



# The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of ANDY LENNON

September 1, 1914 - November 24, 2007



Written and Submitted by DG (c. 2007); Edited and Formatted by NR (2008), Updated by JS (02/2008), Reformatted by JS (08/2009)

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*The following is an obituary statement by Mr. Lennon's old friend, Dave Gierke.*

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**“Immortality is in the work that we publish.”**

**Andy Lennon Biography**

**Born: Sept. 1, 1914**

**Died: Nov. 24, 2007**

When I first became acquainted with Andy, he was already an octogenarian; he impressed me with his mental acuity, wit, and enthusiasm for anything that flew. When I spoke with him a few days before his passing, my opinion had not changed; the man was amazing and the body of work that he left behind speaks volumes.

A ceramics engineer by vocation and a model aerodynamicist by avocation, Lennon wrote 48 design articles and 18 construction articles. In his spare time, he wrote three books, one of which is still in print. His second offering dealing with canards (tail-first designs) is considered to be a bible for those lucky enough to possess a copy. In fact, the late Bob Kress, father of the *F-15 Tomcat*, wrote the book's introduction.

Throughout our all too brief 13-year friendship, Andy could always be found unearthing the unknown aspects of model aviation. His well-known monograph simplified the selection process for propellers; his articles helped beginners to cope with the complexities of aerodynamics.

Andy was recently inducted into the Canadian AMA (MAAC) this past August, a long overdue recognition of his genius. The wording on his plaque sums-up his relationship with model aviation:

***“In recognition of lifetime achievements, leadership, guidance, and contributions to local and national organizations in the field of model aeronautics.”***

Andy was lucky to have a long life that allowed him to be at the top of his game, intellectually and creatively, right to the end. Yet, it is bittersweet to recognize that longevity came with a price; he outlived many of his contemporaries who recognized and respected the magnitude of his accomplishments and contributions to the advancement of our hobby. Our lives as hobbyists have truly been enhanced by the work of Andy Lennon. What follows is a list of his books and articles for you to read, maybe for the first time, so that you can understand exactly how this humble man earned a place as one of the giants in the field. Our hobby has lost a kind and dear friend.

-Dave Gierke

## A list of his works:

- 1) 48 Design Articles
- 2) 18 Construction Articles
- 3) 3 Books
- 4) MAAC Hall of Fame (Canada) Aug. 2007

### Design Articles, *Model Airplane News*

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1) Airfoil Selection Part I & II                             | May & June 1992           |
| 2) Understanding Airfoils                                    | Jan. 1995                 |
| 3) Understanding Aerodynamic formulas                        | Oct. 1995                 |
| 4) Wing Loading Design                                       | Aug. 1992                 |
| 5) Wing Design Parts I, II and III                           | Jan., Feb., & Mar. 1993   |
| 6) CG Location   | April 1993                |
| 7) Balancing Act   | May 1993                  |
| 8) Horizontal Tail Design Parts I & II                       | Nov., Dec. 1993           |
| 9) Horizontal Tail Incidence & Downwash Est.                 | Sept. 1995                |
| 10) Vertical Tail Design                                     | Jan. 1994                 |
| 11) Spiral Stability Design                                  | July 1994                 |
| 12) Weight Distribution in Design                            | Oct. 1994                 |
| 13) Reducing Drag Parts I & II                               | Jan., Feb., & March       |
| 14) Stressed Skin Design Parts I & II                        | Sept. & Oct. 1992         |
| 15) Design for Flaps Parts I & II                            | Oct. & Nov 1991           |
| 16) NASA Safe Wing   | June 1994                 |
| 17) Landing Gear Design Parts I & II                         | March & June 1994         |
| 18) Ducted Cowl Design Parts I & II                          | Aug. & Sept. 1994         |
| 19) Propeller Selection Parts I & II                         | Nov. & Dec. 1992          |
| 20) Speed Estimating   | Feb. 1994                 |
| 21) Design for Aerobatics                                    | Sept. 1996                |
| 22) High Lift Devices & Drag Reduction                       | May 1996                  |
| 23) Flying with High Lift Devices                            | May 1996                  |
| 24) Centrifugal Force & Maneuverability                      | Dec. 1996                 |
| 25) Canard, Tandem wing &<br>3 Surface Designs, I, II, & III | Nov., Dec. '95 & Jan. '96 |
| 26) Tailless Airplanes Design Parts I, II, & III             | Apr., May & June 1995     |
| 27) Hull & Float Design Parts I & II                         | Nov., & Dec. 1994         |
| 28) Basic Proportions for R/C Aircraft                       | Nov. 1996                 |
| 29) More on Slotted Flaps                                    | Aug. 1997                 |
| 30) High Lift Devices & Ground Effect                        | Feb. 1997                 |
| 31) Biplane Design Parts I & II                              | Feb. & July 1998          |
| 32) Prevent Control Surface Flutter                          | Nov. 1998                 |
| 33) Stability & Maneuverability                              | Oct. 1999                 |
| 34) Aerodynamics of Small Glow Models                        | Feb. 2000                 |
| 35) Design & Build Light, Sturdy Airframes                   | June 2000                 |
| 36) The Right Combination                                    | Aug. 2000                 |
| 37) Choose the Right Prop for Your Engine                    | June 2001                 |

