



The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of ROBERT (BOB) F. BRADFORD, Sr.



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Written by SK (10/2009); Transcribed & Formatted by JS (12/2010)

The following was published in the October 2010 Model Aviation magazine, in the In the Air section. It was written by Sherwin Kroll. Mr. Bradford passed away in 2012 at the age of 102.

An Amazing Modeler

Robert (Bob) Bradford is a 98-year-old RC enthusiast who still has a passion for flying models. He's a longtime member of the Sangamon Valley RC Flyers of Springfield, Illinois, and attends meetings on a regular basis.

Bob has a bit of a problem with balance, which requires him to sit while flying, and age has taken its toll on his coordination and timing. But with a buddy box as backup, Bob still enjoys the hobby as much as anyone.

According to Bob, when he was a kid, he and a friend would ride their bicycles out to the original Springfield, Illinois airfield to see Charles Lindbergh come fling in with mail as he made his flight from Chicago to Saint Louis.

And having experienced the Great Depression as an adult, Bob has the frugality of many who lived through that difficult time. It's common for him to pick a wrecked airplane out of the trash barrel and bring it back later, repaired and ready to fly.

As a friend has mentioned, Bob always seems upbeat. All of us should be able to have as many healthful years participating in our enjoyable hobby as he has.

-Sherwin Kroll
Sangamon Valley RC Flyers

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