



AMA History Project Biography Writing Guide



Thank you for your interest in helping to preserve the history of model aviation! The following information can be used as a guide to write your own autobiography or another modeler's biography. If you would rather receive a form to complete and have someone else write your biography let us know. Other assistance can be provided as well. Contact AMA's History Project staff if you have any questions or problems. Contact and mailing information is listed on the last page of this document in the consent form.

Including photographs relating to your modeling experiences will enhance your biography. We will use as many photographs as possible. Be sure to include information about the photos for captions. Newspaper articles and other print material about your modeling career are also beneficial for researchers. However, they may not appear in your biography.

Please do not send any photos or other items you do not want us to keep. We will not be able to guarantee they will arrive safely to us or that they will be returned to you.

Format Information

- Typewritten biographies are nice, but not required. If you use a computer, you can send us the file either through email or on a CD or flash drive. We prefer Word documents.
- If you include photographs of your modeling experience and we will try to use as many as possible. See consent form for more information about photograph use. We will try to use as many as possible. Be sure to include information about the photos for captions, such as dates, locations, events, and names of individuals.
- Magazine and newspaper articles about your modeling career are also beneficial. Include any pertinent articles or other materials and we will add them to your file. If you include information from an article in the biography, please mention the article and send a photocopy of the article(s) with your submission.

Below are example citations for your sources.

For newspapers:

“John Doe was an excellent modeler who contributed to the community” (By Joe Smith, The Daily News, Modelville, Indiana, August 7, 1999, page 3A).

For magazines:

“This was a terrific year for John Doe. He won every event at the National Championships” (By Joe Smith, Model Aviation magazine, May 4, 1979, page 55).

For books:

“Model aviation has been changed forever by John Doe's invention” (By Joe Smith, Model Aviation: Up Close and Personal, Copyright 1997, pages 53 – 55).

Writing Guidelines

Please note that these are only guidelines and do not have to be followed precisely.

Make an outline using the following headings that pertain to you:

- The Beginning
- Competition
- Experiments
- Leadership
- Contest Leadership

- Publishing Experience
- Hobby Industry Involvement
- Education Involvement

Elaborate on each of the headings. For example, start with answering the questions listed below and expand upon them. Do not list the question under the heading.

The Beginning

- How and when did you get started in modeling?
- Who was influential in this start and with whom did you fly frequently?
- Where were you living and flying at the time?
- What was the first model you built? The first engine you used?
- Give details about your first models, including whether you built them from a kit, plans or from scratch.

Competition

- Did you ever fly in a competition? If so, when, where and what was the name of the first meet?
- Did you ever fly in National Championships (Nats)? What year, how did you place and what category did you enter? What plane did you fly?
- Did you ever fly in a FAI competition? What year, how did you place and what category did you enter? What plane did you fly?

Experiments

- What have you experimented with in modeling?
- Have you designed anything in modeling? If so, what, when and for whom?
- What other experimenting have you done in modeling?

Leadership

- Did you ever organize or help establish a modeling club? When, where and what was the name of the club? Does it still exist today?
- Have you ever held a position in a club? If so, what club, what position, where was it located, and what years did you serve?
- What committee have you served on? What was your position and what years did you serve?
- Have you ever been an AMA officer? When and what position?
- Have you ever been on the executive council or contest board? If so, when, what position did you hold, and what was the name of the organization?

Contest Leadership

- Have you ever directed a local, regional, or national meet? If so, when and where?
- Have you ever directed a U.S. FAI Team Selection Program? If so, when and what category?

Publishing Experience

- List and briefly overview the articles you have written. Be sure to include the publication they appeared in along with the dates.
- Have you ever written a book on modeling? What was its title, publication date, and publisher? Give a brief overview of its contents.
- Were you ever a club newsletter editor? When, for what club and what was the name of the newsletter?
- Discuss any involvement you have had with a national publication or national book publisher, include any editing or publishing experience.

Hobby Industry Involvement

- Discuss with some detail any products you have ever produced in the hobby industry. Be sure to include dates, product names, locations, and employers.
- Talk about any involvement you have had in the hobby distribution industry. Be sure to include dates, product names, locations, and employers.
- Discuss your involvement with the retail hobby industry (such as hobby shops). Be sure to include dates, product names, locations, and employers.
- List the involvement you have had in the hobby manufacturing industry. Be sure to include dates, product names, locations, and employers.

Education Involvement

- Talk about any experiences you have had with teaching model aircraft construction in a school environment. Be sure to give any details you can about when, what school and how the students reacted.
- Discuss other teaching experiences you have had like at a county fair, local mall, or Boy Scout meeting.



AMA History Project Consent Form



By filling out this consent form, you understand you are submitting the following material to the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and have the right to do so.

1.) Please check type(s) of material(s) submitted: (Check all that apply. Please do not send us anything you would like returned to you. We cannot guarantee items will be returned to you.)

- Written biography or history**
- Photographs**
- Moving images and/or sound recordings**
- Published material**
- Other** _____

2.) Please briefly describe the content being submitted and indicate any preferred citations below: (Ex. *History of the ABC Club* by John Doe, March 2010) _____

3.) Indicate any special notes about material(s) submitted: (copyright info, etc.) _____

4.) Please check type of consent: (check one)

I am transferring to the AMA any copyrights I hold to any of the material indicated on this form and submitted.*

I am not transferring to the AMA any copyrights I hold to any of the material indicated on this form and submitted. However, I approve the AMA to have the right to use this material.*

*** I understand that some uses of this material may include - but are not limited to - the following:** use in displays for the AMA and its National Model Aviation Museum, in their publications, and in their websites, social media, and/or other digital resources.

Author's Signature: _____

Name (printed): _____ **Date:** _____

Preferred method of contact: Mail Phone Email **AMA Number (if applicable):** _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Email address: _____ **Telephone number:** _____

Return this consent form with your historical information to:

Email: historyproject@modelaircraft.org **Fax:** (765) 281-7604

Mail: AMA History Project, 5151 E. Memorial Drive, Muncie, Indiana 47302

Need help? Contact the AMA History Project staff for assistance via email or mail using the contact info above, or by phone at (800) 435-9262 ext. 511.

Note: This form does not transfer rights to materials of which you do not own/retain copyright.