



# The AMA History Project Presents: Autobiography of GENE SMITH



Written by GS (2013); Reformatted by JS (09/2013)

---

*The following was published on the Model Aviation magazine website, describing columnists for the magazine, and added to the AMA History Project (at the time called the AMA History Program) files in September 2013.*

---

## Gene Smith

I was born and raised in Oklahoma. I am a graduate of the University Of Oklahoma School Of Medicine and completed an Ophthalmology residency at the Dean McGee Eye Institute in 1973. Now retired, I live in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

My airplane modeling began at an early age. I am sure the fact that my father was a pilot in the Army Air Corps in World War II had everything to do with that interest. Beginning with solid wood model kits, I moved on to A.J. Hornets, Monogram Speedee-Bilts and Jigtime models. My first flying model was a Cox U-Control trainer powered by a Baby Bee I still own.

I built and flew many U-Control models during my teens. Bob Palmer's Hurricane and Thunderbird, as well as Walt Pyron's P-39 were among my favorites. In my 20s, I transitioned to RC. Since moving to Stillwater, I have been president or treasurer of the Stillwater RC Flyers for more than 30 years. My RC flying years included Pylon Racing and RC Combat, both of which I enjoyed immensely.

The last 20 years or so I have made another transition, this time back into FF, both Duration and Scale. Being able to build and fly the models I read about in the magazines and dreamed about during my childhood has been a real pleasure. Ramrods, Zeros, Vikings, and Satellites are all in my stable of aircraft.

I am a member of the advisory council of the Flying Aces Club (FAC), an organization dedicated to Rubber-Powered Scale and simple Duration models. My stick-and-tissue failures of childhood have become stick-and-tissue flyers.

There is something about watching a model circling high overhead that still brings a smile to my face. I hope to continue FF modeling as long as I can kick-start my trusty Honda Trail 110.



*Gene's "FF Sport" column appears bi-monthly in the January, March, May, July, September, and November issues of Model Aviation. His email address is [grwhiskey@brightok.net](mailto:grwhiskey@brightok.net).*

---

**This PDF is property of the Academy of Model Aeronautics. Permission must be granted by the AMA History Project for any reprint or duplication for public use.**

**AMA History Project**  
National Model Aviation Museum  
5151 E. Memorial Dr.  
Muncie IN 47302  
(765) 287-1256, ext. 511  
[historyproject@modelaircraft.org](mailto:historyproject@modelaircraft.org)

