



The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of WARREN TOMME



Written by WT (c. 2003); Transcribed and edited by JS (12/2007), Reformatted by JS (02/2010)

The following is an autobiography excerpt from the publication "Who's Who in AMA, 2003, District V."

My start in model aviation began from an early love of airplanes of any type. I can remember going to Adams field in Little Rock, Arkansas on Sundays to watch the airplanes land and take off. My first model was a Comet kit of a rubber-powered Taylorcraft. This progressed through several airplanes to a Comet *Gull*, which flew so well I was mesmerized. Next came gas engines and control lines at the age of 13. These were ignition engines, such as an O&R 19, Bentam 19, and then a Super Cyclone in a Box Car Chief. I thought I was in heaven, but the best was yet to come.

I joined the Little Rock Razorback Gas Model Association and entered Control Line racing as AMA #2029. I had four Control Line Speed models, a McCoy 19, Dooling 29, McCoy 49, and a McCoy 60. I had a lot of fun and visited contests for 4 summers, going to several Nationals and two International contests. I collected 23 trophies and managed to set two AMA national records in Class A and Class C, but then college ended my competing.

Radio Control was just a dream in those days and it was not until my college years that I had a chance to get into it. I scraped up enough spare coins to buy a Marcy Tone radio (CW with tone modulation) and a Babcock escapement. I put this in a Sterling kit of a Piper *Cub*, but it was too fragile for the level of skill of the pilot. A flying friend of mine and I designed and built two scratch-built birds that resembled today's trainers and proceeded to log some serious flight time.

After graduation from college, I served three years in the USAF and then went to work in Huntsville, Alabama for an engineering firm. I returned to Radio Control with a Digitrio system from Ace. This was a build-it-yourself project out of *Radio Control Modeler* magazine, which was a dream realized in that now I had three channels of digital proportional control. I could not see how it could be any better. For a while, my career and raising a family captivated nearly all of my time.

As I neared retirement, I returned to the hobby and have been steady in it ever since. I am currently flying a Goldberg *Ultimate*, an *Aresti*, and a couple of other aircraft. The Rocket City Radio Controllers (RCRC) in Huntsville, Alabama is a wonderful place to enjoy the hobby. It has been my pleasure to serve as their president for 2002 and 2003. I hope to introduce as many folks as I can to the hobby and as such have been serving as one of our instructors. I especially

enjoy seeing the father and son teams get their start in an activity they can share all of their lives.
I owe my own father everything for his support and encouragement of my hobby.

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