

MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

A couple dear to our hearts who drives 2 hours one way to attend our meetings when the weather precludes flying deserves KUDOs for their loyalty. Bill & Marlyn Couch also make the drive most every month to attend our monthly eat-outs - dependability is their motto!

Bill was born in Clarke County, Georgia, in 1933 (did someone say that was the year of chocolate chip cookie invention?) but moved all around the Southeast during his childhood - i.e., SC, NC. After high school graduation, he enlisted in the Army. The year was 1952, and his specialty was security. He received his pilot's license in 1955 while serving in the Army. His passion for flying led him into pursuing a career in that arena while doing his time, and he graduated from army helicopter flight school in January, 1958. Bill served two tours in Vietnam - 1962-63 & 1969-70 - flying CH21s. Other helicopters flown while on active duty include an OH23, OH13, CH34 and CH47. Toward the end of his career, fixed-wing pilots were needed, and some of the aircraft he flew were: DC-3, T42, U21, and U8. Prior to retirement from the Army in 1973 he earned his Master Wings and was promoted to CW4. He spent a total of 21 years serving our country - an achievement in itself!

Bill has been fortunate to own a J3 Cub, Cessna 170, Tri Pacer, Cessna 182, Beech Baron, Cessna 210, and a Cessna 185. He recalls purchasing the J3 Cub for a mere \$700 after having had only 1.5 hours dual instruction, and the instructor at that time charged only \$3 per hour with fuel cost around 30 cents per gallon (great memories, huh?).

Bill's army career also led him to Ft. Riley, Kansas (and, we know he spent some time later in Alaska). However, while passing through Kansas City in 1958, the young red-head met a cute blonde waitress who would steal his heart. Four months later Marlyn would be Mrs. Couch! Just last year the couple was able to celebrate their golden anniversary (another achievement nowadays!). They were blessed with a son and three daughters, two of whom Bill taught to fly. The youngest daughter, Sue, would go on to obtain her private pilot license and continues to fly. She often attends our meetings with Mom and Dad and is a member of another EAA chapter.

Bill & Marlyn currently own a cattle and poultry farm in Elbert County, Georgia - Dewey Rose - and rumor has it that when he's not working or flying, he can be found sitting in his easy chair with a Moon Pie and RC cola!

His most recent contribution to our chapter occurred at the O. B. Brown Memorial Fly-In when he assisted our Young Eagles Coordinator by flying youth interested in taking to the skies! And, of, course, this was not a first for him.

Marlyn's continuous service to the club includes all the great food she prepares and brings to our meetings - her potato salad CANNOT be beat!

Thanks again to both of you for your dependability and loyalty to the club - you're at the top of the list for cherished members!



Bill has flown many new Young Eagles in his Cessna 185 SkyWagon. Here, at the 2008 O.B. Brown Memorial Fly-in, he is awarding a Young Eagles certificate to a very small Young Eagle he had just flown.