

Pilot Profile: Kemal Sarlioglu

by Russell Knetzger

Kemal Sarlioglu, 44, is an ordinary guy pursuing an ordinary living to support his wife and two daughters, 13 and 2-1/2, plus his mother, in their Oak Creek apartment. But with his love of model aviation, and Wisconsin goose hunting, Kemal may be a bit more complicated person.

Kemal was born in one of the most famous and strategic cities of the world, Istanbul, Turkey, formerly known as Constantinople. It sits on the Bosphorus straight between the Black Sea to the north, and the Sea of Marmara, an extension along the Dardenelles of the Mediterranean Sea, to the south. Kemal is named after Kemal Ataturk, 1923 founder of modern Turkey. Ataturk guided Turkey to be the first Muslim country to separate church and state. The country has become one of America's most consistent allies.

A democratic Republic, Turkey is about 400 miles deep and 1000 miles wide, east to west. It has been in the middle of historic events for 700 years. The Black Sea coast touches all of its northern territory, and the Mediterranean abuts two thirds of its south side. Turkey's neighbors include Bulgaria to the NW, Stalin's birth place of Georgia (Russia) to the NE, Armenia and Iran to the East, and Iraq and Syria to the south.



Kemal Sarlioglu (above) with his OS.46 powered Thunder Tigre Sport low wing.



Kemal Sarlioglu (above) and his Hobbico Superstar .40 high wing, OS.46 engine.

Kemal's family moved 400 miles SE early in his life, to Adana, where he grew up within 100 miles of the Syrian border. Adana, about 20 miles inland, is near Tarsus, (St. Paul's hometown), at the foot of the Taurus Mountains, from which Ford Motor Co. has named one of its famous car lines. There, Kemal's older sister met and married a US Air Force airman stationed at either the nearby Incerlik Air Base, or its hush-hush satellite at Adana (U-2/ SR-71/ RC-135). In 1984 they transferred to South Dakota.

When that marriage, after two children, foundered, his mother and Kemal came to Maryland in 1989 to help support the sister. In Maryland Kemal bought his first R/C model, a Royal Air .40, and soloed. Wisconsin became the family's next home in 1990, but the family returned to Maryland. There, Kemal married a New York girl. Returning to Wisconsin for good in 2000, Kemal gained his US citizenship that April.

His last visit back to Turkey was 1998. To return more frequently during bargain air fares of October and November interferes with his goose hunts.

Kemal is best known at our field for his pleasure in hovering high straight above himself, gliding in a tight circle at idle. He is expert at returning to a good landing on the field, with or without engine power.

RAMS Horn, September, 2006, Bill Stilley, Editor
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