

Pilot Profile: Tom DeNoble

by Russell Knetzger

Dane County until recently was Tom DeNoble's birthplace and life, from early elementary school in Mazomanie, and the rest of grade school, high school and technical college in Madison, WI, to his toolmaker apprenticeship with *Placon Corporation*, also in Madison. At Placon for ten years, Tom became absorbed into the world of sheet plastic molding, from "blister packs" we see hanging on retail racks, to parts for the medical field.

Now he is focused on Franklin, WI, living at S. 40th & Rawson, working in the Franklin Industrial Park near 51st & Ryan with **Premier Plastics**, which is viewable from this club's County field on Oakwood Rd. Tom, 51, joined the RAMS this Fall. His work still entails molding items from plastic sheet stock, but now the gauge goes from clear 16th inch stock to opaque items 1/2 inch thick, such as for medical machine housings, and overseas shipping straps for crated new Harley Davidson motor cycles.



Above: Tom DeNoble with a Carl Goldberg Falcon 56 built "upside down" by his late father, Hart DeNoble, in 1971 as a .35 powered low winger, in Madison, WI. Tom is set to restore it. Background: wall to wall, floor to ceiling collection of unbuilt kits of diverse R/C aircraft, some bought recently on eBay.



Above: Tom DeNoble with his Australian markings ARF Seagull PC-9, about 6 lbs, 55 inch span. Tom this fall was flying his .46 powered Sig Kadet to acclimate to our field.

Tom is used to flying at public R/C fields, including Madison's landfill site east of the City on USH 18, and in his boyhood with rubber power on the fields of Memorial High School on Madison's west side. Those included Comet, Sterling, and Guilow's kits, encouraged by his father, a free flighter from the late 1920's. Tom also did control line flying in the early 1960s. The advance to R/C came with a rudder only conversion to R/C of father Hart's "Wanderer," a kit made by Eagle Aircraft Co. in Brooklyn, NY, on which Tom soloed. When the Kraft proportional R/C radio system came out in 1968, Tom advanced to the Falcon 56, and then the VK Cherokee, a respected plane at our field with older pilots. Tom has a full VK kit.

Tom's daughter, Nicole, a graduate of Edge-wood High School in Madison, can't witness Tom's flying because she now lives on Oahu in Hawaii, but wife Deborah sees Tom's in-home aspects.

RAMS Horn, January 2009, Russell Knetzger, Editor
Rainbow Aero Modelers Society, Franklin, Wisconsin