

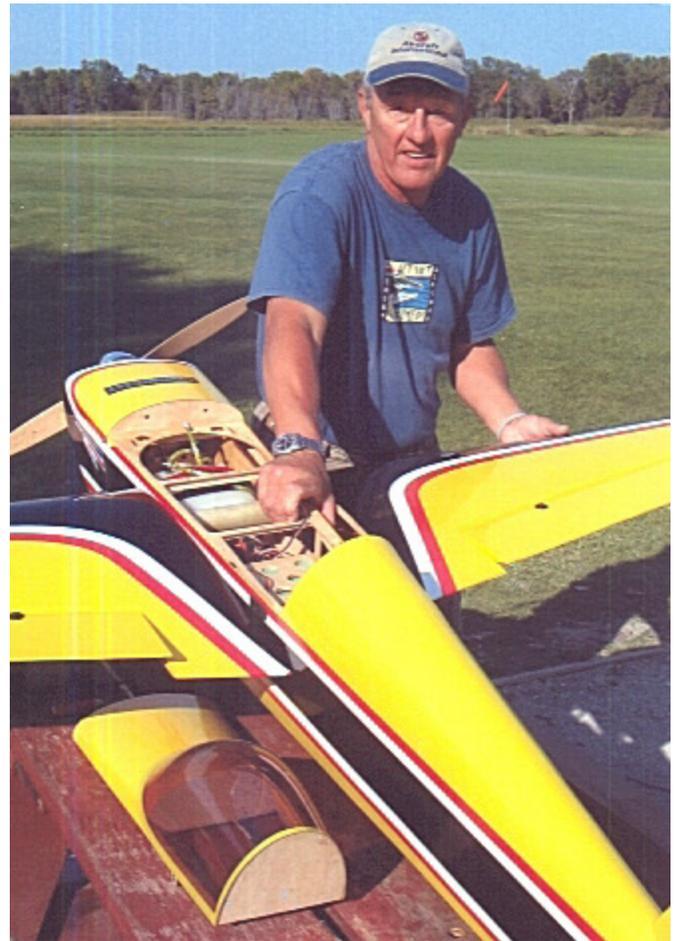
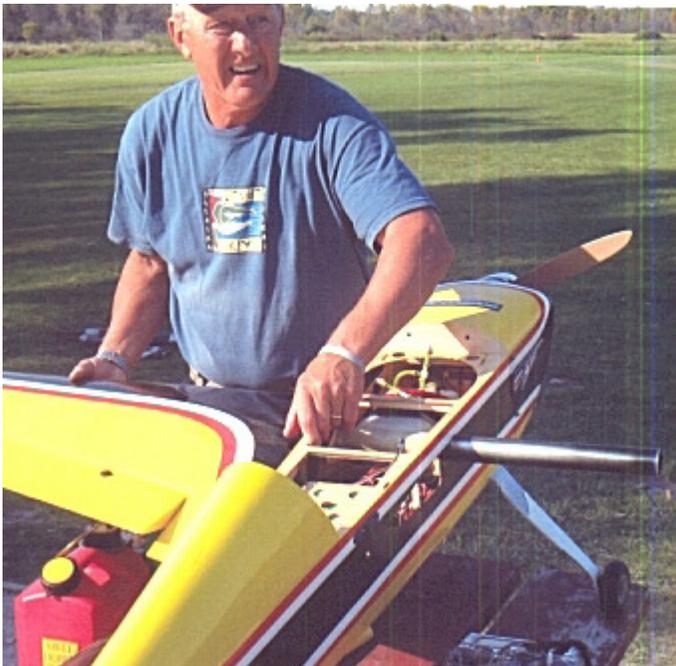
Pilot Profile: Dennis Bartz

by Russell Knetzger

Our subject pilot for this article is known for doing things big. He flies large models, several 30% of the full size aircraft, and he totes them around in a large tow-behind enclosed trailer, beautifully decorated with a skyline scene by its original owner, Marv Wolff.

Dennis Bartz has other big achievements. After one flying lesson at our field from Floyd Katz, he taught himself to solo at the sod farms in Wind Lake where the MARKS Club members fly, and only a few miles from his home on Lake Denoon in southwestern Muskego. He flew often while he was learning, sometimes every day of the week. It took several model re-building efforts to make it all the way to solo flight, but solo he did.

His other big achievement is succeeding in a family owned business with his brother, Kevin Bartz. Known as **Bartzs Floor Covering** on 113th and Forest Home Avenue on the Franklin side of the border with Hales Corners, Dennis has been with the business since he was 20 years old, or 43 years ago. That was only a few years after graduating from Pulaski High School on Oklahoma Avenue in Milwaukee. The Bartz store handles a very wide range of product, from carpet, to ceramic and vinyl tiles, as well as pre-finished wood.



Above and lower left: Dennis Bartz assembling his ARF "Edge" of some 92 inches wing span, 22 lbs weight, powered by a Lanier .75cc 3W engine.

Dennis has only been in radio controlled model aviation for 6 or 7 years. It was living on Lake Denoon that triggered his interest in aero modeling. Dennis and his wife Jill have lived on the lake for 20 years, bringing their 5 children to adulthood there. Between their three daughters, Kelly, Wendy and Jenny, and two sons, Billy and Chris, Dennis and Jill now enjoy 15 grandchildren.

One winter day Dennis heard a low flying plane over the lake, but ignored it until he heard it again, rather soon if it were a full scale circling about. Walking around to the lake side of the home, he saw a model Corsair flying off the ice. That was enough for Dennis to see, and soon he had a model for himself.

After soloing at the Wind Lake sod farms, Dennis has added to his stable of planes models that can fly from the lake water, both with pontoons, and off lifting boat hull design. He still belongs to the MARKS, and also to the Racine Club in Mt. Pleasant.

RAMS HORN, November, 2008 Russell Knetzger, Editor
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