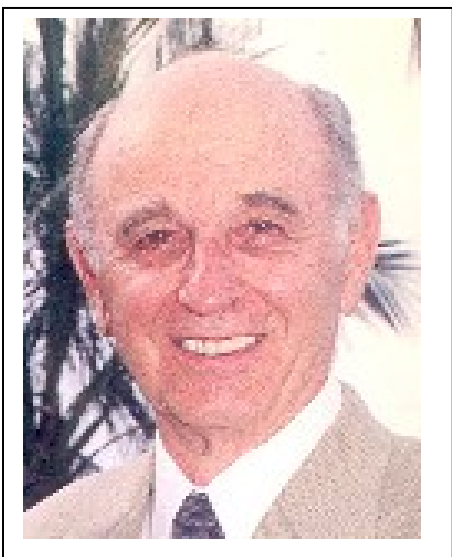


IN MEMORIAM OF EDWARD AVENA

1924 - 2007



Ed Avena of Waterford, CT died on Jan 5, 2007 due to a tragic accident. He was a master machinist, a master A & E still current at 83, a master model builder, a great teacher, and a friend to all who passed his way or asked for help. Ed was born on Jan 4, 1924 and we are certain he fell in love with Aviation the first day he saw an airplane.

Ed was a decorated war veteran assigned as a flight engineer in B-24 Liberators with the 446th Bomb Group, stationed in England. He flew 17 missions over Europe and was in the first air squadron to soar over the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

Ed was a charter member and former President of the RC Propbusters of Salem CT & was involved with the Club since its inception in 1937. During the late 50's Ed established the Shoreline Machine business, designed and fabricated the early Galloping Ghost and Kicking Duck model airplane control systems and developed the Gimble design used on the Kraft Proportional radio control transmitters. He was an industry leader working as a factory dealer for Phil Kraft, selling Kraft radio control systems, and helping to refine the mechanical design of radio control systems. He introduced model aviation in the local high schools and encouraged young and old alike to become interested in participating in the hobby, and always shared his passion and expertise for model aviation and flying with the community.

Beginning in the 40's he was heavily involved with the Air Scouts and was Eastern Connecticut Commander of the Civil Air Patrol in the 60's. He was always there to help whether it was fixing an aircraft, teaching a Cadet about safety, maintenance, or inspecting an aircraft. He designed and/or built anything a modeler asked for from custom retractable landing gears, to custom mufflers. He repaired the engines and planes flyers brought to him, and in his spare time taught many beginners to fly to the extent he had no time to fly his own aircraft for the pleasure of it. He would check out any model brought to him for safety and airworthiness and would make every effort to help make solo flights successfully. Most importantly, he always gave unselfishly of himself as a teacher, advisor, consultant and friend. He was well known for his knowledge, experience and skills among flyers in southeast New England and contacts across the nation.

During the past 50+ years Ed Avena ran Shoreline Crafts Hobby Shop as sole proprietor. He was involved with Phil Kraft, Henry Struck, Lou Andrews, Hal Dubolt and many other well-recognized leaders in the field with model aircraft design, fabrication, and engineering issues requiring a master machinist.

Ed designed and flew his own creations, which are exquisite works of craftsmanship. They are always state of the art and fly like birds on rails. It is interesting that the year he retired he had already soloed 10 newcomers to our hobby and had a waiting list, which would keep him busy for many years to come. Model aviation of all categories is growing and is alive and well in South Eastern New England because of Ed Avena.

Ed Avena, our Man for the age of flight, a mentor, a source of information and knowledge, and a friend. Ed will be sorely missed, but remembered for what he meant and gave to us.