

Caught in the Searchlight: Dick Hultz



This will be a new feature in Flypaper. Each month, we will highlight a club member on a rotating basis. While we see each other at the field or at meetings, we may not know a lot about the other members, their personal background and their history in RC flying. Searchlight should help us get to know one another better.



In this first Searchlight, it seemed appropriate to start with long-time club member **Dick Hultz**. Dick was welcomed into the world in Crawfordsville, Indiana in 1942. Dick did not start flying RC planes until he was in his 20's, but he is a constant feature at the field and at our monthly meetings. Dick has been a member of the Lake County Radio Control Club for 32 years. Other members from the time he joined that are still in the club include **George Boukouzis, Steve Yeaton, Al Parcell, and Bob Grazier**. Dick has served as the club's Field Director, Treasurer, Vice President and most recently, its President off and on for the last 9 years.

At age 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served as a Naval Aviation hydraulics mechanic aboard the aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt in Attack Squadron 12 in the Mediterranean Fleet. Dick serviced the A4C Skyhawk jet. He was discharged in August, 1964 after 4 years of service. Upon his return to civilian life, Dick was employed as a machinist for Johnson Motors and OMC from 1964 until his retirement in 2000.



Dick was introduced to RC flying by his uncle. His first plane was a Pilot Tri-star with an .OS 010 engine. At the time he joined the LCRCC in 1982, he had a SIG Cougar, a SIG Cadet, and a Dubro Sportsmen 600 ARF. Dick's hanger currently includes 15 aircraft, 4 glow planes, 7 gassers, 2 jets and 2 helicopters. His current favorite plane is a 50CC Extra 260 by Aeroworks with an 85" wingspan. His two jets are both twin boom, one a Ripmax Excaliber with a Kingtech 100 turbine and a Falcon 120 with an 80 Kingtech turbine.

Among his most memorable flying experiences was losing his Goldberg Ultimate Bipe with a 120 engine in the trees to the north of field. A year later, it was found by a Forest Preserve police officer and returned to him. He discarded the servo's but was able to salvage the engine which had been buried in the ground. He cleaned it up and got it started and able to power another plane.

Dick counts his greatest experience as being president of the club and its highlight as successfully negotiating with the Lake County Forest Preserve District to build the current field and improvements. He is proud of the strong relationship the club has built with LCRCC.

Dick is a strong believer in interesting young people with RC flying, as illustrated in the photos from the most recent demonstration the club put on for a local Cub Scout pack. After 50 years of RC flying he has a wealth of experience and knowledge to share.