



AMA History Project Biography Writing Guide



Thank you for your interest in helping to preserve the history of model aviation! The following information can be used as a guide to writing your own autobiography or another modeler's biography. If you would rather receive a form to complete and have someone else write your biography let us know. Other assistance can be provided as well. Contact AMA's History Project staff if you have any questions or problems. Please send the biography, any photos and copies of articles used, and signed consent form to *AMA History Project, 5151 E. Memorial Drive, Muncie, Indiana, 47302* or email information to historyproject@modelaircraft.org.

Format Guidelines

- Typewritten biographies are nice, but not required. Send us your information any way you can and we will format it to fit our needs. If you use a computer, send us the file either through email or on a CD/flash drive if possible.
- If you include photographs of your modeling experience and we will try to use as many as possible. See consent form for more information about photograph use. If you send us photo prints and would like them returned to you, please make a note on the consent form at the end of this packet. Also, be sure to include information about the photos for captions.
- Magazine and newspaper articles about your modeling career are also beneficial. Include any pertinent articles or other materials and we will add them to your file. If you include information from an article in the biography, please mention the article and send a photocopy of the article(s) with your submission. Please do not use articles word-for-word in your writing without citing the sources, as in the examples below.

For newspapers:

“John Doe was an excellent modeler who contributed to the community” (By Joe Schmoe, *The Daily News*, Modelville, Indiana, August 7, 1999, page 3A).

For magazines:

“This was a terrific year for John Doe. He won every event at the National Championships” (By Joe Schmoe, *Model Aviation* magazine, May 4, 1979, page 55).

For books:

“Model aviation has been changed forever by John Doe's invention” (By Joe Schmoe *Model Aviation: Up Close and Personal*, Copyright 1997, pages 53 – 55).

Writing Guidelines

Please note that these are only guidelines and do not have to be followed precisely.

Make an outline using the following headings that pertain to you:

- The Beginning
- Competition
- Experiments
- Leadership
- Contest Leadership

- Publishing Experience
- Hobby Industry Involvement
- Education Involvement

Elaborate on each of the headings. For example, start with answering the questions listed below and expand upon them. Do not list the question under the heading.

The Beginning

- How and when did you get started in modeling?
- Who was influential in this start and with whom did you fly frequently?
- Where were you living and flying at the time?
- What was the first model you built? The first engine you used?
- Give details about your first models, including whether you built them from a kit, plans or from scratch.

Competition

- Did you ever fly in a competition? If so, when, where and what was the name of the first meet?
- Did you ever fly in National Championships (Nats)? What year, how did you place and what category did you enter? What plane did you fly?
- Did you ever fly in a FAI competition? What year, how did you place and what category did you enter? What plane did you fly?

Experiments

- What have you experimented with in modeling?
- Have you designed anything in modeling? If so, what, when and for whom?
- What other experimenting have you done in modeling?

Leadership

- Did you ever organize or help establish a modeling club? When, where and what was the name of the club? Does it still exist today?
- Have you ever held a position in a club? If so, what club, what position, where was it located, and what years did you serve?
- What committee have you served on? What was your position and what years did you serve?
- Have you ever been an AMA officer? When and what position?
- Have you ever been on the executive council or contest board? If so, when, what position did you hold, and what was the name of the organization?

Contest Leadership

- Have you ever directed a local, regional, or national meet? If so, when and where?
- Have you ever directed a U.S. FAI Team Selection Program? If so, when and what category?

Publishing Experience

- List and briefly overview the articles you have written. Be sure to include the publication they appeared in along with the dates.
- Have you ever written a book on modeling? What was its title, publication date, and publisher? Give a brief overview of its contents.
- Were you ever a club newsletter editor? When, for what club and what was the name of the newsletter?

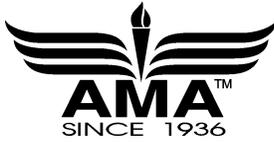
- Discuss any involvement you have had with a national publication or national book publisher, include any editing or publishing experience.

Hobby Industry Involvement

- Discuss with some detail any products you have ever produced in the hobby industry. Be sure to include dates, product names, locations, and employers.
- Talk about any involvement you have had in the hobby distribution industry. Be sure to include dates, product names, locations, and employers.
- Discuss your involvement with the retail hobby industry (such as hobby shops). Be sure to include dates, product names, locations, and employers.
- List the involvement you have had in the hobby manufacturing industry. Be sure to include dates, product names, locations, and employers.

Education Involvement

- Talk about any experiences you have had with teaching model aircraft construction in a school environment. Be sure to give any details you can about when, what school and how the students reacted.
- Discuss other teaching experiences you have had like at a county fair, local mall, or Boy Scout meeting.



AMA History Project Consent Form



By filling out this form, I understand I am submitting the following material to the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA).

1.) Please check type(s) of material(s) submitted: (check all that apply)

Written biography or history

Paper Digital

Photographs (prints or negatives)

Prints/Negatives Digital

Moving Images

Film DVD VHS Other _____

Sound recording

Digital Analog cassette Other _____

2.) Indicate any special notes about material(s) submitted: (supplemental copyright info, return requests, etc.) _____

3.) Please check type of consent approval: (check one)

I am transferring to the AMA any copyrights I hold to any of the material indicated on this form and submitted. I also acknowledge, unless indicated above and pre-approved, the material may not be returned to me.*

I am not transferring to the AMA any copyrights I hold to any of the material indicated on this form and submitted. However, I approve the AMA to have the right to use this material. I also acknowledge, unless indicated above and pre-approved, the material may not be returned to me.*

* I understand that some uses of this material may include - but are not limited to - the following: use in physical displays for the AMA and its National Model Aviation Museum, in their publications, and in their websites, social media, and/or other digital resources.

4.) Please indicate any preferred citations below: (Ex. John Doe, *History of the ABC Club*, March 2010)

Signature: _____

Name (printed): _____ Date: _____

Preferred method of contact: Mail Phone Email (list below) AMA Number (if applicable): _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone number: _____

Return this consent form with your historical information to:

Mail: AMA History Project, 5151 E. Memorial Drive, Muncie, Indiana 47302

Email: historyproject@modelaircraft.org Fax: (765) 281-7604

Need help? Contact the AMA History Project staff for assistance using the contact info above or by phone at (800) 435-9262 ext. 511.

Note: This form does not transfer rights to materials of which you do not own or retain copyright.