

Pilot Profile: Dell Fisher

by Russell Knetzger

Midway through his work life, Dell Fisher left the security of a machinist's position with Falk Corporation, to this day still operating "in the valley" east of the Miller Park baseball stadium, to found with a fellow Falk machinist, John Yarmark, their own company, **Marker Machine, Inc.** Now age 74 and retired from Marker for 12 years, Dell the past 3 years has ventured into radio controlled model aircraft.

Dell's company proved to be successful, and is still open, with Dell owning half, and eight employees owning the rest. It is located on N. 124th Street near Butler, where Dell now lives, having grown up on N. 36th Street in Milwaukee. Dell's path to becoming a machinist starts with the US Navy, in which he served during the Korean Conflict. Before ever graduating from Washington High School, Dell in 1952 enlisted in the Navy, and was stationed in the waters off Korea on board the carrier USS Wasp. He was the carrier deck "hook man," disconnecting from the deck wire, planes that had just landed. Initially Corsairs from WWII were involved, shifting to Panther and Banshee jets.



FALK CORP.
Marker Machine, Inc.

After 3 years in the Navy, Dell took advantage of the G.I. Bill of Rights, and became a machinist apprentice at Falk, where he stayed for 13 years to 1969. Even though his two children with wife Patricia had already been born (daughter Julie and son Tom), Dell took the risk of starting a business. Their product line for many years was hydraulic fittings such as cylinders and pistons supplied to nearby Enerpac. That work migrated to China. Now Marker Machine makes after-market handle bar weights, used under the rider grips of motorcycles. Such weights dampen the vibration to the rider's hands. By incorporating a twist friction feature, the dampers also provide a cruise control. That shift in product line was possible because he and wife Patricia, up to her death 25 years ago from cancer, were avid motor cycle riders. Dell still belongs to the area BMW Club.

It was Scott Jones of Happy Hobby store on N. 76th and W. Good Hope Road who taught Dell to fly using



Above: Dell Fisher, with one of his many electric motor powered R/C models. This one is an E-flite Ultra Stick, equivalent to a .40 size engine

the fields of Vincent High School, not far away at Calumet and Granville Roads.

About the time Dell was soloing, he renewed his acquaintance with Marv Anderson, now Safety officer of this club. He and Marv years earlier used to be active in field dragster racing at Great Lakes Dragaway. With Marv becoming very active at the Milwaukee County R/C Field on Oakwood Rd. in Franklin, Dell gave it a try and liked it. Now he is one of our most faithful field users, like Marv, often spending whole days at the field.

Dell (his real first name is Nardell, his mother's French-origin maiden name,) is the only pilot at the field who flies a twin electric motor aircraft. It is similar in appearance to the above Ultra Stick, having two engine nacelles, one protruding from each wing.

RAMS HORN, November, 2008, Russell Knetzger, Editor
Rainbow Aero Modelers Society. Franklin, Wisconsin