

IN THE HANGAR WITH...

...Kenny Goodwin

When did you become interested in RCM modeling (RCM)?

I did a little free-flight in Indiana. Went to Orange Blossom Hobby when I moved to Miami-Dade County area in 1955 and bought me a kit in a Live Wire Champion. Got together with an old friend of mine. We flew on the citizen's band: 17.255MHz. Only had one channel for rudder control.

Were you self-taught or mentored?

I was pretty much self-taught, but there were some guys that helped me along the way. It took me a long time. I can't remember who they were.

Do you remember your first model?

My first was a little rubber band model back in the early 60s. My first glo-plug was a Live Wire Champion I had to build it. Didn't have ARFs back then.

What disciplines of modeling do you participate in?

Sail planes, electric, 1/4 scale, aerobatic. All glo-plug until the last few years. Took a lot of work to clean them in that's why we went to electric.

What line of work were you in?

I was an underground contractor for about a hundred years down around Broward County and Miami.

Has RCM influenced your life in anyway?

Yeah, it sure has in for a long time it was my favorite thing I still is. Got heavy into sail planes in the 80s through the 90s I did a lot of competition as you can see from some of these plaques on the wall. There were 10-12 contests a year in Florida, and I was in just about all of them.

Obviously you built your own models?

Had to be working on one now. This is a 1/4 scale Ercoupe I'm very near done, if I could get my hind-end in gear. Yeah, I built a lot of them. I built that trainer for Art Scheurer. He was really into sail planes now he's better than I am.



What advice would you give someone interested in RCM?

Get in to it. Now with all the new equipment, radios, ARFs, stabilization systems on them I can't hardly crash them anymore unless you want to. It's a good hobby to be in I do anything you want to do, depending on how much money you want to spend.

How important is membership in an RCM club to you?

Very important. I mean you get to be around a lot of people, make friends, learn a lot and get good advice from most people. And the fellowship is important to a guy like me who's alone now.

What can you tell us about your current model?

I don't have a current model I've got several in which one you want to talk about. I'm building this 1/4 scale Ercoupe that came out right after WWII. It [full-scale] was a low wing designed to be very easy to fly. It had no foot rudders. Rudder, ailerons and elevator were all in the steering wheel I turned just like a car.



Did you ever fly full-scale?

Yep. Got my private pilot's license in 1961 while working on a water treatment project at the backside of an airport. Think I've flown 6-7 hours since. Took my flight test on a Cessna 172 but got most of my lessons in a Piper Cruiser PA12. My dad was a pilot for years; in fact he was a flight engineer on a B24 during the war. He had all kinds of licenses: instructor, commercial, multi-engine I don't know all what else.

How did KennyWorld come about?

I bought 50 acres here about 26 years ago. The grass was about this high, so brought my lawn mower up from Miami and mowed a strip. I must have spent two years getting this place halfway decent I brought some models up. Then the guy that was building my house in 1987 mentioned it to a guy in Rainbow Lakes by the name of Jim Dymond, he's gone now. He asked a lot of questions and helped out I became one the charter members.

There used to be a big old wild cherry tree over there about 100 feet I right in the way. Lot of planes ended up there I hired a guy to come out and take it down.

We started the club in 1990. I was really into sail planes then. A few of my buddies from South Florida came up and put on contests. Used to be a guy would come up with his motor home and would bring a young guy with him I he was a good sail plane pilot, by the way I and he used to sleep in the passenger seat. When he'd wake up and look around, he'd say, "Are we at KennyWorld yet?" And it just stuck I it just stuck. You know, DollyWorld and DisneyWorld, it just happened. That's the way it happened.

And the club name ... the OWLS?

Used to be a bunch of burrowing owls around. They'd come out and sit on the outhouse to watch us soar. A lot of the Florida clubs used birds: the Buzzards, Pelicans, Soaring Eagles. I got to thinking about it one day and finally came up with One Wing Low Squadron.