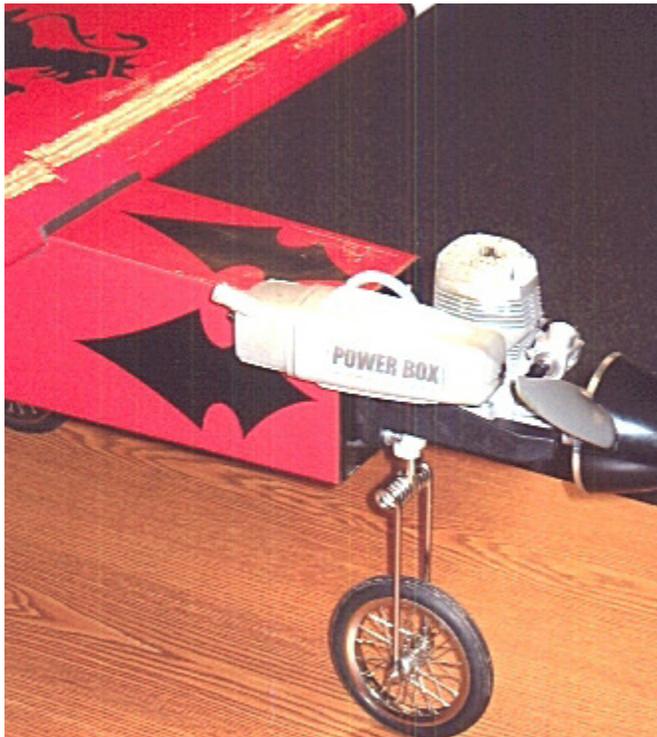


Pilot Profile: Bob Sadowski

by Russell Knetzger

Bob was born and raised in the Milwaukee area and attended Boys' Tech High School on Milwaukee's south side, where his field of study was plumbing. After graduating in 1970, he decided to explore alternatives to his tech training. Bob then enrolled in both fulltime day classes and part-time night classes at MATC, completing courses in the field of refrigeration. In 1972, he enlisted in the US Air Force. After attending basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas, he was assigned directly to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho as a refrigeration specialist. MHAFB supported the F-111 swing-wing fighter-bomber. While at Mountain Home, Bob was a member of the base civil engineering squadron.

In 1974, Bob received orders for Utapao Airbase, Thailand. Utapao supported the B-52 bomber and KC-135 refuelers. Bob Hope once commented that the base runway was so long that it had a Howard Johnson's in the middle. Bob was stationed at this airbase when Saigon fell and witnessed the receiving of refugee flights from Vietnam. While stationed in Thailand, Bob met and married his first wife, Sompit. She passed away 23 years later from an asthma attack back in the USA. They had a daughter in 1977 (Kim Marie), now of Cedar Grove, WI, and mother of grandsons Aidan, 6, and Logan, 5. Kim Marie was born while Bob was assigned to another B-52 base in Blytheville, Arkansas. Other bases were Guam, Osan-Korea, and finally Tyndall AFB in Panama City, Florida.



Above: Close view of Bob Sadowski's 66.5 inch wingspan Great Planes Big Stick with OS .75 cu.in. engine, made classy with wire wheels all around.



Above: Bob Sadowski and his Big Stick, on which he is hoping to eventually refine his rusty piloting skills from 30 years ago in Florida, at Tyndall AFB. His Coaches are: Duane Gagnon, Rich Kegel, and Mark Meyrose.

At Tyndall AFB, Bob was involuntarily moved into management of an air to air missile crew; a field of which he knew little ... well, actually nothing about. Knowing nothing about anything in the missile field qualified Bob to be a "CREW CHIEF". He survived by following the principle of "Take care of your people and they will take care of you". That principle worked through the remainder of his 8 year Air Force service. Bob left active military service in 1980 and served one year with the 440th Wing of the Air Force Reserve at Gen. Mitchell Field. Bob then transferred to Mitchell's Wisconsin Air National Guard 128th Air Refueling Wing, serving 11 years before retiring in 1994.

Returning to Oak Creek, Wisconsin in May, 1980, GM hired Bob to work in the Delco plant servicing test chambers for car computers. The test chambers were heated to 120 degrees and then rapidly cooled to minus 40 degrees. That extreme temperature differential wore out many refrigerant compressors which Bob had to repair or replace. A layoff in the recession of 1982 led Bob to opening his own refrigeration service. Bob supplemented that business by instructing at MATC. While taking his class on a field trip through the Miller Brewery's anhydrous ammonia cooling facilities, the tour supervisor offered Bob a job at the plant. He accepted in 1983, and is still there but has long since closed the business. Bob still resides in Oak Creek with his wife Kim.

	MATC	128th Air	
US AIR	Milw. Area	Refueling	Miller
FORCE	Tech.College	Wis. ANG	Brewing

RAMS HORN, February, 2010, Russell Knetzger, Editor
Rainbow Aero Modelers Society, Franklin, Wisconsin