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 38) Select a Prop Using Thrust To Weight Ratio | July 2001   |
| 39) Balancing the Model - Internet -           | April 2006  |
| 40) Propeller Selection                        | Unpublished |
| 41) Landing Gear Principles                    | Unpublished |
| 42) Longitudinal Stability                     | Unpublished |

Design Articles, *Model Aviation*

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|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 43) Glow Plug Heater               | Jan. 1988        |
| 44) High Lift Devices              | July 1991        |
| 45) Structural Design Parts I & II | Jul. & Aug. 1994 |

Design Articles, *R/C Modeler*

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 46) Canard & Tandem Wing Designs | Nov/Dec 1989; Jan/Feb/March 1990 |
| 47) Hull & Float Design          | Feb./Mar./ Apr. 1991             |

Design Articles, *Fly R/C*

- |                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 48) Predict Your Model's Speed | Sept. 2004 |
|--------------------------------|------------|

R/C Construction Articles, *Model Airplane News (USA)*

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|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1) Flamingo Flying Boat               | Oct. 1957        |
| 2) Eleven-sport                       | Sept. 1980       |
| 3) Canada Goose Canard                | Jan. 1981        |
| 4) Crane STOL                         | March/April 1981 |
| 5) Gull Sport                         | July 1984        |
| 6) Sea Hawk – Float and landing Plane | Oct. 1992        |
| 7) Swift Sport                        | Sept. 1993       |
| 8) Dove – Glow Powered Glider         | Nov. 1994        |
| 9) Wild Goose – 3 Surface Model       | Jan. 1996        |
| 10) Crow STOL                         | Aug. 1996        |
| 11) Robin STOL                        | May 2000         |

R/C Construction Articles, *Model Aviation (USA)*

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|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 12) Sparrow Hawk – Sport             | Jan. 1987 |
| 13) Sea Loon – Twin Boom Flying Boat | Oct. 1987 |

R/C Construction Articles, *Model Builder (USA)*

- |                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 14) Swan – Canard               | Oct. 1989 |
| 15) Osprey – Float & Land Plane | June 1991 |

R/C Construction Articles, *R/C Modeler (USA)*

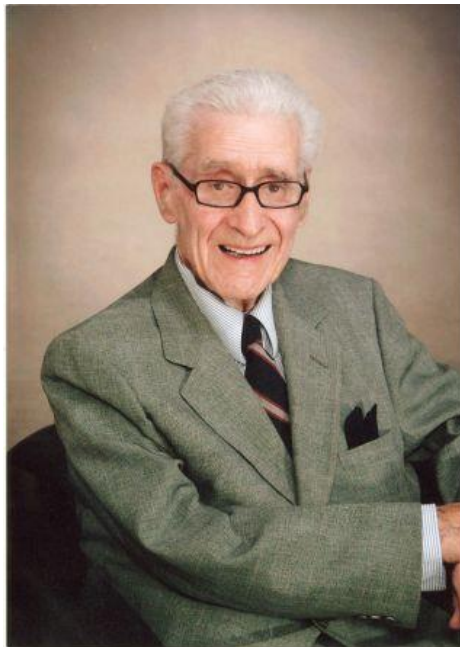
- 16) Snowy Owl Sport Jan. 1989  
17) Seagull III – Flying Boat Oct 1992

R/C Construction Articles, *Radio Control Models & Electronics* (UK)

- 18) Wasp – Tandem Wing Biplane Feb. 1988

Books Published

1. *Canard*, 1984, Aviation Publishers, USA (out of print)
2. *R/C Model Airplane Design*, 1986, Motor Books International, USA & Chart Hobby Dist. Ltd., UK (out of print)
3. *Basics of model Aircraft Design*, 1996, Air Age Media, 20 Westpoint Road, Wilton, Ct 06897 (available)



*Andy Lennon*

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