



# AMA History Program Biography Writing Guide



Thanks for your interest in helping to preserve the history of model aviation! The following information can be used as a guide to writing your own autobiography or another modeler's biography. Be sure to look through the format guidelines and return the form at the bottom with your biography. Please contact the AMA assistant historian at 765-287-1256, ext. 511 or [historyprogram@modelaircraft.org](mailto:historyprogram@modelaircraft.org) right away if you have any questions or problems. If you would rather receive a form to complete and have someone else write your biography let us know. Other assistance can be provided as well. Thanks again for your interest and happy modeling!

## Format Guidelines

- Typewritten biographies are nice, but not required. Send us your information any way you can and we will format it to fit our needs. If you use a computer, send us the file either through e-mail or on a disk if possible.
- Include photographs of your modeling experience and we will try to use as many as possible. If you would like them back, please make a note on the form at the end of this packet. Also, be sure to include information about the photographs for captions.
- Magazine and newspaper articles about your modeling career are also beneficial. Include any pertinent articles or other materials and we will add them to your file. If you include information from an article in the biography, please mention the article and photocopy the article(s) to send with your submission. Please do not copy articles word-for-word without citing the source as in the examples below.
  - For newspapers:
    - “John Doe was an excellent modeler who contributed to the community” (By Joe Schmoe, The Daily News, Modelville, Indiana, August 7, 1999, page 3A).
  - For magazines:
    - “This was a terrific year for John Doe. He won every event at the National Championships” (By Joe Schmoe, Model Aviation magazine, May 4, 1979, page 55).
  - For books:
    - “Model aviation has been changed forever by John Doe's invention” (By Joe Schmoe Model Aviation: Up Close and Personal, Copyright 1997, pages 53 – 55).

Please complete the forms at the end and return them with your biography to: Academy of Model Aeronautics, ATTN: History Program, 5151 E. Memorial Drive, Muncie, Indiana, 47302.

## Writing Guidelines

*Please note that these are only guidelines and do not have to be followed precisely.*

Make an outline using the following headings that pertain to you:

- The Beginning
- Competition
- Experiments
- Leadership
- Contest Leadership
- Publishing Experience
- Hobby Industry Involvement
- Education Involvement

Elaborate on each of the headings. For example, start with answering the questions listed below and expand upon them. Do not list the question under the heading.

### The Beginning

- How and when did you get started in modeling?
- Who was influential in this start and with whom did you fly frequently?
- Where were you living and flying at the time?
- What was the first model you built? The first engine you used?
- Give details about your first models, including whether you built them from a kit, plans or from scratch.

### Competition

- Did you ever fly in a competition? If so, when, where and what was the name of the first meet?
- Did you ever fly in a National Competition? What year, how did you place and what category did you enter? What plane did you fly?
- Did you ever fly in a F.A.I. Competition? What year, how did you place and what category did you enter? What plane did you fly?

### Experiments

- What have you experimented with in modeling?
- Have you designed anything in modeling? If so, what, when and for whom?
- What other experimenting have you done in modeling?

### Leadership

- Did you ever organize or help establish a modeling club? When, where and what was the name of the club? Does it still exist today?
- Have you ever held a position in a club? If so, what club, what position, where was it located, and what years did you serve?

- What committee have you served on? What was your position and what years did you serve?
- Have you ever been an AMA officer? When and what position?
- Have you ever been on the executive council or contest board? If so, when, what position did you hold, and what was the name of the organization?

#### Contest Leadership

- Have you ever directed a local, regional, or national meet? If so, when and where?
- Have you ever directed a U.S.F.A.I. Team Selection Program? If so, when and what category?

#### Publishing Experience

- List and briefly overview the articles you have written. Be sure to include the publication they appeared in along with the dates.
- Have you ever written a book on modeling? What was its title, publication date, and publisher? Give a brief overview of its contents.
- Were you ever a club newsletter editor? When, for what club and what was the name of the newsletter?
- Discuss any involvement you have had with a national publication or national book publisher, include any editing or publishing experience.

#### Hobby Industry Involvement

- Discuss with some detail any products you have ever produced in the hobby industry. Be sure to include dates, product names, locations, and employers.
- Talk about any involvement you have had in the hobby distribution industry. Be sure to include dates, product names, locations, and employers.
- Discuss your involvement with the retail hobby industry (such as hobby shops). Be sure to include dates, product names, locations, and employers.
- List the involvement you have had in the hobby manufacturing industry. Be sure to include dates, product names, locations, and employers.

#### Education Involvement

- Talk about any experiences you have had with teaching model aircraft construction in a school environment. Be sure to give any details you can about when, what school and how the students reacted.
- Discuss other teaching experiences you have had like at a county fair, local mall, or Boy Scout meeting.

You have now finished your biography! Read back through what you have written and include any information you recall as you read. When you are finished, send all your information, including photos and/or articles, and the personal information form on page four to Academy of Model Aeronautics, ATTN: History Program, 5151 E. Memorial Drive, Muncie, Indiana, 47302 or to [historyprogram@modelaircraft.org](mailto:historyprogram@modelaircraft.org).

## Personal Information

*Please send the following form along with your biography, any photos and copies of articles used to Academy of Model Aeronautics, ATTN: History Program, 5151 E. Memorial Drive, Muncie, Indiana, 47302 or to [historyprogram@modelaircraft.org](mailto:historyprogram@modelaircraft.org).*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AMA No. \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Year you started modeling \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_(\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If you have enclosed photographs, would you like them returned? Yes No

If you have enclosed articles, would you like them returned? Yes No

Other Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did you write the enclosed biography? Yes No

Did someone else write the biography? Yes No

If so, please fill in their information below:

Writer's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Writer's AMA Number (If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Writer's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Writer's City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Writer's Phone \_(\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



# AMA History Program

5151 E. Memorial Drive  
Muncie, Indiana 47302  
765-287-1256, ext. 511  
Fax: 765-281-7904

historyprogram@modelaircraft.org

**Norm Rosenstock, Historian**  
**Jackie Shalberg, Archivist and Assistant Historian**



## Biography Consent

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby consent that the Academy of Model  
*(print first name and last name)*  
Aeronautics History Program, a division of the National Model Aviation Museum, has  
permission to use the biography or autobiography prepared by and/or about me.

It is understood that the biography is to be kept and maintained by the Museum and Lee Renaud  
Memorial Library as part of its biography collection for use by AMA members, researchers and  
other interested parties for as long as the Museum believes the said material to be of scholarly or  
historical value.

I understand that some uses of this biography could include, but are not limited to the following:  
use in displays in the National Model Aviation Museum, placement in the bound copies of  
biographies in the Lee Renaud Memorial Library and use in various AMA publications such as  
Model Aviation, the Cloud Nine newsletter, and the AMA/ Museum website. This consent  
transfers copyrights of the biography to the AMA.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

AMA Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_