

## Pilot Profile: Jeff Borowski

by Russell Knetzger

Jeff Borowski remains the most **versatile** model aviation pilot at the Milwaukee County Field on Oakwood Rd. in Franklin, Wis., and that reflects the education he eagerly sought, and the kind of employment he always manages to hold.

As a boy in Cudahy, where he has lived for all but two of his fifty years of life, Jeff at age 8 started with an 18 cents Sleak Streak rubber powered kit from Cudahy News & Hobby, in downtown Cudahy. At that time Jay Gordon's father ran the store, since moved by Jay to become Greenfield News & Hobby on S. 68<sup>th</sup> & Layton. Jay was a Cudahy High School graduate with Jeff, Class of 1976. By graduation, Jeff had mastered 108 mph & 140 mph control line combat, flying .36 cu.in. engines with 50% nitromethane in the fuel (age 11) to R/C sailplanes (age 16-17), including slope soaring off Lake Michigan breezes at Warnimount Park, to competition "thermal soaring" under AMA & FAI International rules.

Those rules require the pilot to stay aloft for near 10 minutes strictly by riding any rising warmer air on or near the field, and then sliding in to a landing with the plane's nose as close as possible to a spot marked on the grass. For every second under or over 10 minutes, points are deducted, and for every inch out of the circle another point is taken away. So landing precision in time and space is crucial.

Jeff feels if he could have afforded to attend the FAI Team Selection Tournament in 1976 at Pensacola, Florida, he could have parlayed his 2<sup>nd</sup> place standing in the Wisconsin Championships to a place on the AMA-USA Team for Belgium, 1977. Married at age 19, he even hoped to combine Belgium with his honeymoon destination. He settled instead for becoming the instant father of three girls from his wife's first marriage – Tina, Stacy, and Tammy.

Jeff pioneered the County Field opening in 1979, still flying sailplanes. But he also flew an early version of what is now called "3D" models. In 1980 Jeff tried .40 sized fixed pitch (hence unflyable) helicopters. He returned to helicopters in the mid-1990s, as the .30 sized "Raptor" with variable pitch made true R/C helicopter flying possible at reasonable cost. Since 2005 Jeff has been a field rep for **Gohbee Aviation** ([www.gohbee.com](http://www.gohbee.com)) entry level helicopters, test flying and making design suggestions.

In Nov., 2007 Jeff became the 4th certified turbine pilot at the Co. field, by masterfully piloting his all balsa jet, "Reaction 54," witnessed by the other 3 jet pilots, Darrell Hossalla, Roger Olsen, & Tom Ryan.



**Jeff Borowski and his all-balsa wood, Reaction 54 jet model, 78 in. wing span, 1,453 sq.in. wing area, 18 lbs. weight and 18 lbs. of engine thrust. The wing has a 24 inch chord and is 4 inches thick, which make for great controllability at all speeds, including hovering on mild headwinds, rare for jets.**

Courage to tackle such a wide variety of model aircraft stems from Jeff's broad high school education. He took every shop course possible, from auto, metal and woodworking, to electricity, electronics and welding. Like his father, Donald, he has been fortunate to land jobs that required original thinking, and broad knowledge of materials and methods. His dad worked his entire career as a metals technologist at Ladish, Inc., a mainstay employer of Cudahy, where the products usually are for military or transportation use, with extreme reliability of performance of the parts made. Anything sub-safe "will" cause loss of life, or the vessel. An example is the "scuttle valve" on a ship. When you need it you want it to work, but an untimely leak costs the ship.

Jeff's version of such work included an 18 year stay at Dittmore-Freimuth, where, like Ladish, military clearances were a necessity, and "zero-build failures" a rule. The US Gov't. gave a "Highest Quality" rating to the firm, and Jeff enjoyed working there very much, rising from drafting to senior design engineer. He stayed until the company, under new owners, closed. Jeff found similar work at others, and now is with Racine Industries. There his wide knowledge of bidding, castings, CNC machine tools, plastics molding, and welding, serve him well.

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