

Member Profile: Dick Eddy

by Russell Knetzger

Dick prefers this to be a “member” profile than a “pilot” profile, because he has retired from Wisconsin flying. He now only does limited “Park Flyer” R/C piloting in Florida where he and wife, Maxine, spend the winter (Tampa).

He remains active in the club in non-flying activities, such as announcing our club picnic and fly-in, and loaning his all-steel trailer to haul soil (and workers) at field-work parties.

Dick’s road to aeromodeling goes back to at least 1939 in Greendale, when as an 11 year old his family was one of the very first to occupy this Federal anti-depression experiment to bring the English “New Town” to America. At first it covered 1,000 acres, surrounded by 4,000 acres of open space. Dick built the usual stick & tissue rubber powered models, and some control line, invented just after WW-II.

But then West Milwaukee High School (Greendale had no high school then), plus his first job in 1947 at Harnischfeger on 43rd & National as a cost accountant, left no time for models. The Korean Conflict of 1950-53 saw Dick in 1951 drafted into the US Army as a paratrooper with the 11th Airborne unit. Fortunately, he became a parachute instructor, assigned to many US bases (Kentucky, Georgia, New York, etc.) to train others to jump.

**US ARMY - Korean Conflict, 1951-1953
11th Airborne Unit**



Above: Dick Eddy as field mower in the mid-1990s on our 1948 Ford 8N, chatting with his flight instructor, Floyd Katz. In about 2000 our present Allis-Chalmers 5030 Diesel replaced the 8N, keeping its mower.



Above: Dick Eddy in the RAMS booth at the 1995 Southridge mall show, behind his J-3 Cub; with Jim Merriwether and Scott Wilke in the background.

After the Army, in 1953 Dick married Maxine Breitzman. They knew each other all through grade and high school. They have two sons, Robert born in 1957, and David born in 1959, and now four grandchildren. In 1954 Dick affiliated with FMC – Food Machinery Corporation, a very diversified company, remaining to retirement in 1989. Dick was always an independent contractor to FMC. At first he did in-the-field servicing of FMC’s automotive repair equipment – typical of most auto repair shops. Then he transitioned to sales, covering at least three states as his territory, on the road most of each week.

What brought Dick back to aeromodeling was radio control that he observed at one of the mall shows held each winter, mid 70s-mid 90s. By then living on S. 76th Street in Franklin close to the County field, he joined the RAMS Club, serving as its treasurer for 5 years, and almost the same length as field manager.

Dick’s other interests have included 25 years (1958-1983) with the National Ski Patrol, and winters in Florida he plays the string bass violin with a Country & Western group. That may account for his owning the portable sound equipment he provides to RAMS field events.

RAMS HORN, October, 2009, Russell Knetzger, Editor
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