

## Pilot Profile: Rick Weiner

by Russell Knetzger

Richard "Rick" Weiner has a modeling background going back some 30 years, when his son Dean was age ten. Rick then was helping Dean get into control line flying. Even though Rick is now the more active pilot at our field, Dean is still better known, being a salesman one night a week at Greenfield News & Hobby. Dean is their electric motor flight specialist.

About 4 or 5 years ago Rick got his new business pretty well established, and found time to consider a hobby. The business is in owning and managing rental housing. As a Christmas present Dean bought his father an indoor "park flyer." Light and easily crash repairable with cellophane tape, Rick taught himself to fly at Sussex Place (in Sussex) in their indoor sports space. Rick went through a number of such 5-6 oz. all-foam planes, learning to fly.

Rick then transitioned to outdoor flying at our County field in Franklin. Living in Greendale, the field is only a few minutes drive away. He moved from a "Slow Stik" to various other glow engine aircraft, having at one point a fleet of 35 hanging in his garage. Rick estimates he owned 75 or 80 models over those few years, including a "3D" (below), a sailplane or two, even a helicopter.



***Lower left: Rick Weiner (Showtime 50 with .89 Saito 4-cycle engine), one of many flyable models hangered in his garage. Above: Rick kneeling next to his giant scale "Classic 84" at the Sep., 2009 RAMS club picnic. Purchased from another modeler 4 years ago, and gasoline powered, its carburetor was rebuilt for Rick by Bob Kabella, who took this picture.***

Gradually Rick increased the size & complexity of his models to where he is now flying a pre-owned giant scale, gasoline powered "Classic 84", (see above). He gave it his maiden flight after the RAMS Picnic, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Rick enjoys its smooth, realistic flight and sound.

Rick's later arrival to R/C model aircraft (he is now age 62) may be due to his upbringing on Milwaukee's intensely populated East Side, near Bradford & Downer Avenues. This part of the city, wedged between the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan, does not have park space suit-able for model airplane flying. Rick graduated from Riverside High School.

Rick's prior occupations have been an appliance salesman, then manager-Sears Roebuck & Co.; later a co-partner in a tavern at Bellview and Bartlett; before joining other partners in a home improvement business that led to Rick buying and retaining properties in his own portfolio. This last occupation has given Rick the time to fly.

***RAMS HORN***, November, 2009, Russell Knetzger, Editor  
Rainbow Aero Modelers Society, Franklin, Wisconsin