
Autobiography of CLAUDE McCULLOUGH

Modeler since the early 1930s Lifespan: May 16, 1922 – January 30, 2008 AMA Number: 10
Written & Submitted by CM (1/01) Transcribed & Edited by SS (1/03), Updated by JS (01/08)

Career:

- Began competing regularly with all types of models in 1935; entered his first AMA Nationals in 1941
- Won many awards at AMA Nationals and QSAA contests (as well as others) including best civilian scale, best scratch-built model, best bi-plane, first in Radio Controlled (RC) precision scale and best scale model
- Has had numerous planes, articles and photographs published in modeling magazines such as *Model Airplane News*, *Air Trails*, *Radio Control Modeler* and *American Aircraft Modeler*.
- Wrote a monthly column on RC scale for *American Aircraft Modeler* from 1970 to 1975
- Served as associate editor and wrote a monthly column for *Radio Control Modeler* from 1978 to 1982
- In 1946 started designing and building model airplane parts such as transmitters, receivers, escapements, etc.
- Had numerous designs kitted by SIG
- Has continuously served on many committees and various positions in the AMA starting in June 1948
- Elected AMA president in 1957; served one term then withdrew in favor of Walt Good

Honors:

- 1979 – Model Aviation Hall of Fame
- 1991 – Society of Antique Modelers Hall of Fame

Competition

Beginning in 1935 competed regularly in all types of competitions including indoor, hand-launched glider, Free Flight Rubber, Free Flight Scale, all sizes of Free Flight Power, Rise-off-Water (ROW), Control Line Stunt, Control Line scale, Radio Controlled (RC) Pattern and RC Scale.

First entered the AMA Nationals in 1941 and have competed in about three-fourths of them since that time.

Some major awards include the following:

- 1965 AMA Nationals – First in RC precision scale
- 1972 AMA Nationals – Sterling Award for best scale model
- 1986 QSAA Las Vegas – Best civilian scale
- 1987 QSAA Las Vegas – Best scratch-built model
- 1989 AMA Nationals – First in FAI large scale
- 1989 QSAA Las Vegas – Best scale model
- 1990 AMA Nationals – First in RC precision scale
- 1990 Dallas – George Meyer Memorial Craftsmanship Trophy
- 1990 QSAA Las Vegas – Best of bi-plane

- 1991 Scalemasters Las Vegas – Best scratch built
- 1991 Dallas – George Meyer Memorial Craftsmanship Trophy and first place civilian scale
- 1992 QSAA Las Vegas – Best of scale
- 1992 QSAA Las Vegas – Best of bi-plane
- 1993 QSAA Las Vegas – Best of bi-plane
- 1993 AMA Nationals – First place in RC precision scale
- 1994 Top Gun Palm Beach – Best of bi-plane
- 1995 QSAA Las Vegas – Best of bi-plane
- 1997 QSAA Las Vegas – Best civilian aircraft

Plans Published in Magazines

Partial List

- Douglas *DC-4* (Display Model), *Flying Aces*, September 1938.
- *Kayo* Gas Model, *Flying Aces*, January 1939.
- Build Our Cub Coupe (rubber-powered scale), *Flying Aces*, October 1939.
- Try This Porterfield-Turner (rubber-powered scale), *Flying Aces*, August 1940.
- *P-40F Warhawk* (Control Line scale), *Air Trails*, March 1943.
- *Sparrow* (1/2-A Free Flight or rubber), *Flying Aces*, April 1943.
- *Meteorite* (Control Line), *Air Trails*, July 1943.
- *Anzac* (Free Flight gas), *Model Craftsman*, October 1946.
- *Charger* (Free Flight gas), *Air World*, November 1946.
- *Republic Seabee* (Control Line of Free Flight scale), Bill Winter's *Planbook*, 1947.
- *Brigand* (Free Flight gas), *Model Craftsman*, April 1947.
- *Twinstar* (rubber), *Air Trails*, June 1947.
- *Buzzer* (Free Flight gas), *Air World*, July 1947.
- *Gnat* (Free Flight gas), *Model Airplane News*, October 1947.
- *Screamer* (Control Line speed), *Model Airplane News*, February 1948.
- *Pixie* (CO2), *Air Trails*, August 1948.
- *Toreador* (Free Flight gas), *Flying Models*, June 1948.
- *Flamingo* (rubber), *Air Trails*, July 1948.
- *Rascal* (rubber), *Air Trails*, November 1948.
- *Vixen* (Free Flight gas), *Model Airplane News*, August 1948.
- *Fledgling* (1/2-A), *Flying Models*, October 1950.
- Mac's *Chariot* (RC), *American Aircraft Modeler*, April 1957.
- Martin *AM-1 Mauler* (RC scale), *RC Modeler* Book "Challenge of RC Scale," 1967.
- Douglas *Skypirate* (RC scale), *RC Modeler*, November 1968.
- Fletcher *FU-24* (RC scale), *American Aircraft Modeler*, September 1971.

