Air Park near Trenton, South Carolina, they made the rounds over the years. Ed’s career, basically in instrumentation, would send them to Illinois, Georgia, South Carolina, Kansas, etc. Ultimately he retired as a Supplier Quality Auditor from a nuclear operating facility in Emporia, Kansas.

Family-speaking, they have a daughter in California (Michelle) and one in Colorado (Angela).

Ed’s interest in airplanes began as a child playing with toy airplanes. His interest was sparked, however, after taking his first flight at the age of 11 years with an uncle at Flaybob Airport in Riverside, California (now home of EAA Chapter 1). That flight was made in a J-3 Cub, and 10 years later Ed would begin taking flying lessons in Norfolk, Virginia, while in the Navy. After his move to the south, he resumed flying lessons in a Cessna 150 in Jonesboro, Georgia.

Ed’s passion for flying and the support of his better-half has resulted in an aviation background some of us only dream about. The many air shows they’ve attended include Sun’N Fun approximately 15 times, AirVenture at Oshkosh circa 20 times. They’ve been members of the Cessna 170 Association since 1978, both holding positions as board members (Mary even broke the mold by being the first female on the board). They, as part of a “grass-roots” team, started a Pilot’s Action Group in Emporia, Kansas. Daughter Angela is also a pilot, owning a Cessna 170. Ed built his first airplane in 2000 - an RV6 - and has since built an RV7, RV10, and is currently working on an RV9A. He has EAA Technical Advisor and AirFrame & Power Plant certification. He has flown approximately 100 Young Eagles, and he and Mary have been loyal members of EAA172 for the past 3 years.

Ed currently enjoys his “retirement” by spending time in his hangar building aircraft, offering technical advice, entertaining friends - that is, when he’s not talking Mary into putting her X-ray duties on hold and taking a jaunt in their RV camper or flying off with him into the Wild Blue Yonder!

Thanks, Ed (and Mary) for all you’ve done and continue to do in the name of aviation and particularly for your loyalty and dedication to EAA172!