



**The AMA History Project Presents:
Biography of LEW MAHIEU
Modeler, Contest Director, Designer, Manufacturer,
Club Organizer**



January 4, 1927 – 2012 AMA #81281

Compiled, formatted and edited by NR (1998); Edited by SS (2002), Reformatted and edited by JS (10/2009, 06/2021)

Career:

- Started a model club while in high school
- Elected youngest president (at the time) of the Los Angeles Aero Modelers
- AMA Contest Director
- Manufacturer of model engine parts
- Developed the Supersonic Model Engine Fuels
- 1946: Designed ZEEK Free Flight model
- 1949: First to hold all four class (A, B, C and D) Speed records at the same time
- 1948-1949: First to hold all four class (A, B, C and D) Rise-off-Water Free Flight records
- Held 14 AMA Records

Honors:

- 1992: National Free Flight Society Hall of Fame

The following writing was compiled, edited, and formatted by Norm Rosenstock on August 24, 1998. It appeared in a booklet for the AMA's Celebration of Pioneers II "Year of the Pioneer" event, titled "Mini-Biographies of Candidates receiving the 1998 A.M.A. 'Pioneer Award, presented on September 12, 1998, Muncie, IN, at the 'Celebration of Pioneers' Gathering".

Pioneer Mini-Bios

September 12, 1998

Mahieu, Mr. Lew File# 36

Lew Mahieu started modeling in 1936 at the age of 9 years old. Beginning with hand-launched gliders and rubber-powered [models, and moving] to gas-powered models in 1939. His first gas model was a Comet Zipper, and then through all of Goldberg's designs. Lew and Carl Goldberg became good friends by 1946.

Lew designed the ZEEK Free Flight [model] in 1946, which was available in kit form for almost 50 years. In addition to winning first in Free Flight and Speed at the Nationals and the [Plymouth] Internationals, Lew set 14 AMA records in both Free Flight, Gas, and Control Line

Speed! He was the only person to hold all 4 classes A, B, C, and D Speed records at the same time.

He was the youngest president of the Los Angeles Aeromodelers, the largest model club in the United States with 600-plus members. [Editor's note: Other information in the History Project files about Mahieu states the club's membership at 400-plus members.]

Lew worked as Sales Manager for K & B Manufacturing [from] 1949 [to] 1953. He wrote the "Report from the West" column for *Model Airplane News*. In 1957, he went to the Douglas Aircraft Company as a wind tunnel model builder and stayed for four years. Lew started Mahieu Engineering, Inc. (MEI) in 1958, a precision machine shop, making parts for L. M. Cox, Dumas [Products, Inc.], etc., as well as parts for the aerospace industry.

He was placed in the National Free Flight Society Hall of Fame in 1992. He has built few models since retiring from competition in 1946. [His] current project is building a full-size Rearwin Speedster. Lew has a Beech Bonanza and Cessna 185 Amphibian housed in his hangar adjacent to Mahieu Engineering, Inc., building on the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho airport. He lives on Hayden Lake with his beautiful wife, Penni.

-Compiled, Formatted & Edited by N. Rosenstock – 8/24/98

More biographical information/writing, attributed to Lew Mahieu and Harry S. Murphy, as well as information from the March 1952 issue of Air Trails, can be accessed at the National Model Aviation Museum, stored in the AMA History Project files.

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

