

# Member Spotlight

Doug Johnson and Dana Dudley

*Where were each of you born?* Doug Johnson: Bakersfield, California.

Dana Dudley (wife): Sterling, Illinois

*Where were each of you raised?* **Doug:** Bakersfield, CA, moved to Lesotho, southern Africa for four years with missionary parents. My father was an ophthalmologist in a tiny, very mountainous country. After that, I finished high school and college in east Tennessee. Since then, I have lived in Michigan, Florida, and now South Carolina, just across the street from Twin Lakes Airpark. **Dana:** Sterling, Illinois.

*Where did you meet each other?* We met working in the hospital while in Michigan. I was Dana's boss and she was afraid of me. I miss those days! Actually, I was the boss of the Intensive Care Unit and she was hired by another department, but assigned to our unit. We worked together for four years while she went through nursing school.

*Tell about your children:*

I have two sons from a prior life. The older son is Rob and has graduated with a degree in Chemistry from the University of Florida. He is currently staying with us while job hunting. Younger son is Steve. He is a certified chef and a certified pastry chef. He lives in Florida. Dana and I have three dogs: Two Weimeraners and a beagle. They are quite spoiled.

*What does each of you do for work?* We both work for the Medical College of Georgia as registered nurses in the hospital. I work in the Medical ICU and Dana works in the Neonatal ICU. Interesting that I am the pilot and Dana gets paid to fly. She is part of the NICU Transport team and flies on the helicopters and on rare occasion fixed wing jets.

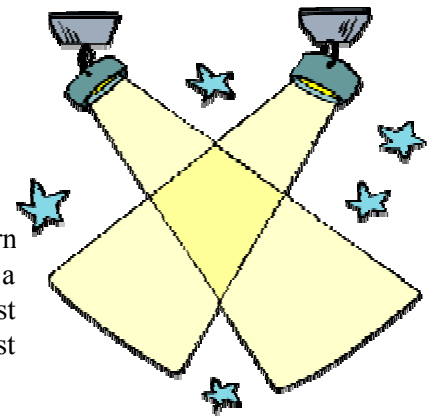
*What got you interested in flying and/or homebuilding?* My dad started flying when I was two years old. I have his first solo certificate plaque on my wall. I never remember life before flight. We owned a Tri-Pacer, a turbo charged Apache for flying over the Nevada-Sierra's, and a Maule M-5 while in Africa. Unfortunately, my father was killed in 1991 while flying his Piper Aztec in northern California. In high school, (a boarding school) my best friend owned a Taylorcraft. He was 17 and had his private license. I was 16, but neither of us had a driver's license. His mother drove him to the airport so he could fly to the airport where I lived just outside of Chattanooga, TN. We then flew to see our girlfriends for the weekend just north of Nashville, TN. How cool when you couldn't legally drive a car, but could fly a plane to a date! I developed an interest in radio control flying after watching my uncle do it when I was about 10. I flew Cox 0.49 control line planes, and then got into radio control planes in high school. As much as I enjoy full-scale flight, I have a passion for radio control flight due to its possibilities and technical innovation.

*What was your first flight?* It had to have been in the Tri-Pacer. In 1993 I did my first solo in a 1945 Aeronca Champ at 5 hours. Loved that plane, but Dana nearly quit flying with me her first time up in the Champ when I did a hard slip on approach. Should have warned her, 'cause she knew we were going to die for sure.

Dana's first flight experience was a round trip commercial flight from Chicago to Florida when she finished eighth grade. The next time she flew was the day before she started nursing school. She went up in a Cessna 182 and jumped out! She figured if she didn't survive she wouldn't have wasted any effort on college. Her NEXT flight was as my FIRST passenger the day of my private pilot checkride. Dana is a fantastic co-pilot. She handles the GPS as well as the transponder and frequency changes on the radio. She also makes a great traffic spotter as a great supplement to the TIS on-board display.

*What pilot ratings do you have?* Private Pilot - Airplane, Single-Engine, Land, with High-performance and Tail-wheel endorsements. Dana's goal is to land the airplane once and walk away. To this end, she has mastered reconfiguring the plane and getting down to 10 feet where she knows she can chop the throttle and hit the runway.

*How many hours now?* Approximately 270 hours. 80 hours of that has been in the last year since acquiring our Traveler.



*What aircraft do you fly now?* N67TP is a 1975 Grumman AA-5 Traveler. We purchased the plane as our first aircraft on my birthday last year.

*What is your favorite aircraft you have flown?* Gotta love the Grumman, BUT!!!! I have had the opportunity to log time in so many planes and ride as a passenger in many more. Ed Booth's RV-7, Greg Connell's Pitts S-2 as well as his RV-10 have been awesome planes to ride in. Lonny Weitzel's Glastar with 200 hp and constant speed prop is a fabulous plane as well. However, two unusual and amazing planes I was fortunate enough to fly in this year have been a Scottish Aviation Bulldog and a WWII BT-14 while at *Sun-N-Fun*. Both these planes are owned by Tony Greene from Fort Myers, FL who is one of my radio control buddies.



*What is your favorite thing to do with an airplane?* "Slip the surly bonds of Earth . . . and Reach out and touch the face of God." My wife and I try to fly to the coast every month for fresh seafood. Georgetown, SC has been our favorite so far.

*What is the ultimate aircraft you would like to fly?* I would LOVE to crop dust. Otherwise, anything on the extremes of the envelope, especially slow speed. A jet would be great for cross-country, but bush flying is a blast, and an electric self-launch sailplane would be hard to resist.

*What other hobbies do you have?* Wow, too many! Radio control planes, first and foremost. Motorcycles, but we are getting out of that. I have a 1998 BMW R1100R for sale. We are both SCUBA certified. We love remodeling homes. Dana is a voracious reader and has recently acquired an iPad to fulfill her reading needs.

*What do most people not know about you that you are willing to share?* I can ride a unicycle. I dislike heights!



### **Wrens Fall Fly-in 2010**

October 1-2, 2010, Wrens Memorial Airport (65J), Wrens, GA

### **EAA 172 Breakfast Fly-in**

October 2, 2010, 9:00 AM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome (61GA), Blythe, GA

### **Boshears SkyFest**

October 16-17, 2010, Daniel Field (DNL) Augusta, GA

### **Keith Brock Memorial Fly-in**

November 13, 2010, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Millen Airport (2J5), Millen, GA

## **Wrens Fall Fly-in**

**October 1-2, 2010**

**At the Wrens Memorial Airport**

There will be a Low Country Boil meal Friday evening (October 1) at the Wrens airport during the fly-in. Drive in or fly in Friday for that meal around 6:00 – 7:00 PM then bring your aircraft to join others from Twin Lakes and the Trenton Flyers from the Trenton airport, among others, on Saturday. Also, we have invited the aviators from the Goose Creek, NC, airport – EAA 1313 -- to bring their gyroplanes and fixed wing aircraft. There usually are aircraft, including helicopters, from all over the Southeast.

