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# Biography of NICHOLAS "NICK" ZIROLI, SR.

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Transcribed by JS (09/06)

*The following represents the biography of Nick Zirolì, Sr., printed in Model Aviation magazine in February of 2000.*

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## **Nick Zirolì, Sr.**

“Nick Zirolì, Sr., 63, was introduced to a modeling career by his father at the age of six. His involvement has included all phases: rubber-powered and gas-powered Free Flight, Control Line and Radio Control. He flew his first RC model while in high school in 1952.

In the early 1960s, Nick created a part-time business called the Major Model and Manufacturing Company. By 1967, this became a full-time endeavor. Not only did the company manufacture model kits but it also built and tested feasibility study models for companies such as Grumman, Republic, NASA and others. The first rocket-launched RPV, Pioneer, along with a net recovery, was effected by Major.

Although the company is no longer in business, the Zirolì designs are available as plans through his service. In 1981, he produced a Fokker Triplane that was used in the film *The Neighbors*.

Nick has long been a competitor at local, state and national levels. Many Top Gun, Scale Masters and Rhinebeck events have been graced by his participation. Giant Scale fly-ins also are a big part of his flying activity.

An important element of events of this type is that they often feature many of his designs. These include such models as the Beech D-18, B-25, P-38, Corsair and DC-3. A number of his plans appeared in model publications, including a Taube, BV-141, Swoose, Sukhoi, Heinkel and others.

Nick has been honored with numerous awards. These include the AMA Distinguished Service, Howard McEntee Memorial, Vintage RC Society Hall of Fame, Quarter Scale Association of America and International Miniature Aircraft Association Honorary Life Member.

Those who know Nick ascribe one very important quality to him: his willingness to help others. This can be witnessed through the fact his son is a very active competitor, but many others received hours of his time in getting a model in the air.”