



The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of CHARLES (CHUCK) FELTON AMA# 35529



Written by CF (04/2020); Reformatted by JS (04/2020)

The following was written by Chuck Felton and submitted to the AMA History Project in April of 2020.

Biography of Charles (Chuck) Felton AMA# 35529



*Chuck Felton with his cardboard Emeraude control line model.
(Photo source: Chuck Felton)*

My name is Chuck Felton and for most of my life I have been enjoying the wonderful hobby of building and flying control line model aircraft. I started building and flying balsa control line model kits in 1950 when I was 12 years old. As you can see below, my “Air Force” kept me busy.



Chuck’s “Air Force.” (Photo source: Chuck Felton)

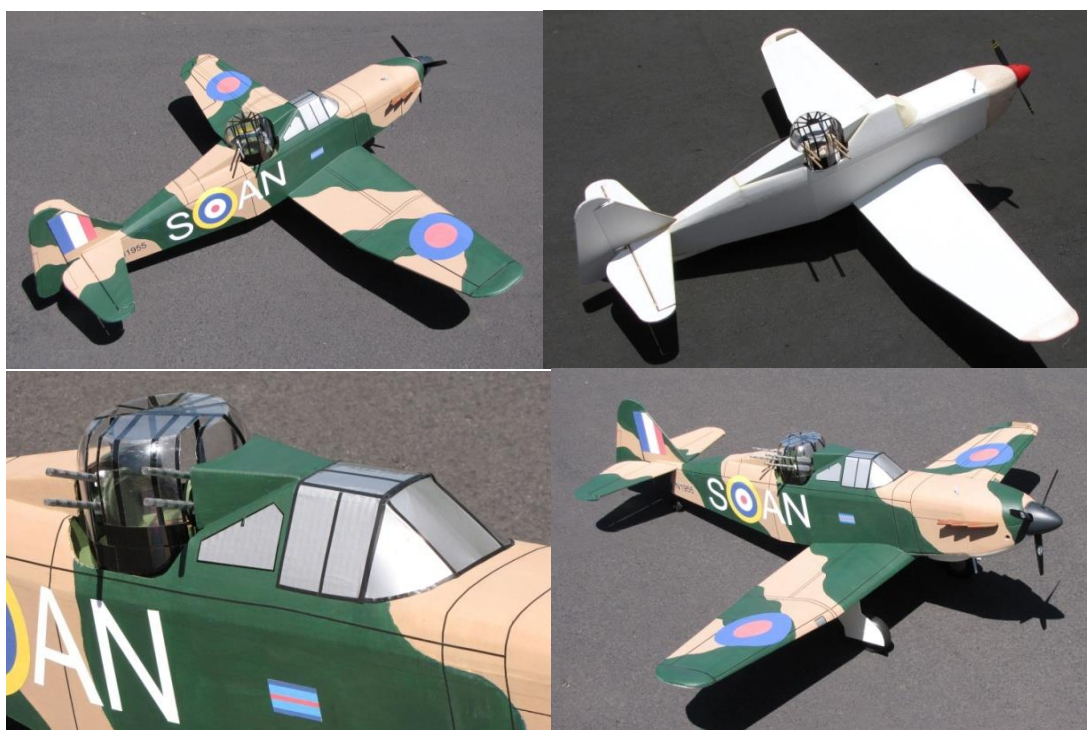
I continued my hobby until 1955 when it came to an abrupt halt. In March of 1955, while a senior at Towanda High School in Towanda, PA, I was diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) and sent to the state TB sanatorium [Cresson Sanatorium] at Cresson, PA for treatment. I spent sixteen months there recovering my health. The first twelve months were spent in the sanatorium ward where complete bed rest was the order of the day and I wore pajamas, bathrobe, and slippers the entire year. So, what does this have to do with model airplanes?

While in the ward, I became good friends with another patient named Jack who was about my age and also was a control line modeler. Mostly to break the monotony of our situation, Jack and I collaborated to pull off a scheme which was rather unique. We soon hatched a plan to build a small control line motorized model and fly it on the grass lawn outside the ward building. Anything for a laugh when stuck in the ward! I talked my folks into bringing the model airplane kit and supplies we needed, and Jack and I set to work putting it together. We didn't ask permission to fly the model because we knew the answer would be a resounding, "No." After all, we were there to rest. But, considering our circumstances, what was the worst they could do to us?

We managed to keep our nefarious activities from the staff, but all the patients soon learned what we were up to. It was summer by the time the model was completed and ready for first flight. We chose a calm sunny day and waited until the nurses were between rounds to slip out of the building and set up the model on the newly cut grass lawn, a perfect flying field. There was a gallery of men on the porches cheering me on as I flew the model. I got three good flights in before the high-pitched scream of the small engine gave us away. Of course, we were soon shut down by the nurses, who tried to act stern but who also gave the impression of being highly amused by the whole episode. It must have been quite an unusual sight with all of us out there in our pajamas, robes, and slippers. And it might have been the only time anyone ever flew a model airplane on the sanatorium grounds. Another little known history-making flight!

I was discharged from the TB sanatorium in 1956. Then college, my job working as a structural engineer at Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach, CA, and marriage with a son and daughter curtailed my hobby until 1974 when my modeling activities took a major turn. That's when I met a fellow modeler named Bob Miller who introduced me to the concept of using 1/8" corrugated cardboard as a model-building material. Bob built three RC cardboard models which *R/C Modeler* magazine wanted to publish as construction articles. I wrote those construction articles with Bob and inked the drawings. In the process, I became hooked on using cardboard for my own control line designs. Since then I have used cardboard exclusively for all my models. Over the years my cardboard designs have been published as construction articles in various magazines. Modelers often see one of my latest cardboard design articles and write me to ask if there are plans available for other cardboard designs as well. So, I thought it might be time to put this info on the web where interested modelers can see the variety of cardboard designs which are available, both RC and CL. My website is at the following link: <http://www.feltondesignanddata.com/>.

