

## 2020 FAC Hall of Fame Nominations

### FRAN PTASZKIEWICZ

Francis "Fran" Ptaszkiewicz...now there's a name that just doesn't roll off your tongue, but does he ever have a "silver" one. But he has always been more than just a talker...he's been a 'doer' at the NATS for many, many years. You may recall that at the 2018 FAC Banquet he was awarded a one-of-a-kind life time service metal.

Along with volunteering at the big show, Fran wrote many articles for our newsletter about aircraft that he knew quite well...either by firsthand accounts or pains taking research. His writing style is second to none. But I think his writing skills developed after his story telling became an art form. He tells stories like an old Navy tar, but he was Army and some of those stories will keep you on the edge of your seat. For example, during the Cold War in the early 50's, Fran's fluent German got him assigned as an Interpreter / Interrogator. He would charm ex-Germens soldiers to hand over photos they had taken on their way to Russia during WW II. His team would then make maps aiding the U.S. with their strategic planning.

Fran didn't fly much at the NATS or Non-Nats, but because he was always there when you, a CD or the CinC needed an extra hand, another set of eyes, a go-fer, a timer, a ticket taker or an entertainer extraordinary...Fran was FAC all the way...and still is at heart at just 92 years young. —Sky Mayo

### GEORGE BREDEHOFT

George Bredehoff has been building and flying FAC models since the mid- 1980s. After a decade-long break in the 2000s, he came back to modeling and purchased Shorty's Basement and Superior Props, combining them into Volare Products. He retired from the Department of Defense after 35 civilian years as a Metrologist, Cataloger, and System Manager. He is currently serving the FAC as Keeper of the Kanones, Webmaster, and Board Member. Originally from Ohio, he was a dedicated member of the Cleveland Free Flight Society and after moving to Michigan he has been an equally avid member of the Cloudbusters. You can find him flying as often as possible at contests in Michigan and Muncie, with long distance trips to Geneseo and occasionally other far-flung destinations. He has been married to Patricia for 35 years and has two adult sons, Jackson and Tristan.—Bob Hodes

### TOM ARNOLD

I had just retired and saw a flyer for the FLYING ACES CLUB contest in Geneseo and decided to go. I noticed piles of airplanes in the back of a vehicle in town. I asked the owner about them and he quite literally stopped everything to accommodate me, showing me every airplane there while answering a host of rapid fire questions. His attitude was always patient, happy and knowledgeable, and has remained that way every time we get together since then. Tom invited me to spend the day with him that day and to assist/mechanic and have, as he put it, "some fun". This was the beginning of a lasting friendship. He is probably one of the best mentors a person could wish for as he is as patient as he is knowledgeable. Last year in Phoenix a young lady was learning how to mechanic with Tom and she inadvertently crushed the rear half of the airplane; she received the same smile, same gentle coaching and manner. He is an ambassador par excellence for this club that he believes in so passionately. We both spent an afternoon in Phoenix coaching 3-5 year olds how to fly jet cat gliders. They were squealing with delight the whole time.

In addition to all this, Tom runs (with the aid of his wonderful wife Karen) the WESTFAC competitions annually, doing organization, administration, and oversight, and has done so for numerous years, never asking for any recognition, nor accepting any praise. His multi discipline flying skills are given freely in a coaching session that one only has to ask for. I sincerely request you will

consider adding Tom Arnold's name to the distinguished list of fliers that comprises the FLYING ACES CLUB Hall of Fame. —Henry Toews

### BOB HODES

I would like to nominate Bob Hodes of Las Vegas, Nevada for the distinction of being a member of the Flying Aces Club Hall of Fame. I have known Bob for about 13 years now. We met during one of our contests in Texas and my first impression was of a soft-spoken polite man who builds very nice models. He has not changed that impression in the time that I have known him. Bob is one of those modelers you are glad to see because he is always helpful in all aspects of a contest whether timing flights, helping find a lost model, setting up the CD's area, recording times, or just plain picking up the trash. His models display attention to detail, craftsmanship, and raw talent. Bob will ask or answer questions about airplanes in a never ending journey to spread the knowledge of models. This is also why his models are very competitive. I have never seen Bob angry or dismissive of other people's efforts no matter how badly his day is going. He is a true gentleman in every sense.—Rich Adams

Bob has served with distinction in the Navy as aircrew on Constellations and other aircraft, as well as being a very popular consulting engineer on several classified projects. His models reflect a lifetime of experience, and achievement, yet he remains one of the most easy going, and approachable people I know. At every contest, while already serving on a couple of executive boards, he is always there to assist in any fashion, from setting up timers tables, to staying around to assist in cleanup, after almost everyone has already left. Additionally, he is one of the first to assist a new flier with patient, well reasoned guidance. I cannot imagine a more worthwhile candidate for the Hall of Fame. —Henry Toews

### DAVE MITCHELL

Dave has done a yeoman's work of leading the FAC for the past several years. This has included the running of the Nats and Non-Nats, time consuming and challenging organizational efforts that have done very well. His service to the FAC as CinC would alone support his nomination.

However, there is more. Dave has been the editor of the nationally known MaxFax for several years. During that time he has designed and published several new plans for scale aircraft.

He has provided new information on the building and flying of scale models. His editorship has emphasized the comradery of the FAC. I have had the privilege of flying with Dave both at contests and fun flying at local venues. He is always enthusiastic about the FAC. When we used to fly at the National Building Museum, often the first thing he would say to observers is "this is the greatest hobby in the world". Finally, Dave's skills as a builder and flier are nationally recognized. His WACO QDC was put forth as a Model of the Year by the National Free Flight Society. I urge my fellow fliers to throw their support to Dave for the Hall of Fame.

—Wally Farrell

**You may vote for two nominees. Voting deadline has been extended to December 15, 2020. Please send your votes to:**

**Don Deloach**  
831 E. Williamette St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-2804  
e-mail: [ddeloach@comcast.net](mailto:ddeloach@comcast.net)