

GERALD FINGLER 7372L

- Gerald's first interest in model aircraft started in the early 1950's at the age of 11 years old. He had an older cousin that built model aircraft and this sparked his interest.
- He started and completed the building of a number of stick and tissue models from Comet, Modelcraft and Cleveland kits.
- At 13 years old Gerry received a Berkley L-19 model kit and an Atwood Wasp .040 engine for Christmas from his parents. He still has the Wasp engine.
- In his early teens Gerry started to build control line aircraft from kits and also started to build from scratch. He built and flew stunt, scale and sport control line models.
- In the late 1950's Gerry's future wife, Anita, had a boss by the name of Rod McRae who was a model builder. Rod convinced Gerry to join the Model Aircraft League of Manitoba. (M.A.L.M.) Gerry flew control line for a few years at the club and competed in local and U.S. contests. Gerry was the M.A.L.M. control line Grand Champion in 1962.
- At this time interest in radio control was really starting to climb so in 1963, five modellers, Keith Humphrey, Rod McRae, John Bonnet SR., Warren Barker and Gerry founded the Winnipeg Radio Control Club (W.R.C.C.). Gerry is the only surviving founding member.
- Gerry has served on the W.R.C.C. executive in all positions numerous times over the years and is the only person that has been an active member of the W.R.C.C. since its formation.
- Gerry was contest director for the W.R.C.C. Annual 3 day Labour Day contest on multiple occasions.
- Gerry was the W.R.C.C. scale contest director for over 20 years and organized and ran many contests and scale rallies including 12 U.S. Scale Masters regional qualifying events.
- Gerry has sat on all W.R.C.C. field acquisition committees and on all major field improvement committees.
- Gerry has volunteered as the auctioneer for the W.R.C.C. auction for decades.
- In 1970 Gerry designed a ME-110 twin that Bob Holman Plan Services marketed and sold.
- In 1972 Gerry opened Cellar Dweller Hobby Supply. They are in their 49th year of business.
- Also in 1972, Gerry organized the first Radio Control Hobby Trade Show in Manitoba with major manufacturers attending including Bud Nosen of Bud Nosien Models and Bill Elliot, owner of E.K. Logitrol Radios, a leading radio manufacturer at that time.

- Gerry was part of the organizing/hosting committee for the 1978 Canadian Nationals hosted by the W.R.C.C. in Netley, Manitoba and was the pattern director for the event.
- Organized the W.R.C.C. 25th Anniversary fun fly and banquet as well as the W.R.C.C. 50th Anniversary fun fly and club history display.
- Gerry is a 3 time Canadian Nationals precision scale champion.
- He has competed in 2 world precision scale championships. In 1974 at Lakehurst, New Jersey, where he finished 2nd in the world in static judging with his scratch designed and built Shinn 2150A. He was the first modeller in the world to even compete with an all metal covered aircraft. Then in Ottawa in 1980 with his scratch designed and built L-19 Bird Dog where the Canadian team placed third.
- Gerry has competed at 10 U.S. Scale Masters Championships from 1985 - 2000 with 6 different aircraft. In 1991 he won the Pilots Choice Award for best aircraft with his Scratch designed and built OV-10 Bronco.
- In 1977 Gerry was one of only 20 R/C pilots worldwide to be invited to compete at the Circus Circus Hotel Scale Tournament of Champions in Las Vegas where he finished 4th.
- In 1989 Gerry was invited to compete at the 1st Top Gun Invitational Tournament. He was the only Canadian invited to compete in the 1st event. He was invited numerous times in subsequent years but was unable to attend.
- Gerry has been featured in numerous international modeling books and publications including being asked by Model Airplane News magazine and Dave Platt to do a full field and bench review for the magazine for the new Dave Platt ME-109 kit.
- Gerry was asked and hired by the production company producing the movie "The Arrow", starring Dan Aykroyd, to be part of the special effects and technical team for the models used in the movie. Gerry helped maintain the models flight worthiness, scale appearance and advised on technical matters. The production company, including Gerry, won a Gemini Award for best visual effects for their work on the movie.
- Gerry has spent most of his life supporting the W.R.C.C., MAAC, and the aeromodelling community in its endeavors as a member, a donator, a teacher and mentor, a hobby shop owner, a promoter and a competitor to further and enjoy his love of aero modelling!