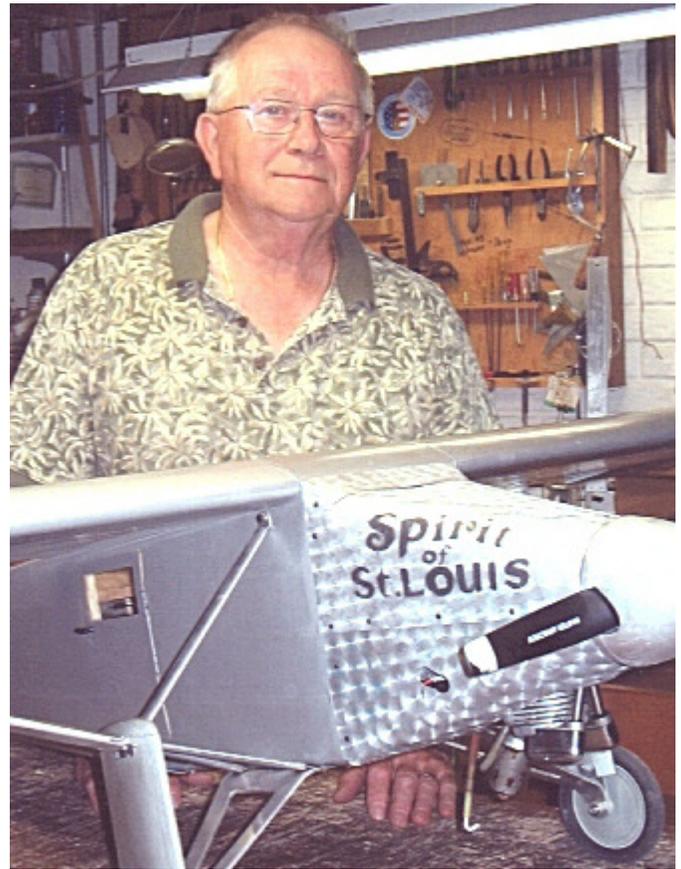


Pilot Profile: John Cseri

by Russell Knetzger

Retired journeyman Pattern Maker, Soldier, and Police Officer. All these things are John Cseri, now 74, and yet he has always lived within a short distance of his boyhood home in Carrollville, an unincorporated settlement within Oak Creek, Wisconsin. It is near the Lake Michigan shoreline. He and his wife, Paula, also native to the area, now live on E. Forest Hill Ave., near Howell Avenue. Before Oak Creek became a City with its own high school, pupils could choose where to attend. John chose Milwaukee Boys Tech, and there got his start in wood pattern making. That led to a five-year apprenticeship at Allis Chalmers. For nine years after that he worked in various job shops, adding metal pattern making skills.

When John was 20, the Korean Conflict brought him into US Army service in Korea. Upon his return he served in the Army Reserves, later switching to the Wisconsin Army National Guard's famed Red Arrow 32nd Division. In 1961-62 the entire Division was activated by President John F. Kennedy, and John had to disrupt his own family and job to go with his unit to Fort Lewis, Washington State.



John Cseri in his immaculate workshop with his 87 inch span, scratch built "Spirit of St. Louis," 12 lbs. powered by an OS .91 cu. in. four stroke engine.

John's foray into radio control model aviation did not begin until he was 50 years old, and is aided by the substantial woodworking shop in his home. From that shop he had done occasional pattern making side-jobs.

Matt Wengrzyn was his first instructor at the County Field on Oakwood Road in Franklin. John followed Matt to the informal "**Milwaukee Aces**" club begun by Scott Wilkie on Scott's **Leader Cards, Inc.** family-business land in Oak Creek on South 13th St. The land was vacant for possible relocation of the business. John also flew in Abendschein Park near his home in Oak Creek.

John then joined Matt in Ultralight flying at Bristol, WI in Kenosha County. He took 50 dual seat flight lessons, before deciding to refocus on R/C models.

With the demise of the Aces, and prohibition of flying at Abendschein Park, John now concentrates all of his flying at the County field. He is a regular among the mid-day pilots, favoring the larger sized models, especially the "between the wars" era.

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In spite of possible recalls to active duty, John stayed with the Division, retiring in 1984 with 31 years of service, including Korea. From enlisted Private, John retired at the rank of Lt. Colonel. To do that he had to leave civilian life for officer's candidate school at Ft. Benning, Georgia. During annual two week Guard active duty, John attended other specialized training, including the US Army Command & General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas (see medallion above, and his police uniform patch.) In 1963 John left pattern making for more stable work as a police officer. Police forces better tolerate leaves for military duty. By then he and Paula were rearing their children. First Jeanne and Kathryn; later Jill and Michael. All four have attained professional careers After 25 years, John retired from Oak Creek's police dept. in 1988. John and Paula have two grandchildren, Jeanne's Gracie and Mason.