

# Pilot Profile: Tom Young

by Russell Knetzger

Tom Young is well known by sight to any of our pilots who attend the special events at our field where food is cooked, because in recent years, usually helped by his wife Pam, Tom is doing the cooking. That includes both helicopter and fixed wing events. Tom is about to become better known in another respect. A dedicated helicopter pilot, he is getting ready to try fixed wing. He will then be known on both flight lines.

Tom did not travel the usual boyhood route to model aviation. Now age 57, he has been a pilot for ten years. A motor cycle fan, he and wife Pam were cruising along Oakwood Road one afternoon, and pulled up to the heli area. "One look and I was hooked," he reveals. He bought his first 'copter from Steve Piteros at his former Great Lakes heli shop in Cudahy. At our field Tom joined the SWARM helicopter club. They taught him to fly. Since Great Lakes closed, Tom has patronized Greenfield News & Hobby.



**Above: Tom Young with his scale Apache T.O.W. Cobra, Hiroba kit, 5 ft. fuselage, OS.70 r.exit engine**

While Tom does not point to boyhood model building as his path to adult R/C model aviation, he does point to his West Allis high school education as a basic source for skills. At West Allis Central he took the various metal shops - machine, auto, and welding. Upon graduation in 1970 he took another year at MATC in the new "ECU" (Electronic Control Unit) now so dominant in car and truck engine control.

No surprise then that his work career has been in auto and truck repair, earning ASE status. His most famous tour was with Bud Selig Ford ('70s) as the Brewers baseball team moved to Milwaukee. Selig employees met Robin Yount. Tom has also worked for Penske Leasing; and now with family owned August Schmidt Company at S.110<sup>th</sup> & W. Mitchell. There he does everything from modifying chassis, to lift gates, front end work, customizing police vans, air conditioning, engine repair. Tom lives with Pam and daughter Holly at S. 72<sup>nd</sup> & W. Grant St. in the West Allis home he grew up in. His son, Tom, Jr., and daughter-in-law Kelly, live in Colorado.

**RAMS HORN**, July, 2010 Russell Knetzger, Editor  
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**Above: Tom Young and his used Hangar 9 Trainer plane, which he refurbished with Chuck Bucci's help. It is equipped with an Evolution .46 engine, and JR radio system. On it Tom hopes to master fixed wing flight.**