

## Bill Tucker by Ron Rabie

My friend, Bill Tucker, passed away a few years ago. He was a long time model aircraft enthusiast. When I was a kid, early 60s, I would follow Bill around to the local flying site, our Grade School playground at the Zillah, Washington Elementary school, and help launch his Control Line models. As I got a bit older, I started going to local contests with Bill where he flew CL Combat, CL Stunt and CL Rat Racers. I got to "pit" his Rat Racers with a glove with electrical contacts and a squirt bottle of fuel and a battery in my pocket. Lots of fun for a kid in love with airplanes. The best story of Bill in Combat Contests revolves around the ever present cigar he smoked, chewed and ate. I accused him of winning by fumigating his competition. He was a former Marine and a really good guy. He got into RC and left CL behind. I just built a Riley Wooton Voodoo from an 8.5 by 11 inch plan sheet I scaled up with my pressurized Fox 35 BB up front. Bill is smiling I'm sure.

Bill was a wonderful guy. I saw him about 20 years ago and he asked if I was flying at all. I said no. He looked me hard in the eye and said, "Son, life is passing you by." I promptly went home, built a P51 CL Stunt and have been flying ever since. I can't go out with a plane without thinking about him. The contests he flew that I participated in were Washington State matches mostly in the Seattle area. He was driving a 1959 Ford at the time so must have been in the early to mid 60s. We drove 3 hours each way and flew all day. I am soon to turn 70 so it's been awhile and I hope my memories are accurate. Thanks for the chance to remind people about folks like Bill. He was a huge fan of flying, designing and building model aircraft. A craftsman in every sense and an outstanding pilot.



Ron's Voodoo

Editor's Note: Ron currently lives in St Johns AZ. Retired Theoretical Physicist from Los Alamos.