
Biography of HAROLD CHARLES “RED” REINHARDT

Submitted by WP (8/02)

Transcribed & Edited by SS (9/02)

Career:

- Top stunt flyer on the East Coast in the 1950s
- Competed numerous times at the Mirror Model Flying Fair held in Long Island, New York; won the stunt event three times
- Won the Plymouth International Meet stunt division in 1950 flying his own design
- Had six model plane designs published in model magazines

Honors:

- 2002 – Precision Aerobatics Model Pilot Association Hall of Fame
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Wynn Paul, historian of the Precision Aerobatics Model Pilot Association (PAMPA) submitted this biography that PAMPA had on file about Harold Charles “Red” Reinhardt.

Harold “Red” Reinhardt was a top stunt flyer on the Eastern Seaboard circuit during the early 1950s, living in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Red competed many times in the Mirror Model Flying Fair, the tremendous air show held on Long Island, New York, from 1946 to 1961, which often drew over 100,000 spectators. He won the stunt event at this contest three times – the most of anyone. His first win was in 1949 at the age of 16 competing against open flyers as there was only one division at this time. One of the prizes awarded that year was a Grumman canoe and Red was pictured in Air Trails magazine sitting in the canoe with his trophy.

In 1951 he finished fifth place in the combined stunt event.

In 1952 there were two classes for stunt – adult and youth. Red won the adult division at the age of 19 beating out his longtime friend Larry Scarinzi.

In 1954, he won again in the adult division. During this competition he performed an amazing spot landing good for an extra 50 points. An account of this spot landing (related by Bob Hunt) is the stuff of “stunt legend.” According to Hunt, “When the engine quit, Red had positioned the ominous black wing several feet directly over a wooden line reel positioned on the runway as the spot. Red instantly performed an abrupt vertical climb and then made an outside turn which placed the model in a vertical dive. The ship nailed the reel just a half-inch off dead center with its spinner. The model then bounced up several feet and turned horizontal. Red made the model flutter in this horizontal attitude with very quick up and down handle movements and it settled down on the runway with the engine sitting directly over the center of the line reel.”

It is notable that some other accomplished stunt flyers won at the Mirror Meet on two occasions, notably Fran McElwee (1947 and 1948), Artie Meyers (1959, youth and 1960, adult) and Jim Silhavy (1958 and 1959). Red has the distinction of winning three times at the Mirror.

He won the Plymouth International Meet stunt division in 1950 (held near Detroit, Michigan). He was flying his own design, which came to be known as the 1950 Internationals Winner. He placed high in the 1951 Plymouth Meet with another of his designs, the Galloping Comedian.

The only recorded appearance of Red in the Nationals was the 1954 edition held in Glenview, Illinois, where he finished in eighth place in the open division with his Flying Wing.

Red had six of his airplane designs published in the model magazines. They were the Roger Dodger, the 1950 Internats Winner, the Galloping Comedian, the El Diablo, the Snapper and the Stunt Wing.

According to Ward Van Duzer, “Red was sort of a shy, modest person, but then he also conspired with Larry Scarinzi to throw a cherry bomb in a pot of Italian sauce in a diner in New Jersey. Also, he and Larry once flew a Control Line Half-A plane out of a second story window in a motel performing ‘wing-unders’ among other limited maneuvers.”

Red died in 1973 following complications of an automobile accident.

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