



The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of JERRY W. ROCHA

Born in 1939



Some written by JR; some info written, transferred, edited and reformatted by JS (01/2016)

The following includes information submitted with other materials for the AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame, as well as info gleaned from material in the History Project files. Most information was provided by Jerry Rocha. Jerry was inducted into the AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame in 2015.

Modeling Highlights

- 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011 and 2013: National Overall Speed Champion
- 2008: Also won first place in Vintage Speed and Best of Show
- 2011: First place in A.F.F. Class
- 2013: Was on the cover of Nats News
- 2013: Was the Free Flight Contest Director at the SAM Champs in Boulder City, Nevada.
- 2015: Flew three models and won 2 first places at the Southwest Regionals Free Flight Contest
- Won the Control Line Speed Champ at the Northwest Regionals in 8 out of the last 10 years.
- Held two AMA sanctioned Speed contests a year in Napa, California for the last 12 years.
- Organized and served as Contest Director of SAM 27's Old Time Rubber Meet for about 20 years.
- Organized and served as Contest Director of SAM 27's team entry for the Jimmie Allen Postal Meet for about 19 years. The team has won 11 times so far.
- Has over 200 trophies and a wall filled with plaques.
- Has a small machine shop at his home and made over 100 different parts for model airplane engines, "mostly needle valves, spray bars, and carburetor parts for old time and nostalgia engines. I sold these parts to Brunis Ray. He sold the parts out of his catalogue, called *Parts is Parts*. This helps pay for the expensive Ukrainian and Italian Speed engines I use in my Speed models. I also have made quite a few heads for Speed engines for people that request them. In addition to my modeling activities, I enjoy duck hunting and fishing."

Nationals Placings

| Nats Year | Nats Event, Class/Division, or other contest/plane information | Place | Time/score |
|-----------|--|-------|------------|
| 1959 | 13 Speed | 5th | |
| 1960 | B Speed (Open) | 4th | |

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----|---------|
| 1963 | 1/2A Speed | 5th | |
| 1984 | A Speed | 2nd | |
| 1984 | A Free Flight Event | 2nd | |
| 1989 | A Nostalgia | 2nd | |
| 1995 | A Speed (Open) | 2nd | |
| 1999 | 305/6 1/2 A Profile Proto | 2nd | 112.17 |
| 1999 | 301 1/2 A Speed | 3rd | 140.82 |
| 1999 | 302 A Speed | 4th | 163.27 |
| 2004 | 305 1/2 A Profile Proto | 1st | 114.38 |
| 2004 | 305 1/2 A Profile Proto | 1st | 114.38 |
| 2004 | 301 1/2 A Speed | 4th | 125.52 |
| 2004 | 301 1/2 A Speed | 4th | 125.52 |
| 2004 | 302 A Speed | 1st | 192.23 |
| 2004 | 302 A Speed | 1st | 192.23 |
| 2006 | 305 1/2 A Profile Proto | 1st | 105.83 |
| 2006 | 301 1/2 A Speed | 3rd | 124.302 |
| 2006 | 307 21 Sport Speed | 1st | 153.968 |
| 2006 | 302 A Speed | 1st | 187.035 |
| 2007 | 305 1/2 A Profile Proto | 1st | 103.4 |
| 2007 | 301 1/2 A Speed | 3rd | 123.84 |
| 2007 | 307 21 Sport Speed | 1st | 153.39 |
| 2007 | 302 A Speed | 1st | 188.78 |
| 2008 | 305 1/2 A Profile Proto | 1st | 101.562 |
| 2008 | 301 1/2 A Speed | 3rd | 131.87 |
| 2008 | 307 21 Sport Speed | 1st | 156.011 |
| 2008 | 302 A Speed | 1st | 186.885 |
| 2011 | 301 1/2 A Speed | 4th | 8.15 |
| 2011 | 305 1/2 A Profile Proto | 1st | 107.027 |
| 2011 | 306 21 Proto Speed | 1st | 138 |
| 2011 | 306 21 Proto Speed | 1st | 138 |
| 2011 | 307 21 Sport Speed | 1st | 157.417 |
| 2011 | 302 A Speed | 1st | 187.937 |
| 2013 | 301 1/2 A Speed | 2nd | 135.753 |
| 2013 | 302 A Speed | 1st | 184.004 |
| 2013 | 305 1/2 A Profile Proto | 1st | 106.089 |
| 2013 | 306 21 Proto Speed | 1st | 137.664 |
| 2013 | 307 21 Sport Speed | 1st | 156.052 |

Current AMA Records Held as of 2015

- ½A Rise off Water: 20 minutes, 1 second.
- ½A Profile Proto: 111.68 mph
- 21 Proto Speed: 142.89 mph
- Class A Speed: 192.04 mph
- 21 Sport Speed: 159.65 mph
- Jerry Rocha has set or broken 22 AMA Records as of 2015: twenty one in Speed and one in Free Flight.



“My Nostalgia Class A Texan at the SAM Champs in Colorado.” – Jerry Rocha



“My A Speed model after getting home from the Nats in 2004. It turned 192.23, the fastest Speed ever turned in that class at the Nats. Ps. Also won the High Speed Award at the Nats.”-Jerry Rocha

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