



The AMA History Program Presents: Biography of GEORGE ALDRICH



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AMA Number: L47

Transcribed by NR (9/00)

Edited by SS (2002), updated by JS (04/06, 10/07)

Career:

- 1951: At the Plymouth Internationals won High Point & Air Trails Perpetual Trophy
- Published many designs in all the major model magazines
- Designed the *Nobler* Control Line Stunt model; it was kitted by Top Flight
- Wrote a column in *Model Builder* magazine called, "Fuel Lines"
- Wrote a column in *Model Airplane News* called "For Engine Lovers"
- 1995-1997: Served as AMA District VIII Vice President

Honors:

- 1984: Model Aviation Hall of Fame
- 1992: Precision Aerobatics Model Pilot Association Hall of Fame

The following was an attachment to a Model Aviation Hall of Fame nomination application. Hugo N. Bixio submitted the application on March 26, 1984

George M. Aldrich

March 26, 1984

Competitor

US (FAI) team member:

- In 1972 World Championships in 'Helsinki, Finland, he served as US Judge Control Line Aerobatics.
- Nationals (Nats) event winner, National or World Record holder:

- 1951** Second place, class AFF Senior Division – Dallas, Texas
Fourth Control Stunt Senior Division – Dallas, Texas
First Control Line Stunt Plymouth Internationals Senior Division
Also, high point champ Control Line stunt winning the Air trails Perpetual Trophy – Detroit, Mich.
- 1952** First Senior Control Line stunt, senior division, winning Walker Trophy as National Stunt Champion – Los Alamitos, Calif.
- 1953** First Senior Control Line Stunt Division – Willow Grove, Penn.
- 1954** Third Senior Control Line Stunt – Glenview, Ill.
- 1956** First open Control Line Stunt – Dallas, Texas
- 1957** First open Control Line Stunt, winning Walker Trophy as National Stunt Champ – Willow Grove, Penn.
- 1968** Third Class C Control Line Speed – Olathe, Kan. (Also the special Sportsmanship Award)

1969 First Open Control Line Class B Proto. Set national record at 141.64" MPH with Joe McKenzie, pilot.

Designer

Plans published in magazines:

Wrote numerous magazine articles in *Model Airplane News*, including:

- 1952: The Nobler
- 1952: A description on how to perform square loops
- 1954: The first ever article on Monoline Control Speed
- 1959: Peacemaker
- 1964: AG-1 Crop Duster

Designed Nobler Control Line Stunt Model in 1950, which was kitted by Top Flight models in 1957.

Designed the following for Top Flight Models:

1. Flight Streak
2. Flight Streak Jr.
3. Baby Flight Streak
4. Combat Streak
5. Flight Streak Trainer
6. Flight Streak Peace Maker
7. The Nobler

After more than 25 years the Flight Streak, Flight Streak Jr. Nobler, and the Baby Flight Streak are still in production.

The Nobler Control Line Stunt design was the most produced kit to win more contests in Control Line stunt than any other was. Many contestants In Juniors, Seniors, and Open used the Nobler design to place in national, regional, and local contests.

He experimented in fuel, glow plugs, and engines. Then he went into business under the name of Aldrich Models.

George has been a Contest Director since 1950 and helped form many Control Line Clubs in the 1950's and 1960's.

He was contest director (CD) of Air Force Air Training Command and World Wide Meets in 1960.

National Control Line Aerobatics Director in 1960, 1964, 1966.

Also trained judges in 1960, 1967, 1968.

He served as club officer and different committees for many local clubs.

Served on the AMA Control Line Combat Contest Board in and Control Line Contest Board in 1953-1954.

Chair, Control Line Aerobatics Contest Board, 1956-1958.

Wrote existing Control Line Aerobatic Pattern in 1957, which has remained virtually unchanged for 27 years. This Pattern was also adopted by the FAI in 1959.

George wrote "Fuel Lines" column for Model Builder Magazine for the years 1977-1979. Presently writes "For Engine Lovers" column for Model Airplane News 1979 to date.

He entered custom engine rework and consulting business 1968 full time. Operated as Aldrich Models until 1974. Incorporated as Aldrich Products, Inc. 1974, continuing custom engine business and developing a line of glow plugs and model glow fuel. Introduced Magnum Power Fuel in 1976, a revolutionary advancement in glow fuels. Discontinued custom engine work in 1976 to devote full time to Fuel, Glow Plug, and Control Line handle production after entering into an agreement with Carl Goldberg Models to market Magnum Glow Fuel.

Became an AMA Life Member 1981 at the Seguin Nationals.

George's Nobler has been the most prolific winner in National Aerobatics events in the Junior, Senior and Open age groups. The Nobler design dimensions have been kitted and copied through the world. In the beginning, the Nobler design has been used by winners in the FAI world aerobatics events. The Nobler design has been refined by Ed Sweeney, editor of American Modeler for use in a Radio Control (RC) model and kitted by Top Flight.

In addition to being a prolific writer, designer, engine accessories in fuel glow, etc., George has helped many people with their engine problems through both personal correspondence and questions and answers in his "Engine Lovers" column. I have visited George at his home when I go to San Antonio.

Many modelers come to him with problems on models and engines. He takes the time to help them work out their problems. George, at one time, worked for Duke Fox as an engine representative going around to contests; Nationals included promoting Aerobatics with the Nobler and the Fox 35 Stunt engines. In his rework engines as George Aldrich Inc., people from all over the world sent him engines to be reworked to win events in competition.

George Aldrich is a name known to almost everyone who has used an engine and flown Stunt in a model aircraft and his technical expertise is still having an effect in our world of modeling. An

AMA member for a long time, George has always been a strong supporter of the AMA for the benefit of the sport. He became an AMA Life member in 1981 at the Seguin Nationals.

The outstanding contributions that George Aldrich has given to the world of model aviation over a long period of time makes him an exceptional choice for the [Model Aviation] Hall of Fame Award.

(Signed) Hall of Fame Sponsor, Hugo N. Bixio March 26, 1984

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