



The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of JAMES (JIM) BELKNAP

June 13, 1927- January 17, 2013

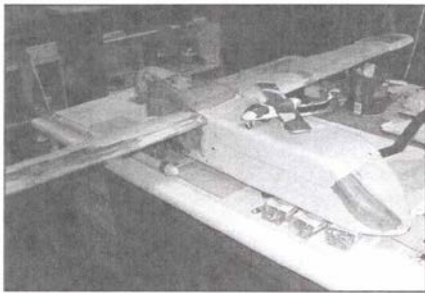


Written by Museum Staff (2003), Reformatted by JS (06/2013)

The following ran in the Summer 2003 issue of the National Model Aviation Museum's Cloud 9 newsletter.

Employee Profile: Jim Belknap

Museum Volunteer



Museum volunteer Jim Belknap has been restoring this half-scale Mastiff trainer for the past few weeks. He is using the smaller airplane, a static scale desktop model of the Mastiff, to help with the restoration.

More about the Mastiff

The Mastiff, an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) produced by Israel Aircraft Industries, was first fielded as a concept developer system with the Second Marine Division in 1984. It was only used to gather information for a few years before being replaced by the Pioneer UAV. Once completed, the half-scale Mastiff trainer will be one of the few examples on display in the United States. The museum acquired the model in 2001.

When he was 10 years old, Jim Belknap received a model aircraft kit from his father. Since that night – except for interruptions during college and his time in the Army – he has remained involved in the hobby. Now, he is giving back as a museum volunteer.

As of a few weeks ago, the Parker City, Indiana, resident has been donating his time to work on projects at the museum. He volunteers two days a week for a few hours, working on several exhibits, including a wind tunnel, a battery pack display, and restoring a half-scale Mastiff, a model of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle used by the United States Marine Corps in the 1980s for reconnaissance purposes (see more information to the left.) The museum acquired the model in 2001 and is finally able to restore it due to Jim's hard work.

So far, Jim, who has been a member of AMA since he was a teenager, has enjoyed his experience with the museum.

"It's nice," he said. "I like restoring models. That's what I'm doing here."

Jim plans to continue working on his own models once he finishes the full-scale project he is currently working on.

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