

Harry Fornarotto & Sandy Richardson



MEMBER PROFILE

Harry has been interested in airplanes since he was a young man. When he graduated high school in 1954, his dream was to continue on to aviation training. Instead, he followed in his father's footsteps as a union electrician. He did pass his dream to his son, Fred (Harry III), who went through Air Force ROTC, captained USAF DC105's, and is now a DC10 captain for FedEx.

Over the years, Sandy has been a store detective, 18 wheeler driver (hauling brick), waitress, bartender, divorce detective, auto-repo, burger-flipper, cashier, limo driver and many more things. As a college drop-in she attended 7 colleges and took 4 years to get an AA in general studies and 6 more to get a BA in natural science and math with a minor in English.

Harry and Sandy met at Six Flags Great Adventure in NJ where Harry was working as an electrician and Sandy was on the security staff. Each day as he traveled past the baboon compound of the drive through safari, she would give him quarters and request that on his return from the maintenance area he bring her a ginger ale. Imagine his surprise when one day he discovered where the ginger ale was going! She was handing the open can to a tall gray Anubis baboon, George Baboon. Before Harry could warn her that baboons could not drink soda, nor handle cans, George turned the can and guzzled it down. George then crushed the can with his teeth and returned it to Sandy. He decided

that this was the girl of his dreams and they were married the following fall.

Sandy finished college two years later and became a computer programmer. After several years of working locally in NJ, she accepted an opportunity to work as a free-lance computer consultant (itinerant computer geek) and continued for 20 years. Harry was retired by a severe fall at Great Adventure.

After a number of years traveling part of each year, she accepted a contract at Miller Tobacco. Within a few months, Harry got a call "North Carolina is great." He visited and agreed. By the end of that contract, they had purchased the house in Wilson and Harry had enrolled them both in flight school.

Two years ago Harry decided to get his A&P certificate. He started school in Goldsboro and completed both his A&P training and gets his AA degree the end of July. With a month for study, he will be passing the power plant exam soon. His airframe certificate was complete in March.

Our plans are to travel and finish the re-build of the Piper. There are 6 children and 9 grandchildren to visit. Sandy's goal is to visit each of the national park and monuments. Harry wants to do everything and enjoy life to the fullest.