



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: June 10, 2011
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Aeromodeling legend Maynard Hill, 1926-2011

M U N C I E – If there was a Mt. Rushmore for American aeromodelers many would say that Maynard Hill would certainly be a candidate. Hill, 85, who has an aeromodeling legacy of international, record-breaking fame, passed away this week at his home in Maryland surrounded by family.

“He was very much like Godard was to rocketry,” said Dave Brown, past president of AMA. “He was above all a scientist, a metallurgist, but mostly a tinkerer. He could solve almost any problem in his backyard laboratory, even when he was legally blind. He was all about breaking world records and he broke almost every record you could imagine, especially when it was about beating the Russians in the ‘60s.”

Brown and Hill collaborated with Joe Foster and others on the first transatlantic crossing with an RC aircraft in 2003. The “TAM-5,” launched from Newfoundland and landed in Ireland, a distance of 1,882 miles. It was Hill who figured out that Coleman lantern fuel, with just a bit of oil, was the best mixture for the flight. The TAM5 – standing for “transatlantic model” – now hangs in the National Model Aviation Museum.

“Maynard was a model aviation legend,” said Dave Mathewson, AMA Executive Director, “His accomplishments and success in setting world records placed AMA and aeromodeling in the United States on the international map. His accomplishments at this level are virtually unmatched.”

Between 1963 and 2003 Hill set 25 records, for both powered flight and gliders, including speed, duration, altitude, closed course, cross country and more. Virtually no record in any category was safe from Maynard Hill. He nailed the propellers from record-setting models to his workshop door, a place of reverence for many visitors over the years.

Hill, a trained metallurgist and Penn State grad, worked for the Westinghouse Research Laboratory and Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. He was also president of H-Cubed Research Corporation which worked on UAV research, design and development. A renowned and energetic story teller, Hill published more than 50 articles in science journals over a 40-year period.

In aeromodeling he was president of several AMA clubs, was a district vice president and national AMA president in 1964, served on FAI committees, was a contributing editor for *Flying Models* magazine, and served as a Distinguished Lecturer for the American Institute of Astronautics and Aeronautics, among too many other roles to catalog here.



Academy of Model Aeronautics

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The AMA has bestowed upon Hill several recognitions, including AMA Fellow, Model Aviation Hall of Fame, and the John Zaic and Howard McEntee Awards. The National Aeronautic Association recognized Hill in 1970 with its Meritorious Award.

While his legend lives on, the Academy of Model Aeronautics extends its heartfelt condolences to Hill's wife of 59 years, Gay, and his large family left behind.

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