
Autobiography of BOB UPTON

Modeler since 1946

Birth Date: July 16, 1934AMA Number: 6429

Written & Submitted by BU (6/96)

Transcribed by NR (11/96)

Edited by SS (2002)

Career:

- AMA leader member and contest director
 - Assistant chief pattern judge of the AMA Nationals from 1965 to 1970 and chief pattern judge from 1971 to 1972
 - USA representative judge for the Radio Controlled (RC) World Aerobatic Championships held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1979
 - Judged every Circus-Circus Tournament of Champions through 1984 (every other year for 14 years)
 - Judged several Masters RC contests in the 1970s and 1980s as well as local Southern California sanctioned pattern RC contests
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The following biography was taken from the Upton's application to the AMA Hall of Fame.

Competitive Activities

1947-1949: local U-control contests in and around Detroit, Michigan

Competed in the 1948 and 1949 Plymouth Internationals and won a trip to the 1950 Nationals in Dallas, Texas through contest wins supported by the PAL organization.

1950 Nationals: flew junior U-control stunt

1951 Nationals: flew senior U-control stunt, Control Line speed B, Control Line jet (dyna jet) and Free Flight. Flew A, B and C and rubber in an attempt at an all around senior championship.

1952-1956 USAF: qualified as a member of the USAF modeling team but could not compete due to other commitments.

1957-1963: College (BA)

1964 Nationals: flew Radio Controlled (RC) pattern

1965-1972 Nationals: flew RC formula 1 and FAI

Leadership Rolls Relative to RC Activities

I've been an AMA member (6429) since 1947, 1948 or 1949 and have been a leader member and contest director since the early 1970s.

I am the past president of the San Fernando Valley Flyers 1966 (AMA charta 158), past president of USPJA (1978 or 1079) and helped form the guidelines of the organization with Bill Northrop, Betty Stream and Dave Lane.

I am a past two-term president of the Tri-County Barnstormers (1993 and 1994) and AMA charter 1605.

AMA Nationals

- Assistant chief pattern judge 1965-1970, chief pattern judge 1971-1972
- USA representative judge for the RC World Aerobatic Championships held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1979.
- Judged every Circus-Circus Tournament of Champions through 1984 (every other year for 14 years)
- Judged several Masters RC contests in the 1970s and 1980s as well as local Southern California sanctioned pattern RC contests.
- Served as contest director for many multi RC event contests over the years, both large and small (all AMA sanctioned).
- Authored “how-to” articles and product reviews for Model Builder magazine and served as its West Coast advertisement representative during the early years of publication.
- A semi-aerobatic RC model I designed and called the Benpatch appeared as a construction article in the first issue of the magazine. In 1978, I was fortunate to get a cover shot of my full size Baby Ace and quarter scale RC Baby Ace designed by Don Butmen and myself (the photo was taken by well-known photographer Dick Tichener). The Ace was kitted by Joe Bridi Models and later, by Great Planes.
- In 1972, Model Airplane News published a construction article of my FAI Minnow II RC racer and featured my three kids, my RC racers and myself on the cover of that issue.

Aircraft Related Memberships and Activities

I've had my pilot's license since 1972 and currently belong to the EAA as well as the AMA and IMAA. I also have been a past member of NMPRA, the PAST club and USPJA. Currently I'm enjoying scratch building and flying scale “big birds.”

I thank you in advance for considering me as a candidate as one who helped shape the modeling environment.

Robert G.Upton, AMA 6429 (6/96)

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