



The AMA History Project Presents: Autobiography of BOB ANGEL



Written by BA (2013); Reformatted by JS (09/2013)

The following was published on the Model Aviation magazine website, describing columnists for the magazine, and added to the History Project files in September 2013.

Bob Angel

Hi, I'm Bob Angel. I live in Santa Maria, California. I've have been a modeler forever, and am currently having fun flying my SAM (Society of Antique Modelers) aircraft. During the latter part of World War II, I joined most of my grade school buddies in building rubber-powered scale warbirds. We knew nothing of balance or trim, so many of those ended up set afire and tossed out a third story window. Later, hand-launched balsa gliders taught me a few rudiments of balance and trim. CL dominated for a long period immediately after the war, mostly due to greater availability of flying sites suitable for CL, but not FF models. I flew both kit-built models and some of my own designs, but never published any of them. About the only mark I left on CL was the invention and naming of Uniflow fuel tanks.

I guess I'm slow to change, as I was one of the last in my area to move over to the RC part of the hobby. I competed in AMA RC Sailplane events for a while. Along the way I discovered MECA (Model Engine Collectors Association) and engine collecting. That in turn led me to SAM flying as the best way to enjoy some of those old engines in action. I also fly a few other kinds of RC ships besides SAM competition types.

I'm a registered professional engineer and retired out of Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, where I was a part of the Space Shuttle program. We were just three months from the initial scheduled Shuttle launch from Vandenberg, when the Challenger disaster caused cancellation of the program. After that I moved over to the Space Defense Initiative (SDI) program, sometimes known as "Star Wars."



Bob's column appears bi-monthly in Model Aviation, in February, April, June, August, October, and December. His email address is samrcflier@verizon.net.

In the action photo I'm steering my 1937 Brown Junior-

powered Kloud Queen away from the photographer on takeoff. But Doug Klassen is a professional photographer, and was at a safe distance away using a strong telephoto lens.

This PDF is property of the Academy of Model Aeronautics. Permission must be granted by the AMA History Project for any reprint or duplication for public use.

AMA History Project
National Model Aviation Museum
5151 E. Memorial Dr.
Muncie IN 47302
(765) 287-1256, ext. 511
historyproject@modelaircraft.org

