



The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of JOHN M. TATONE

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Written by AMA staff (06/1992); Transcribed by JS (06/2008), Reformatted by JS (02/2010)

The following was published in the June 1992 issue of Model Aviation magazine. John was inducted into the 1991 Model Aviation Hall of Fame.

John Tatone has provided innovative products to modelers for almost 40 years. He has been a successful contest flier for more than 50 years. Well known through his company, Tatone Products, and today through the J'Tec Company, John has a legacy of many firsts.

Trained as a jeweler, John developed great skills that complemented his model making. As a Free Flighter, he saw the need for better equipment to terminate flights, so his first major contribution was a clockwork fuel shut-off timer called "Tick Off." This was quickly followed by a "DT Tick Off" (dethermalizer) timer, and an engine "Flood Off" timer.

John soon found that the demand for his products, which he had been producing in his spare time, was getting heavy. Therefore, in 1956, he quit his job as a jeweler and formed a manufacturing company. His list of successful products – from engine mounts to mufflers to smoker kits – became more and more extensive as the years passed. It is now far too long to detail here. He became a familiar face at trade shows, and without a doubt, his sparkling personality enhanced the demand for his special products.

Winner of many trophies on the regional and national level, John became a highly respected competitor, manufacturer, and supplier of specialized equipment.

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