

Getting to Know You – by Jim Kitchell

Meet Member Bill Arnold

This is the first of what we hope will be a regular feature in The 4M. I have offered to write a “member profile” column each month so that we can get to know each other better.

BILL ARNOLD was born in Waco, Texas. After graduating from high school he attended an electronics trade school in San Antonio and received the equivalent of an Associate’s degree in electronics/communications.

Arnold’s employment history began with a stint as transmitter engineer for a PBS TV station. In 1970 he went to work as a technician for the cable TV system in Waco. After several promotions he took over as Chief Engineer, with all technical staff reporting to him. With that experience under his belt, he took a position as District Engineer with another cable company. He was responsible for cable systems all over the State of Texas. Later that company transferred him to Houston, where he headed up their system operations.

Arnold started burning out in 1997 after 27 years in the cable industry. A manufacturer he’d bought equipment from made an offer so Arnold and his family relocated to Florida. After 9/11, positions that he was qualified for became almost non-existent down here. Not wishing to move again, he went to work in a cabinet shop. This allowed him to learn more about his number one hobby while getting paid for it.

Now that he’s retired, Arnold devotes full time to that hobby, including the design and construction of unique furniture pieces. On March 8, 2005 the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* did a feature on him. This was the result of him having won First Place on three pieces he entered in the Florida State Fair Fine Furniture competition. You can visit his website at www.bbarnold.com if interested in seeing his portfolio. Arnold’s other main hobby is nature photography. If you take a look at the Manasota Mensa website you will see that he is also a trivia fan, having correctly answered the last 16 consecutive quizzes.

Arnold is a recent addition to the Mensa family. He always felt he had a bit more upstairs than most of the people he associated with. Plus, he usually scored well on aptitude tests. He decided to check out the requirements to join Mensa and completed the home test. He then took the admission test this past April and received his membership package in May 2005.

His favorite musical group is Chicago. He likes most forms of music from classical to country, but not rap or heavy metal. Finally, his favorite quote is: “Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.”

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