

Pilot Profile: Greg Mitchell

by Russell Knetzger

Everything that now fills his life, - his job, his wife, their home on Milwaukee's south side, and by the time this is published their newborn twin children, plus this article's subject, his hobby of radio remote controlled model aviation, - Greg Mitchell owes to Marquette University in downtown Milwaukee.



From his boyhood home and schooling in Gurnee, Illinois, just south of the Wisconsin border near Kenosha, Greg came to Marquette University in 1994 to major in civil engineering. There he met his future wife, Jennifer Perdue, who came over from Michigan to major in physical therapy.

Upon graduation Greg was able to obtain jobs with two engineering consulting firms in the Gurnee region, first with Peter Olesen & Associates in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, and then with his present firm, Baxter & Woodman, Inc. in Crystal Lake, Illinois. During his 6-1/2 years at Olesen he earned his PE-Professional Engineer license with the State of Illinois. Four years of practical experience must occur before taking the day-long exam. About the time Greg and Jen were marrying, Baxter assigned Greg to their Burlington, WI office.



At Baxter Greg functions as a municipal engineering advisor to Illinois communities such as Grayslake and Winthrop Harbor, and Wisconsin towns near Lake Geneva. Civil engineering covers roads, bridges, subdivisions, water and sewers, including treatment plants.

At Jen's urging they chose to live in Milwaukee, and that facilitated her obtaining physical therapy work, first with Aurora, now with Community Memorial Hospital in Menomonee Falls. There she met **Art Schmidt**, our oldest club member, and when she learned of Art's aero modeling activity, she recommended Greg contact Art, which Greg did. Jen felt



Above: Greg Mitchell, PE with his Goldberg Eagle 2 trainer on which he soloed. It has a 63 inch span and 715 sq. in. of wing area, powered by an OS .40 engine. He is now looking for his next project, if home remodeling and new twin babies leaves time.

Greg needed a hobby, and since Greg did control line flying in Boy Scouts, radio control seemed a logical next step. Greg took Art's suggestion to build a Goldberg Eagle 2 trainer. Art gave Greg his flight lessons. Greg soloed in about 2006.

Greg, now age 32, also points to EAA's "Young Eagles" Flight program as an anchor for his continuing aviation focus. He got a chance to ride in a Cessna aircraft during his Scouting days.

Marquette University affected Greg & Jen in more than just providing them with professional occupations. Community service is one of Marquette's hallmarks, and Greg & Jen volunteer as crisis intervenors for the **American Red Cross**. If a family loses their lodgings to fire, even in the middle of the night, Greg & Jen arrive at the scene to escort them to emergency housing.

That will likely end when the twins are born. Finishing their kitchen remodeling of a 1920's brick bungalow on S. Howell Avenue near Humboldt Park may also crimp Greg's model building time.

RAMS HORN, February, 2009, Russell Knetzger, Editor
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