

Member Spotlight

Sam and Pam Hart

This Month's Member Spotlight is on Sam and Pam Hart. Sam was born in Nashville, Tennessee, while his dad was still in school and his mother was working as a nurse. Sam says he grew up a city boy. Sam's father tells the story of taking his mother up in a T-6 and doing loops and rolls while she was expecting Sam. He thinks that had something to do with his long time love of flying. At that time Sam's father was flying P-51's in the reserves.

Pam was born in Aynor, South Carolina. Her father was a farmer. She grew up there on the farm while Sam grew up all over the Southeast, although mostly in Birmingham, Alabama. They met here in Augusta.

Pam has one daughter, Jennifer, who is married and living in Washington, North Carolina. They have one girl – “a beautiful little grandchild, Ashley. She is six; and we are crazy about her of course!” Sam has two children. His daughter, Betsy, is here in Augusta and working at Plant Vogtle as a Chemist. His son, Mathew, is living in Houston and is a flight controller with NASA. Sam is justifiably proud of them both.

Sam moved here to Augusta in 1989 to go to work at Plant Vogtle where he still is. According to Sam, Pam has a real job as an Elementary school Principal. “She is amazing with all of the responsibilities of her job. I would lose my mind in one day! Don't know how she does it.”

Sam cannot remember a time when he was not interested in flying. This could be a sign of a poor memory ... or a lifelong interest like many of us. His first flight (after he was born) was with his dad as a kid in a Cessna 170. He also remembers getting to go with him on business trips in a Twin Beech his company flew at the time. He was on top of the world! Sam finally got his Private License in the 1970s after getting out of school and being generally bored with everything else.

Sam joined EAA 172 sometime around 1999 because he thought at the time he could start a home-built project and maybe get good help and advice. But work and too many other things got in the way! Sam thinks the EAA is a great organization, and our chapter is one of the best. “I am almost awed at every meeting to be associated with the caliber and background of the people in this group. I am old enough now to begin to appreciate the real scope of the accomplishments and the history of the members of this chapter.”

Sam has a single-engine land private rating, but has flown gliders, and once even a Lake amphibian! He has about 450 hours now and recently bought a flying RV-6A. He only has about two hours in the RV so far. The first airplane he owned was a Swift GC-1B C-125. It was so much fun he never even knew it was underpowered. He later bought a flying Varieze and flew it for about eight years until recently when it met an unfortunate demise over on Palmetto Parkway after he forgot to remove the fuel tank vent covers and encountering a power line! Sam says “You have to pick yourself up; give yourself a break, and get back in the game!” He says he was extremely appreciative of the EAA friends who stopped by to visit during recovery from that little incident. He is also a little in debt to Pam for a lot of care and understanding.

Sam's favorite thing to do with an airplane is go somewhere and enjoy the experience of getting there quick, and the pleasure of enjoying the ride. Since Sam's Dad had many hours in the Mustang, he says that would be his dream airplane ride. He says it would be great to fly one to see how that felt! Pam likes flying too, especially when the airplane can be used to cut 4 hours off of the trip to see the grandbaby up in North Carolina.

Besides flying, Sam enjoys helping Pam around the house, and home improvement projects. They both try to stay involved in church and the community. So with all that, and work, he keeps pretty busy!

