
Autobiography of JIM H. BENNETT

Modeling since 1938 Birth Date: September 2, 1926 AMA Number: 812

Written & Submitted by JHB (8/00)

Transcribed by NR (8/00)

Edited by SS (2002)

Career:

- Joined AMA in 1940
- Contest Director, Scientific Leader Member
- Served as a contest director for over 30 years and over 150 meets from A to regional AAA
- Served as contest director of the US Nationals in 1990
- I was the contest coordinator for District VI for 20 years
- I served as director of the National Free Flight Society (NFFS) Symposium
- Editor and producer of the 100 plus page symposium reports in 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1990

Honors:

- 1981 – AMA Fellow
 - 1996 – AM Distinguished Service Award
 - Awarded three awards of Distinguished Service by the NFFS
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My AMA number is 812. My card says, Contest Director, Scientific Leader Member. I joined AMA in 1940.

I was born in St. Louis, Missouri on September 2, 1926. I started building model airplanes of the dime model, Megow and Comet variety in the 1938. In 1939 I built the Korda 54 Minute Record Breaker and Goldberg's Zipper.

My first contest was the Mississippi Valley Contest in 1941. The second largest US contest after the Nationals (Nats) in those days. I won the Missouri State Championship with high time. I flew indoor and outdoor at several Nats but never placed higher than fifth. I won a trip to the 1949 Plymouth International Model Contest in Detroit.

My highest single flight, before dethermalizers, was two hours and 10 minutes. We followed all the way in a car through back roads of St. Louis County to the edge of the Mississippi River and watched it fly over. It was found by a farmer in Illinois. Other unusual flights include flying across the Mississippi in the westerly direction flying from an East St. Louis field into the South side of St. Louis. Another from St. flight crossed the Missouri River.

I served as a contest director for over 30 years and over 150 meets from A to regional AAA. I also served as contest director of the US Nationals in 1990. I was the contest coordinator for District VI for 20 years. I served as director of the National Free Flight Society (NFFS) Symposium and editor and producer of the 100 plus page symposium reports in 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1990.

I was awarded three awards of distinguished service by the NFFS. I served in the Army at the end of World War II in the Philippine Islands and then the Korean occupation. I graduated in Aeronautical Engineering from Saint Louis University and Washington University in St. Louis. I bought my first aviation magazines in the 1930s – Air Trails, Flying Aces, Model Airplane News and Popular Aviation. I still have them in the basement but many are in poor condition. I have all of Zaic's books too.

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