



The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of GEORGE M. ALDRICH

October 1932 - July 4, 2001

AMA #L47



Written & Submitted by JB (3/1976), AMA Staff (1984); Transcribed by NR (9/2000), JS (11/2009);
Edited by SS (2002), updated by JS (04/2006, 10/2007, 11/2009, 11/2017)

Video link: One of the National Model Aviation Museum's special Fly By report, Nobler, is on YouTube [here](#).



“In this episode of Fly By, Claire discusses the one of the most popular Control Line Precision Aerobatics models of its time and how its owner used it to become one of the more successful CL Stunt Pilots.” – Published on YouTube by the National Model Aviation Museum on October 2, 2017.

See also the National Model Aviation Museum's History Preserved column (page 14) and the Old-Timers column (pages 79-81) in the December 2017 issue of Model Aviation magazine for articles about George Aldrich, the Nobler, and more.

Career:

- 1951: At the Plymouth Internationals won High Point & Air Trails Perpetual Trophy
- Published many designs in all the major model magazines
- Designed the *Nobler* Control Line Stunt model; it was kitted by Top Flight
- Wrote a column in *Model Builder* magazine called, “Fuel Lines”
- Wrote a column in *Model Airplane News* called “For Engine Lovers”
- 1995-1997: Served as AMA District VIII Vice President

Honors:

- 1984: Model Aviation Hall of Fame
- 1992: Precision Aerobatics Model Pilot Association Hall of Fame

The following was an attachment to a Model Aviation Hall of Fame nomination application. Hugo N. Bixio submitted the application on March 26, 1984

George M. Aldrich

March 26, 1984

Competitor

US (FAI) team member:

- In 1972 World Championships in 'Helsinki, Finland, he served as US Judge Control Line Aerobatics.
- Nationals (Nats) event winner, National or World Record holder:

1951	Second place, class AFF Senior Division – Dallas, Texas
	Fourth Control Stunt Senior Division – Dallas, Texas
	First Control Line Stunt Plymouth Internationals Senior Division
	Also, high point champ Control Line stunt winning the Air trails Perpetual Trophy – Detroit, Mich.
1952	First Senior Control Line stunt, senior division, winning Walker Trophy as National Stunt Champion – Los Alamitos, Calif.
1953	First Senior Control Line Stunt Division – Willow Grove, Penn.
1954	Third Senior Control Line Stunt – Glenview, Ill.
1956	First open Control Line Stunt – Dallas, Texas
1957	First open Control Line Stunt, winning Walker Trophy as National Stunt Champ – Willow Grove, Penn.
1968	Third Class C Control Line Speed – Olathe, Kan. (Also the special Sportsmanship Award)
1969	First Open Control Line Class B Proto. Set national record at 141.64” MPH with Joe McKenzie, pilot.

Designer

Plans published in magazines:

Wrote numerous magazine articles in *Model Airplane News*, including:

- 1952: The Nobler
- 1952: A description on how to perform square loops
- 1954: The first ever article on Monoline Control Speed
- 1959: Peacemaker
- 1964: AG-1 Crop Duster

Designed Nobler Control Line Stunt Model in 1950, which was kitted by Top Flight models in 1957.

Designed the following for Top Flight Models:

1. Flight Streak
2. Flight Streak Jr.
3. Baby Flight Streak
4. Combat Streak
5. Flight Streak Trainer

6. Flight Streak Peace Maker

7. The Nobler

After more than 25 years the Flight Streak, Flight Streak Jr. Nobler, and the Baby Flight Streak are still in production.

The Nobler Control Line Stunt design was the most produced kit to win more contests in Control Line stunt than any other was. Many contestants In Juniors, Seniors, and Open used the Nobler design to place in national, regional, and local contests.

He experimented in fuel, glow plugs, and engines. Then he went into business under the name of Aldrich Models.

George has been a Contest Director since 1950 and helped form many Control Line Clubs in the 1950's and 1960's.

He was contest director (CD) of Air Force Air Training Command and World Wide Meets in 1960.

National Control Line Aerobatics Director in 1960, 1964, 1966.

Also trained judges in 1960, 1967, 1968.

He served as club officer and different committees for many local clubs.

Served on the AMA Control Line Combat Contest Board in and Control Line Contest Board in 1953-1954.

Chair, Control Line Aerobatics Contest Board, 1956-1958.

Wrote existing Control Line Aerobatic Pattern in 1957, which has remained virtually unchanged for 27 years. This Pattern was also adopted by the FAI in 1959.

George wrote "Fuel Lines" column for Model Builder Magazine for the years 1977-1979.

Presently writes "For Engine Lovers" column for Model Airplane News 1979 to date.

He entered custom engine rework and consulting business 1968 full time. Operated as Aldrich Models until 1974. Incorporated as Aldrich Products, Inc. 1974, continuing custom engine business and developing a line of glow plugs and model glow fuel. Introduced Magnum Power Fuel in 1976, a revolutionary advancement in glow fuels. Discontinued custom engine work in 1976 to devote full time to Fuel, Glow Plug, and Control Line handle production after entering into an agreement with Carl Goldberg Models to market Magnum Glow Fuel.

Became an AMA Life Member 1981 at the Seguin Nationals.

