

# Pilot Profile: Russell Knetzger

by Russell Knetzger, Editor

*Administration* has dominated my adult life, within this hobby, and elsewhere. Administration means to take a good idea, mostly by others, and bring it to fruition, with constant incremental improvements thereafter. Such a focus showed up as #1 over law, teaching, medicine and clergy in the "interest and aptitude" tests I was given at age 17-1/2 in Sep., 1954 by UW Extension. I was enrolling at their tiny campus on the SW corner of 6<sup>th</sup> & State Streets (recently razed.) The Extension knew we and the Korean vets enrolling were the first in our families to try college. Coming from MPS working class areas (Brown Street School, West Division High School), the extra guidance was appreciated.

Following that advice I graduated from UW-Milwaukee in Feb.1960 in Political Science-public administration. Educated broadly in municipal managing or urban planning, I entered planning via a private practice firm, **Nelson & Associates, Inc.** for 24 years, and my own firm **Russell Knetzger, AICP** for 27 years since. Both firms offered long term consulting, serving Port Washington 37 years, Mt. Pleasant 35, Pleasant Prairie 20, Summit, 20, Mequon and Muskego, 12, Cedarburg and Pewaukee Town, 7, etc., usually six simultaneously. A specialty of municipal annexations and incorporations has resulted in expert witness work in Wisconsin circuit courts.

## Military Service

**Univ. Wis. Extension Army ROTC Program 1954-1955** **Wisconsin Air National Guard Gen. Mitchell Field, Milwaukee 1954-1962 Weather Squadron**



***Below Left: Russell Knetzger in his official winner photo, 1979 2nd Place Chicago aerobatics contest, holding his Dirty Birdy pattern plane built from a Joe Bridi kit. Above: Russell wearing one of his 30 souvenir hats from judging pattern and scale championships since 1979 all over the United States for the AMA-Academy of Model Aeronautics and for the US Scale Masters. Above:USSM 2005-Phoenix, Arizona.***

The preceding work experience resulted, at age 71 in 2007 accepting a UW-M instructor position to continue co-teaching the urban plans portion of a municipal engineering course in the School of Civil Engineering.

Within aeromodeling, a willingness to use administrative ability has resulted in being President of the Milwaukee Flying Electronics, Inc., 1975, and this club 2002-2007; Electronics editor 1978-1988 plus the national USPJA - Unified Scale & Pattern Judging Association (1980-88).

This is the 32nd year of being the charter and only secretary of the Milwaukee Association of Radio Control Clubs. It currently contains 19 SE Wisconsin clubs. Some are non-flying (plastics and boating.) The Association for years put on mall displays until malls substituted sales kiosks. The Association each January puts on a Swap Meet and Auction at Waukesha Expo.

Besides serving 25 years as an AMA Assoc., V.P., my proudest service has been on two AMA property committees. The PACOM (acquisition) in 1990 guided the relocation of AMA national headquarters out of metro Wash., DC to 1000 acres at Muncie, Indiana. As 1 of 5 on the PADCOM (development), in 2001 we opened the new Headquarters office for AMA's 50 employees.

Later this year Barbara and I will celebrate 50 years of marriage, and 43 years residency in our Shorewood home, where we reared our 5 children, Jane, John, Ann, Susan and Kenneth. We now have 7 grandchildren. We both devote tens of hours weekly to Emmaus Lutheran, our church at N.23rd & Hadley It serves 300 children in child care through K8, and has 45 employees. Barbara is a retired Shorewood teacher, grade 7 math & science.

***RAMS HORN***, March, 2011 Russell Knetzger, Editor  
Rainbow Aero Modelers Society, Franklin, Wisconsin