Writer

Partial List of Articles

- “Exit Balsa, Enter Basswood,” *Air Trails*, November 1942.
- “Towliners Are In,” *Air Trails*, Model Annual for 1943.
- “Adjust That Model,” *Flying Aces*, July 1943.
- “What’s Wrong with Pylons?” *Air Trails*, October 1946.
- “Comment From the Flying Line,” Parts 1 and 2, *Aeromodeller*, April and May 1946.
- “Those AMA Rules,” *American Modeler*, July 1957.
- “RC World Championships – Bremen,” *American Aircraft Modeler*, January 1970.
- “Scale World Championships for Control Line and RC,” *American Aircraft Modeler*, January 1971.
- “RC Scale” (1973 Nats photos and report), *American Aircraft Modeler*, November 1973.
- *Scale Data Source List*, Booklet for the National Association of Scale Aeromodelers.
- Starting in 1970, wrote a monthly column on RC scale for *American Aircraft Modeler* until the publication ceased in March 1975. The column moved to *RC Sportsman*, a new publication replacing *American Aircraft Modeler*, appearing monthly until May 1978. Became an associate editor of *RC Modeler* in July 1978 and wrote a monthly column called “Scale Views” until 1982.
- “Differential Makes a Difference,” *Aeromodeller Annual*, 1978-1979.
- “The Cuban Waco,” *Skyways*, April 1992.
- “Cuban Waco,” *The Waco*, 1992.
- “Gwinn Aircar,” *Skyways*, January 1995.
- “Detailing the A-17,” *RC Modeler*, March, April and May 2001.

Model Photographer

Partial List of Magazine Covers

- *Flying Models*, March 1964
- *Flying Models*, December and January 1964
- *Model Airplane News*, September 1966
- *Flying Models*, November 1966
- *RC Modeler*, April 1967
- *Model Airplane News*, July 1968
- *Modelar* (Czech), Listopad, 1969
- *Model Airplane News*, April 1969
- *Model Airplane News*, January 1970
- *American Aircraft Modeler*, September 1971
- *Model Airplane News*, September 1971
- *Model Airplane News*, June 1972
- *Model Dealer*, July 1972
- *Model Airplane News*, October 1972
- *Model Dealer*, January 1974
- *Sport Modeler*, July and August 1974

- *Model Airplane News*, December 1975
- *Model Airplane News*, November 1976
- *Scale RC Modeler*, August 1977
- *Model Retailer*, April 1980
- *Skyways*, January 1995
- *Model Aviation*, June 1998
- *RC Modeler*, March 2001

Experimenter

From 1946, designed and built transmitters, receiver, escapements, motor controls, stunt tanks, etc. Some of these appeared in Howard McEntee's RC column in the 1950s. Published RC theory or construction articles include the following:

- "U.H.F.," *Air Trails*, June 1945
- "Radio Control Notes," *Model Airplane News*, March 1947
- "Pushbutton Pilots," *Popular Science*, August 1947
- "RC Triplex – Three Controls in One Channel," *Popular Electronics*, November 1956

Designs Kitted by SIG

- *Yak 18P* (RC scale), 1969
- *Kadet* (basic trainer), 1973
- *Komander* (RC aileron trainer), 1974
- *Skybolt* (RC bi-plane), 1975
- *Kougar* (advanced RC trainer), 1975
- *Klipper* (RC sport), 1976
- *Kavalier* (aileron trainer), 1978
- *Kadet, Junior* (RC sport), 1980
- *Kobra* (RC sport), 1982
- *King Kobra* (RC pattern), 1983
- *Morrissey Bravo* (1/4-scale RC), 1985
- *Kadet Senior* (RC trainer), 1986
- *Kadet Seniorita* (trainer), 1987

AMA

Appointed to clubs and chapters committee on June 30, 1948. Named to the contest board in 1950. Designated chairman during 1955 and 1956. Elected as AMA president for 1957. Served one term and withdrew in favor of Walt Good for 1958. Returned to the position of contest board chairman until 1960. Chaired the by-laws committee that drew up the two-year rule cycle system with multiple contest boards. Appointed to new scale advisory committee (SAC) when it was formed in 1960. Continued as chairman when the SAC was converted to the scale contest board (SCB) in 1970. Is currently (2001) District VII SCB member. This 53-year period of continuously holding an AMA office of appointment is believed to be the longest of any AMA

member. Elected to the Model Aviation Hall of Fame in 1979. Elected to the Society of Antique Modelers' Hall of Fame in 1991.

*(signed) Claude McCullough
January 2001*

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