

## Pilot Profile: Charles Beauchamp

by Russell Knetzger

Chuck Beauchamp is 10 months into his third life. Life Three began in January, 2009 with the implantation into his abdomen of a spinal and sciatica nerve stimulus device that successfully removed the debilitating hip and lower back pain he had been suffering since a work injury in 1998. The pain and the drugs to suppress that pain turned those ten years into the Middle of his three lives; an unpleasant, depressing Middle. Now, with the pain gone and mobility returning, Chuck is gradually connecting back to his First Life, and model aviation is a route.

Chuck had visited our County Field before his accident, and fiddled with helicopters, but did not solo. Then in just two months, culminating in August, Chuck has soloed on fixed wing and already has a half dozen completed models in his workshop. He credits the fast learning pace to home computer flight simulator practice, and to instructors Bob Kabella and Bill Flannery.



***Chuck Beauchamp with his RAMS hat and "Lucky Stik" sport flyer, an OS.40 cubic inch engine, a step up from his Nexstar trainer.***

Aviation probably became a life-long interest for Chuck because he was raised near 104<sup>th</sup> & Hampton, abutting Timmerman Airport's west edge on Milwaukee's northwest side. He even had a few rides in single engine Cessna's, and considered joining the CAP-Civil Air Patrol.

Then followed schooling, work, and marriage. Now 51, Chuck's 26 year marriage to wife Candy has produced daughter Heather, 20 now taking college medical business courses.

Chuck's courses at MSOE and MATC covered machine shop, computer aided design, and hydraulics. Work for Central Engineering, and for Riggers in Franksville, involved hydraulic lifts and boom trucks and electrical gantry cranes of large capacity: 200, 400 even 600 tons. Just prior to his 1998 injury, he was with GS Hydraulics doing custom work – such as the movable stage at the Fireside Theatre in Johnson Creek. Perhaps going back to work may be in Chuck's future.

***RAMS HORN***, December, 2009, Russell Knetzger, Editor  
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***Chuck Beauchamp on his one acre lot in NE Muskego, with family dog, "Lady", a Lab-White American Shepherd mix of gentle disposition, and Chuck's .046 engine powered Nexstar, soloed on in August '09.***