I was always interested in building scale models and continued that tradition with all my cardboard designs. Cardboard does have some building limitations, but you can see by my 60" wingspan Boulton Paul Defiant that it can produce good scale-like appearance.



The models shown above are simple in construction and inexpensive, as they use 1/8" corrugated cardboard as the primary building material. This reduces both building time and cost. The designs make use of cardboard's unique features in that it can be used in large sections and folded. For instance, the wing is built of 2 large pieces of cardboard with cardboard ribs and a single spar. The fuselage is mostly cardboard with little internal bracing required, leaving lots of room for equipment. The result is a low-cost, fast-building model that has good scale appearance and can still take plenty of punishment at the flying field. Try one of these designs or design your own. Either way, I believe you will find it to be great fun.

The following table gives information on cardboard construction article plan numbers and where to order them.

Magazine	Issue	Airplane	Plan #	Type	Span (inches)	Length (inches)	Engine Size
RC Modeler	Jan. 1975	Cardboard 500	583	RC	50	44.4	40
RC Modeler	Mar. 1977	Fun-Tu	680	RC	48.5	45	2 - 19s
RC Modeler	Apr. 1976	Heath Parasol	637	RC	56	37	19
Model Airplane News	Aug. 1977	Curtiss Robin	fsp08772	CL	60	40	29-40
Model Aviation	Oct. 1977	Douglas M-2	204	CL	50	36	29-40
Model Airplane News	Oct. 1978	Junkers D.1	fsp10783	CL	44.5	35	30-40

Model Airplane News	Apr. 1979	SE5A	fsp04792	CL	53	42	30-40
Model Airplane News	Feb. 1980	BF 109	fsp02803	CL	50	48.5	30-40
Model Aviation	Oct. 1982	FW 190	384	CL	70	58	50-60
Model Airplane News	Sept. 1983	Dewoitine 520	fsp09831	CL	64	52	30-40
Model Aviation	Sept. 1986	KI-61 Hien	526	CL	60	45	30-40
Flying Models	Nov. 1987	Spad XIII	CF-763	CL	50	42	30-40
Model Aviation	Mar. 1988	Heinkel 100	582	CL	60	45	30-40
Model Builder	Oct. 1988	Hurricane	10881	CL	60	47	30-40
Flying Models	May. 1989	Cub Super Cruiser	CF-802	CL	70	47	30-40
Model Aviation	Sept. 1989	P-51 Mustang	629	CL	60	52	30-40
Model Builder	Dec. 1989	Yak 9	12892	CL	60	52	30-40
Model Aviation	July 1995	PT19	786	CL	60	46	40-50
Flying Models	June 1997	Macchi C202	CD027	CL	58	48	40-50
Model Aviation	Feb. 2004	Lagg 3	952	CL	65	48	40-50
Flying Models	Mar. 2004	Spitfire	CD219	CL	56	45.5	40-50
Flying Models	Dec. 2005	Curtiss JN-4 Jenny	CD268	CL	58	36	40-50
Aviation Modeller International	July 2006	Moth Minor	N/A	CL	73	49	50-60
Flying Models	May 2007	Caudron Cyclone	CD312	CL	60	59	40-50
Flying Models	May 2008	Piper Saratoga	CD342	CL	56	43	40-50
Flying Models	Oct. 2008	Douglas Destroyer	CD354	CL	56	57	60
Flying Models	Feb. 2010	Piper Pawnee	CD386	CL	60	41	40-50
Model Aviation	Sept. 2010	Ki-84 Hayate	1046	CL	60	54	40-50
Flying Models	Jan. 2011	Pilatus Porter	CD409	CL	60	46	40-50
Flying Models	Apr. 2011	Caudron Simoun	CD415	CL	60	53	40-50
Flying Models	Jan. 2012	Mew Gull	CD431	CL	60	52	40-50
Aviation Modeller International	Jan. 2012	Defiant	N/A	CL	60	55	40-50
Flying Models	May 2012	Cessna L-19 Bird Dog	CD439	CL	60	42	40-50
Flying Models	Sept. 2012	Dalotel DM-165	CD444	CL	60	49	40-50
Flying Models	Feb. 2013	Ambrosini 207	CD453	CL	60	50	40-50
Flying Models	July 2013	Cessna	CD457	CL	60	43.5	40-50

		Caravan					
Flying Models	Dec. 2013	Messerschmitt M20b	CD463	CL	60	43	40-50
Flying Models	May 2014	Gardan Minicab	CD467	CL	60	39	40-50
Model Aviation	Sept. 2014	Arado 396 Trainer	1081	CL	60	49	40-50

Plans can be ordered direct from the magazines, who own the rights to the plans. The following links will take you to their plan sites:

Model Airplane News: Go to <https://www.airagestore.com/>. Click on the Plans button and then search for "FELTON" in the search box on the left side of the page, or enter the plan number directly.

Model Aviation, RC Modeler, Model Builder: The AMA Plans Service website includes plans which appeared in *Model Aviation, RC Modeler, and Model Builder* magazines. Go to <https://www.modelaircraft.org/ama-plan-service> and click on the individual links for the three of these magazines.

Flying Models: Although the magazine went out of business in mid-2014, their plans are still available at the following website: <https://store.flying-models.com/catalog/>

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