

Pilot Profile: Ken Huber

by Russell Knetzger

Career and hobby interests reflect Ken Huber's careful, meticulous approach to everything he does. Private company surveyor, 38 yr. City of Milwaukee civil engineering technician, lifelong model railroader and model aircrafter, and high speed cars, all reflect Ken's attention to detail.

This concern for detail has led Ken, 65, to be treasurer of the Milwaukee R/C Association the last seven years, and this will complete his eighth and final year as issuer of pilot licenses and caretaker of the RAMS Field Fund. This fund operates for the public benefit the Milwaukee County R/C Model Airplane Field at S. 70th & Oakwood Rd., in Franklin. Ken took on both of these jobs as he was nearing retirement at age 58 from the City. He succeeded Len Kroska as license issuer, and Larry Petricek as Assoc. treasurer.

Ken's father was instrumental in sparking Ken's interest in Lionel standard gauge model trains at Ken's early age of 2 or 3. Ken is an active member of the Milwaukee Lionel RR Club, building the layout and restoring cars and engines and for other members. Below he is shown with his home layout holding a Lionel car he is converting to an electric trolley.

But Ken's father never realized that taking Ken in 1949 to the first **Rex Mays Classic** auto race at State Fair Park in West Allis, would so enthrall Ken with car racing. Even when his father became less interested in going, Ken pushed to attend. The father did prevail, however, when Ken was 19, against Ken using his first gas station attendant earnings to buy a modified stock car racer.

By age 20 Ken did buy his first Corvette, a year-old 1960 model. In the upper photo is his current Corvette, a 350 cu.in.1977 "with too little power to do much on the Elkhart Lake straightaways," Ken complains. Ken volunteers as a pit crew member with Milwaukee racing teams, that way getting to many Midwest track events.



Ken Huber with his large-gauge Lionel train layout



Ken Huber with his 1977 Corvette and Sig Hog Bipe

In addition to Lionel trains, Ken also showed an interest in the typical model planes of the 1940s and 50s – stick and tissue rubber powered, and U-control. In 1968, five years into his marriage, he even built a U-control biplane, but did not fly it. In 1989, after the marriage of his oldest of three children, she and her new husband went to Cudahy News & Hobby and bought Ken an Olympic 650 powered glider to get him started in R/C.

Ken found the County field on the "Club Near You List," deciding to switch to a .40 cu.in. Goldberg Eagle 2 trainer. By 1991 Floyd Katz had Ken soloed on the Eagle 2. Ken also has a Goldberg Tiger 2 purchased at Steve Piteros shop in Oak Creek, where Ken helped out. In 1999 Ken's City co-workers as a retirement gift gave Ken a Sig Hog Bipe kit. Shown completed in the picture, like all of Ken's projects, it is carefully crafted and cared for.

Volunteering for the racing teams, the Lionel Club, for the RAMS, and the Association, stem from Ken's continued commitment to volunteering at Sacred Heart Catholic congregation and former school. It is on the St. Francis-Milwaukee border, a few blocks from Ken's Bay View home on Kinnickinnic Ave. The home is in front of MPS Fernwood Elementary school, where Ken and his Sacred Heart classmates took their "release time" manual train-ing classes. Like so many RAMS members, it is from those basic 7th & 8th grade skills, plus Boy Scouting and Bay View High School drafting and shop courses, that adult craftsmanship arises. Ken bought his boyhood home when his father died, and keeps it as tidy as did his parents.

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