
Biography of LARRY FOGEL

Modeler since before 1948

Birth Date: March 2, 1928

AMA Number: 45448

Written by GBF (1995)

Transcribed by NR (1/98)

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Career:

- Experimented with several launching systems including a launch of a sailplane from a hot air balloon near Miami, Fla. in 1980
- Was a founding member of the Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Controlled Soaring Society (TPG) in the late 1960's
- Served as President of TPG on two separate occasions, Vice-President and Secretary a number of times
- Larry founded the Torrey Pines Soaring Council (TPSC) in 1985, as an advisory board to the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department
- Was instrumental in convincing the San Diego City Historical Site Board that the Gliderport was historic and should be preserved for future flight activities
- Directed local Torrey Pines Gulls thermal and slope soaring contests in the early 1970s

in

the San Diego area

- The author of the RC Soaring column in Model Builder magazine from 1974 to 1980, writing monthly articles concerning model sailplanes in southern California and across America
- Contributed to local community awareness regarding model aviation

Honors:

- 1993 – awarded an honorary membership in the Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society, to acknowledge his continued commitment to the organization
- 1996 – AMA Fellows

This biography was taken from an application for the AMA Hall of Fame. The application was submitted by Mr. Gary Bryce Fogel. (No date given)

Competitor

Larry Fogel was a competitor in many Radio Controlled (RC) soaring contests from 1969 to 1993. He flew sailplanes in the Nationals (Nats) at Riverside, California in 1977 and Lake Charles, Louisiana in 1978. He competed in several early League of Silent Flight (L.S.F.) competitions in Visalia, Oakland and Camarillo, California and Framingham, Mississippi in the 1970s and early 1980s. Also, he competed in the S.O.A.R. contests at Jaquette, Illinois in the 1970s. He was awarded first place at a competition in Palm Springs in the mid-1970s for his 1/4 scale Kestral-17. He has competed in numerous contests in the southern California area over the last 24 years. Most recently, Larry was the winner of the vintage sailplane category in the First Annual Torrey Pines Radio Controlled Sailplane Championships and placed second in the modern category. Larry has obtained LSF Level 4.

Designer/Experimenter

Larry Fogel has experimented with several launching systems including a launch of a sailplane from a hot air balloon near Miami, Florida in 1980 and launching a RC sailplane from on top of a RC powered plane in the early 1970s. Larry was the first to fly a 1/4 -scale fiberglass RC sailplane from the cliffs at Torrey Pines in May of 1975. At the time, this was a significant advancement in the southern California area, using a 6-channel Kraft radio and a 15-foot wingspan, fiberglass sailplane originally designed in Australia by Ralph Learmont.

Leader

Larry Fogel was a founding member of the Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Controlled Soaring Society (TPG) in the late 1960s. He has served as president of that organization on two separate occasions, vice-president and secretary a number of times. In 1993, he was awarded an honorary membership to acknowledge his continued commitment to the organization. In 1990, Larry Fogel was the founder of a new soaring club, the Torrey Pines Scale Soaring Society (TPSSS), which flies scale sailplanes at the Torrey Pines Gliderport. He is currently serving that organization as club secretary. Larry has been a member of the League of Silent Flight (LSF) from its inception in the early 1970s. From 1975 to 1977, Larry was the second president of the National Soaring Society (NSS), serving after Rod Smith and before Stan Pfost. It was during this time that RC soaring was gaining substantial national attention.

Most importantly, Larry founded the Torrey Pines Soaring Council (TPSC) in 1985 as an advisory board to the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department. This forum was created to establish rules for the flight park and convey recommendations on site use and improvement directly from the users to the city of San Diego. The TPSC was instrumental in organizing the safety of flight operations at the site. Previous to the council, the airspace was crowded with hang gliders, RC sailplanes and full-scale sailplanes competing for the same air. The council allowed representatives from the different organizations to voice their concerns and work on compromises such that the airspace is now monitored and controlled by a single flight director and safety is a primary concern to all users. The City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department has incorporated the advice of the TPSC in its regulation of the gliderport. Larry Fogel has served on this council as president in 1985 and AMA representative for several years afterward. He has also represented the TPG and TPSS in this regard.

With the Torrey Pines Soaring Council, Larry Fogel helped obtain a National Soaring Landmark series #5 for the Torrey Pines Gliderport through the National Soaring Museum and Soaring Society of America located in Elmira, New York. With this dedication, the entire gliderport was recognized by the soaring community at large, including representatives from national hang glider, paraglider, full-scale sailplane and RC sailplane organizations. Mr. Geoffrey Styles represented the AMA at the dedication ceremonies in 1992. Larry Fogel was instrumental in convincing the San Diego City Historical Site Board that the Gliderport was indeed historic and that the site should be preserve for future flight activities. In August of 1992, the Site Board voted unanimously in favor of such a decision and a ceremony was held at the gliderport on March 21, 1993. Larry has continued his efforts to preserve all forms of motorless flight at the

site by presenting an application for State and National recognition of the site as a historical landmark. Such an action would not only ensure the continued use of RC sailplanes, but hang gliders, Paragliders, and full-scale sailplanes at this world-famous site.

Contest Director

Larry directed local Torrey Pines Gulls thermal and slope soaring contests in the early 1970s in the San Diego area.

Writer

Larry Fogel was author of the RC Soaring column in Model Builder magazine from approximately 1974 to 1980, writing monthly articles concerning model sailplanes in southern California and across America. He also wrote articles during the late 1970s and early 1980s concerning American RC soaring in Airborne magazine, an Australian magazine devoted to model aviation. Larry was editor of the soaring column of a German magazine on RC models during the early to mid 1980s.

Other Areas of Contribution

Larry has trained a large number of pilots how to fly RC sailplanes in the San Diego area. He contributed to local community awareness regarding model aviation by holding demonstration flights with RC sailplanes and local schools such as La Jolla Country Day School in the mid 1980s.

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