



# The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of CHUCK GARRIC



Written by JTG (09/2010); Added to HP files by JS (03/2016)

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## **Rock 'n' roll Radio Control!**

Some of you might remember my interview a few years ago with Rolling Stones saxophone layer Bobby Keyes. This month I'm featuring another RC rock-and-roller.

Chuck Garric is an American rock bass player, singer, and songwriter who was born in South Lake Tahoe, California. He is currently on tour with Alice Cooper. Chuck has had the honor of playing bass for Ted Nugent, Don Felder "Eagles," Cheap Trick, Neal Schon "Journey," and Robbie Krieger "The Doors."

When not touring the world with Alice, Chuck joins Eric Singer (a fellow band member and KISS drummer), Bruce Kulick (Grand Funk Railroad and former KISS guitarist), and John Corradi (Ratt guitar player and former Mötley Crüe frontman) to play and tour with ESP (the Eric Singer Project). Chuck also toured with Ronnie James Dio.

*JTG: When did you start flying RC?*

**CG:** Well, I started at a young age, around 10 years old. My dad was building and flying RC my whole life. I started with Control Line flying. When I was around 12 years old, I started flying with my dad on the buddy system.

*JTG: Were you interested in airplanes as a kid?*

**CG:** I was more into the RC hobby itself. I loved planes, boats, and cars. The love for planes came much later for me.

*JTG: What came first: RC or rock 'n' roll?*

**CG:** RC or RR - good question. I think with the hobby around our house since I can remember, it would have to be RC, but music (rock 'n' roll) is a very, very close second.

*JTG: When did you start playing music?*

**CG:** I started playing the trumpet at age 9. I continued the trumpet up until age 14. My best friend and his brother needed a bass player to complete their band. They were both very good musicians. So I bought a bass and the rest is history, as they say.

*JTG: When did you start playing with Alice Cooper?*

**CG:** I started playing with Coop in May 2001. I've toured every year around the world with him and the band. I've recorded three records and we're working on the fourth.

*JTG: What was your first RC model?*

**CG:** Well just got back into the hobby about nine months ago and before that - well, it's been all music, all the time. As a kid, I flew my dad's high-wing and low-wing trainers on the buddy system.

So to get myself back into flying again, I purchased two 40-size trainers: one ARF Aviator Aeromax with a Nitro Magnum XLS 46 [engine] and one RTF ElectriStar. The ElectriStar I bought used; it came with all the necessary radio equipment to fly.

I was able to use the same transmitter to fly my Aviator as well. It was a great way to transition between the two. While I was building the Aeromax and developing an understanding of how it all works, I was flying my ElectriStar, getting some flying time under my belt.

***JTG:** Who taught you how to fly?*

**CG:** My dad, Charles (Bud) Garric. He's been flying his whole life. He sadly passed away in January 1996. He was a master builder and an expert Pattern [RC Aerobatics] pilot when he retired from the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department in 1986.

He built foam-core balsa-sheet wings for customers around the world. He loved the hobby and loved to fly his SL-1 in Pattern contests. His close friends and flying buddies hold a contest in honor of my dad in Sacramento, California, every year called "The Bud Garric Pattern Classic."

But after so many years without flying I purchased a Phoenix flight simulator, which is a great tool for anyone thinking about getting into the hobby.

I looked up my local club [the Reno RC Club] and met a gentleman by the name of Carl Dukatz. Carl took me under his wing, no pun intended, and he taught me to fly.

Carl has been a great mentor, very knowledgeable about the hobby, and a great pilot. He used to build guitars, so we have a lot in common. We had about a half-dozen flights in before he set me loose to fly solo.

When it came time for me to fly solo, it went great. It was such a relaxing feeling - just me and the controls. I had a gallery watching and cheering me on. It was a great day. My plane came down in one piece - the same way it went up. After three solo flights that day, I knew I was hooked!

***JTG:** Why do you think you enjoy flying RC so much?*

**CG:** I think because of the memories I have with my dad. I've always loved the hobby. I really never got a chance to fly solo when I was kid, and what a great way for me to reconnect with my dad's friends.

***JTG:** Do you have aspirations of flying full scale one day or do you already?*

**CG:** I don't fly full scale. I would love to learn, but right now there's so much more I need to learn about RC. But it would be a great way to get to the gig!

***JTG:** What model do you carry on the road with you?*

**CG:** This being my first year flying on the road, I brought with me a couple ParkZone indoor

planes: a J-3 Cub and a P-51 Mustang. I'm also having a case built for my T-28 Trojan. In the future I want to bring my Nitro Sky Raider Mach II.

*JTG: Where do you fly when on the road?*

**CG:** Mostly indoors at the venues. While the bands are sound-checking, I'm buzzing around the arena. It's amazing! Everyone gets a kick out of it. And come to find out, a few of our road crew guys have their private-pilot licenses. I'm trying to get these guys into RC.

*JTG: What is the best rock venue so far to fly in?*

**CG:** The ones with high ceilings.

*JTG: I was once offered a job by the sax player from the Rolling Stones (Bobby Keyes), to go on the road with him and be his RC model roadie. Do you carry your airplanes in a custom case or anything special to keep them safe?*

**CG:** Did you go? We opened for the [Rolling] Stones a few years ago. I'm sure there are a lot of guys like us that are out there flying RC. Why not? It's a great way to pass the time.

As far as cases, I'm having some made that will travel under the bus and be safe enough to store in the cargo area.

*JTG: What would be the RC model you would really like to fly one day?*

**CG:** Well, when I get some more flying time under my belt I would like to fly a scale warplane.

*JTG: Do you have any great rock 'n' roll stories you can share that involve or don't involve RC aircraft?*

**CG:** I'm thinking, due to this interview, of a couple rough plane flights on the road. We've all seen [the movie] Almost Famous, right?

*JTG: What role has the AMA played in your RC hobby?*

**CG:** Being a member of the AMA gives me the confidence that I'm doing the right thing as a responsible pilot. Plus the education I've got in such a short amount of time from the magazines and the Web site. The AMA was kind enough to issue me my dad's AMA number.

*JTG: I heard you were at AMA Headquarters not too long ago. How did you like the tour of the AMA museum?*

**CG:** The museum was great; I had a lot of fun. I wish the weather was better. [AMA Assistant Editor] Jay Smith gave me a tour of the flying grounds and talked about flying in the rain; it didn't happen.

By the way, did you know Jay is a full-on Metal Head? We've talked more about bands than RC.

**I thank Chuck** for taking the time out to talk to me, and I also thank him for spreading the love of RC via the rock 'n' roll circuit. You can learn more about Chuck by visiting the Web sites provided in the "Sources" section.

## Sources:

Chuck Garric

[The website link provided in the 2010 article is now broken] [Website]

[The Myspace link provided in the 2010 article is now broken] [Myspace]

<http://bit.ly/bAcvSt> [Facebook]

The Barons

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The Druts

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The Bud Garric Pattern Classic

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*May 2010: Chuck Garric in the National Model Aviation Museum gallery.  
Photo taken by Jay Smith during Chuck's visit to the AMA Headquarters.*

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