

Pilot Profile: Alex Barda

by Russell Knetzger

Alex Barda has lived his whole life, especially his livelihoods, "on the move." Moving began early after his 1939 birth in Egypt (to an Italian mother, French father), with their emigration to France, then to the new nation of Israel, founded in 1948 for Jews wanting their own homeland. At age 18 Alex served his mandatory Israeli military service of 3 years, by qualifying for its Air Force

From there he did some local farming and then he earned an electrical engineering certificate, which got him work in electro polishing machine manufacture. There began his pattern of "going into the field" and assisting customers use those machines. Four years ago he retired from 11 years of the same kind of work with Stock America, a German owned Grafton firm that sells and services machines to the food industry. Those machines heat freshly canned food to kill bacteria (pasteurization), then fast cool it so it can be labeled, boxed, and shipped. That job, involving machine setup or up-dating, took Alex all over the U.S., Canada and Mexico. He loved it.



Above: 1958 Photo of Alex Barda, 19, on his Stearman BT-13 300 hsp flight trainer (Israeli Air Force), then T-6 Texans, finally Piper Cub reconnaissance.



Above: Alex Barda, 70, with Big Stick model (58 inch span, .46 Evolution engine.) He is nearly soloed on it. He also flies R/C helicopters, belonging to both the SWARM and RAMS Clubs at the Milwaukee County R/C Model Airplane Field, in Franklin, WI

Like so many past military pilots, Alex has jointly rented civilian aircraft (Cessna 150/172), for pleasure flying. But upon retiring, Alex discovered our field by seeing one of its "Air Show" signs on S. 76th St. in September, two years ago. He stopped in and saw "Piloting at reasonable cost!" Living only a few miles away near Ryan Rd. and S. 108th, with wife Nancy's blessings, he now enjoys many hours almost everyday at our field.

Alex started on helicopters with Chuck Bucci, and on a Nexstar fixed wing trainer with Marv Anderson. Mark Meyrose is now coaching Alex on his Big Stik, pictured above.

Alex, who speaks four languages, returned this spring from a visit to his 3 sons and 8 grandchildren in Israel. While still holding Israeli citizenship, Alex became a US citizen in 1995.

RAMS HORN, July, 2009 Russell Knetzger, Editor
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