

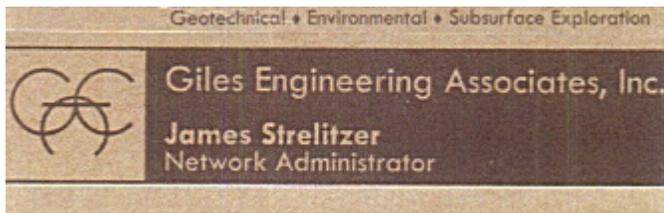
# Pilot Profile: Jim Strelitzer

by Russell Knetzger

Jim, 48, is one of only three to hold a Life Member pilot's license at the Milwaukee County RC Model Airplane Field on Oakwood Rd. in Franklin. The field is operated for the County by the RAMS.

Life membership arose when the field bought, for \$12,000, our current diesel tractor, a Model 5030 Allis-Chalmers. That was in 1998. The Field Fund could not handle such an amount, so licenses were temporarily increased to \$65 a year for three years, but anyone paying \$450 in a lump sum got free licenses the rest of their life. The 1990's were an active decade in R/C for Jim and his wife Tami. Jim served as club secretary. Jim manned the grills and Tami sold food for many years at the annual RAMS Fly-In (ask him about the food inspector incident).

That extra club activity was possible because Jim worked not far from the field, on Howell Avenue and Ryan Rd., for an Environmental Analytical firm. While Jim has evolved to be the "computer guy" at Giles Engineering in Waukesha, he has a 1983 BS degree from UWM in Biological Aspects of Conservation. That qualified him to work for Chem-Bio, the Howell Av. firm. While there he analyzed water, soil, and industrial waste samples for metals using atomic absorption spectroscopy methods.



In working in a laboratory, Jim was following in his father's footsteps, a lab aide at Milwaukee County General Hospital, who passed away in 1994. Jim is a grad of Pius XI High School, at 76<sup>th</sup> near Blue Mound. Having built many models when he was younger, it was during the 5 years at Chem-Bio when Jim visited the RAMS field and decided to get into R/C. As with many students of his time Jim took flying lessons from Floyd Katz and remembers Ken Huber as a fellow student. Jim learned on a Royal 40T trainer with a Royal 0.46 engine.

The 1993 shift to the Waukesha job of itself did not cut into Jim's flying time, but what did was building a new home in Racine-Mt. Pleasant in 2003. Wife Tami works for Abbott Labs just across the Illinois line, as an Associate Scientist in development. To equalize job commute distances, they chose the Racine area.



**Above: Jim Strelitzer, with his P-51 Mustang giant scale, 84 inch wing span, 23 lbs., 1,245 sq. in. wing area, powered by a Desert Air DA-50. Done in WW II Tuskegee Airman colors: red spinner & tail feathers. Jim's pilot even has brown skin, and Jim has conversed with the WW-II pilot (2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George E. Hardy), now retired in Florida.**

The move-up to giant scale was fostered by a \$500 10-Year Anniversary recognition from Giles Engineering in 2003. In his fleet of giant scalars, Jim also has a 1/3 scale Pitts Special with a Fuji 50 and a 103" span Extra 300 with a Desert Air DA-100.



**Above: Close-up photo of access doors to fueler, air supply for pneumatic retracts, and on-off switches. Engine exhaust stacks are operational via custom exhaust by Keleo Creations. Graphics by Cal-Grafx.**

**RAMS HORN**, August, 2008, Russell Knetzger, Editor  
Rainbow Aero Modelers Society, Franklin, Wisconsin