

Pilot Profile: Shawn Thomas

by Russell Knetzger

Even though **Tim Thomas**, the father of Shawn Thomas, had little contact with Shawn after age 7 due to divorce, Shawn's memories of his father are what have drawn Shawn into modeling at this time. A definite memory of Shawn is watching his father in their basement workshop building models of boats and planes.

Shawn believes his father flew at the MARKS Club site on the sod farms of Wind Lake, and the photo below seems to verify that. Shawn might have ended up there as well, but living on 21st & College Avenue, the Milwaukee Co. field at 70th & Oakwood Road is more convenient. Furthermore, personnel at Greenfield News & Hobby store pointed him to our club at that field, as did fellow customers Rich Kegel and Duane Gagnon. Prior to the transition to a club and a certified field, Shawn had been doing some Park Model flying.



Above: Tim Thomas, father of Shawn Thomas, 30+ years ago, probably at the sod farm being used at the time by the Milwaukee Area Radio Kontrol Society (MARKS Club) as the club's flying site, as they still do today, though on a nearby field. Notice the great similarity of plane choice, son (upper right) compared to father, above. Tim died 12 years ago.



Above: Shawn Thomas with his 72 inch wingspan Hobby Star trainer from Hobbico. The engine is a .60 cubic inch OS Max 2 cycle engine, controlled by a DX7 Spektrum 2.4 GhZ 7 channel radio. Flown eight times as of photo shoot at the May, club meeting, its large size should prove an effective trainer.

Shawn gives great credit to **Rich Kegel** for the early help Rich extended. That included inviting Shawn over to Rich's basement work shop so the two could assemble the large scale R/C trainer that Shawn is pictured with, upper right. **Duane Gagnon** sometimes joined them, and now Duane is Shawn's test pilot and instructor.

Shawn works as a trained Laborer with Union Trades Local #113, for SCS of Wis., a demolition contractor of large buildings, the most famous being of former Milwaukee County Stadium. His 9 years prior work in asbestos removal earned him Wis. DNR certification in that field, which Shawn uses in his current 10 year tenure with SCS. Shawn lives with wife Kari and their three children, Kara 16, Kayla 14, and son Shawn, Jr., age 3.

RAMS Horn, June, 2010 Russell Knetzger, Editor
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