



DEPARTURE

by Thayer Syme

The world's largest model airplane kit

The thrill of seeing new products at a trade show is always compelling, but for me, the real excitement is meeting and visiting with the people who have followed their dreams to bring these new products to market. The exciting breadth of our hobby would not exist without the shoulders of these few to carry us forward beyond the boundaries of the everyday. I had the good fortune to spend a little time with Dany Recine, founder and owner of Team Genesis, at both the WRAM and Toledo shows this year. His current baby is the largest production RC kit in the world, a 40% Waco YMF-5.

THE EARLY DAYS

Like many "Lifers," Dany got an early start in the hobby. He designed and built his first Free Flight glider when only seven. Dany relied on his instincts, shaped by a few kits he had built. He discovered that four Popsicle sticks in the nose of the finished model provided just the right balance, and his first effort flew, and flew well!

Growing up in Quebec, he did not speak, read or write English. His thirst for aeronautical knowledge brought him his second language, learned as he poured over American modeling magazines. He began his RC career at 10. He built his first trainer using plans from a magazine projected onto a wall at school and then traced. The initial outlay for a radio was a huge roadblock. After a few summers pushing a lawn mower, he had finally cut enough grass to buy his first radio, and he learned to fly at the age of 13.

BUILDING A BUSINESS

Dany began his manufacturing career in his early 20s, and spent a cold Canadian winter actually living in his workshop. Quitting was out of the question as he knew this was his life's calling. The struggle would involve many tough lessons. First and foremost was the realization that designing and building models is a job, and needs to be treated as such. Another formative lesson was to make what customers were willing to buy, not what he wanted. Dany struggled for several years before figuring this out. His first product after this epiphany was his 33% Waco.



Dany and his ever-understanding wife Nadia give a good impression of what 40% really means with a large prototype. The Waco spans 142 inches.



Left: The 5-cylinder RCS/Moki-400 radial engine seems purpose-designed for this show stopper, pumping out 23 horsepower while spinning a 40-inch prop.

Why a Waco? Let's face it; everyone dreams of the Golden Age of aviation, and the Waco was arguably the ultimate sports plane for air-minded men and women of means in the 1930's. Seventy years later, modelers still love Wacos, but few have the time or skill to scratch build such a large project. Dany's challenge was to create a kit suitable for a builder who wants something that stands out from the ARF flight line, but doesn't have endless hours for such a project. Scale kit design and construction techniques were pretty fixed for the last few decades, so an evolutionary change was inevitable in order to succeed.

SUCCESS

With very positive feedback, the idea of making the

world's largest kit started to germinate. The beauty of the new Genesis 40% Waco lies in its simplicity, and the way materials and modern technologies are applied. This exceptionally well-designed kit can be built as quickly as many smaller projects. Full-scale hardware, user-friendly manuals and DVDs all reduce time in the workshop while providing a glorious result.

Making such a project simple requires a tremendous amount of design effort. Many present designs are compromises, with the builder inevitably left to fill in some blanks to save design and production time. Not so with the Genesis Waco. After pouring over the framed up model seen here, I have come to realize that despite its size, this is one of the most thoroughly designed models I have ever seen; something most builders could frame up in well under 100 hours. It is impressive, and should find a ready market for those individuals with the means and motivation to take on such a project. Those who do will be justly rewarded with a one-of-a-kind aircraft that promises to be one of the most graceful, predictable and easy-to-fly models around. ☺

Links

RCS Engines, www.rcshowcase.com, (301) 374-2197

Team Genesis, www.genesis-rc.com, (450) 454-4597

For more information, please see our source guide on pg. 177.