George's Nobler has been the most prolific winner in National Aerobatics events in the Junior,

Senior and Open age groups. The Nobler design dimensions have been kitted and copied through the world. In the beginning, the Nobler design has been used by winners in the FAI world aerobatics events. The Nobler design has been refined by Ed Sweeney, editor of American Modeler for use in a Radio Control (RC) model and kitted by Top Flight.

In addition to being a prolific writer, designer, engine accessories in fuel glow, etc., George has helped many people with their engine problems through both personal correspondence and questions and answers in his "Engine Lovers" column. I have visited George at his home when I go to San Antonio.

Many modelers come to him with problems on models and engines. He takes the time to help them work out their problems. George, at one time, worked for Duke Fox as an engine representative going around to contests; Nationals included promoting Aerobatics with the Nobler and the Fox 35 Stunt engines. In his rework engines as George Aldrich Inc., people from all over the world sent him engines to be reworked to win events in competition.

George Aldrich is a name known to almost everyone who has used an engine and flown Stunt in a model aircraft and his technical expertise is still having an effect in our world of modeling. An AMA member for a long time, George has always been a strong supporter of the AMA for the benefit of the sport. He became an AMA Life member in 1981 at the Seguin Nationals.

The outstanding contributions that George Aldrich has given to the world of model aviation over a long period of time makes him an exceptional choice for the [Model Aviation] Hall of Fame Award.

(Signed) Hall of Fame Sponsor, Hugo N. Bixio March 26, 1984

AMA Staff wrote the following after the induction of George Aldrich to the Model Aviation Hall of Fame in 1984.

George M. Aldrich of San Antonio, Texas, has made exceptional contributions to model aviation. As a competitor in regional, national, and international events, he carried home his share of trophies and advanced the skills and techniques of flying. He has served as a judge in FAI sanctioned Control Line Aerobatics World Championships. In addition, he is a writer of national stature having contributed to several magazines for many years. His designing ability dates back to his teen years, with his remarkable design, the Nobler, having the reputation of winning more Control Line contests than any other airplane. Other Aldrich designs include the Streak series (Flight Streak, Baby Flight Streak, Combat Streak, etc.) of which many are still in production.

As a Contest Director and leader of model aviation activities wherever he happened to be, George helped form many model aviation clubs. He also served on contest boards, developed and wrote rules for Control Line events, and contributed the "Fuel Lines" column for Model Builder magazine from 1977 to 1979.

Always an innovator, he started a full time business in 1968, reworking and customizing engines. In 1974, he incorporated, then added a line of glow plugs and fuel to his business. Magnum

Power Fuel was introduced in 1976 and received instant recognition.

In 1981, George became an AMA Life Member.

George has always given greatly of himself to help other modelers. He was never too busy that he would not make time to assist by phone, letter, or in person and led many modelers to success by sharing his wealth of experience with them. Unselfish, helpful, industrious, generous, curious and innovative are just some of the adjectives that apply to this man.

The following was written by Sandy Frank, at the time AMA District VIII Vice President, and published in the October 2001 issue of Model Aviation magazine.

Fifty Years a Champion

One of the legends of the model aircraft world has passed on to a better place. George M. Aldrich of San Antonio, Texas succumbed to bone-marrow cancer on July 4, 2001.

Born in South Texas in October of 1932, his life story exemplified the meaning of the word “champion.”

George won the Walker Trophy as National Control Line Stunt Champion in Los Alamitos, California at age 19, followed by a string of national placing in Stunt competition. Later he served the Stunt community by judging and directing regional and national competitions until the 1970s.

George was a magazine columnist throughout the 1970s and 1980s. He published a column in *Model Builder* called “Fuel Lines and later wrote a series called “For Engine lovers” for *Model Airplane News*. In 1992 and 1993, he wrote a column in this magazine entitled “Up and Around.”

In 1972, George served as a judge in Helsinki, Finland at the FAI (Fédération Aéronautique Internationale) Stunt Championships.

George served on numerous AMA Contest Boards throughout his career. He drafted the existing Control Line Aerobatic Pattern in 1957. This pattern was later adopted for international world-class FAI competition, and it has remain virtually unchanged.

In 1976, George founded the Aldrich Models custom engine and consultation business, which supported the Stunt industry.

His aircraft designs are numerous, but the versatile *Flite Streak* series and the *Nobler* are standards which have lasted for almost 50 years.

In a larger sense, George was a consummate champion for aeromodeling. In 1981, he became a Life Member of AMA and was inducted into the prestigious Model Aviation Hall of Fame in 1984. In 1992, he was inducted into the PAMPA (Precision Aerobatics Model Pilots Association) Hall of Fame.

George's commitment to aeromodeling expanded in his later years when he served AMA as District VIII Vice President, serving on AMA's Executive Council from 1995 through 1997. During his term he manifested a passion for youth programs and the Academy's museum and archival programs.

George was a champion for 50 years, a role model among us, a standard to be emulated, and a lifelong supporter of our hobby/sport and our AMA organization.

Gone but not forgotten, George, we will miss you!

It is his family's desire that any memorial to his memory benefit the Academy's youth programs.

-Sandy Frank
AMA District VIII Vice President

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