

Riley Wooten

The "Legend", throughout the first two decades of our event no one was more identifiable with control line combat than Riley. He was born in 1934 and started modeling in 1941, however, he didn't enter his first contest until 1954. He made his first trip to the Nationals in 1956. The Nats were in Dallas, Texas that year. Riley flew Stunt as well as Combat and finished fifth in stunt, quite an accomplishment for his first Nats. Combat you ask? Riley was the 1956 National Champion in control line combat. He flew his "Quicker" design which was a combat specific design and most believe the best design of that era. The model was subsequently kitted, that same year, by California Model Company following Riley's success at the Nats.

Riley was the National Combat Champ for the second time in 1959. That year the Nats were held in Los Alamitos, California. Riley flew his legendary "Voodoo" design in the early rounds. When that airplane was damaged he finished the competition with an airplane called the "Whatzit". The Voodoo was kitted by Carl Goldberg. It sold like hot cakes. In the early sixties it was far and away the most popular combat design. The Whatzit was kitted by Cleveland Model Company during roughly this same time frame. In 1962 Riley was National Combat Champ yet again. This time he used an airplane called the "Sneaker". The following year he opened Flite Line Products producing control line kits. One of the first kits produced was the "Sneaker". During this timeframe Riley also experimented with cutting foam wings from expanded polystyrene. His company produced a foam wing design combat ship starting in 1964. This foam winged ship was called the "Vampire". This was a first and started the foam wing revolution in combat design as well as in other facets of our hobby. By the way Riley's foamed wing designs were used by the National Champion in 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968. In those final three years Riley was the man at the control handle winning his fourth, fifth and sixth national championship.

Throughout the fifties and sixties many of Riley's designs were published in Flying Models and Model Airplane News. The Pirate, Quicker, Guided Missile, Voodoo, Whatzit and the Demon to name just a few.

Riley retired from competition following the 1968 season.

He was elected to the Model Aviation Hall of Fame in 2002.

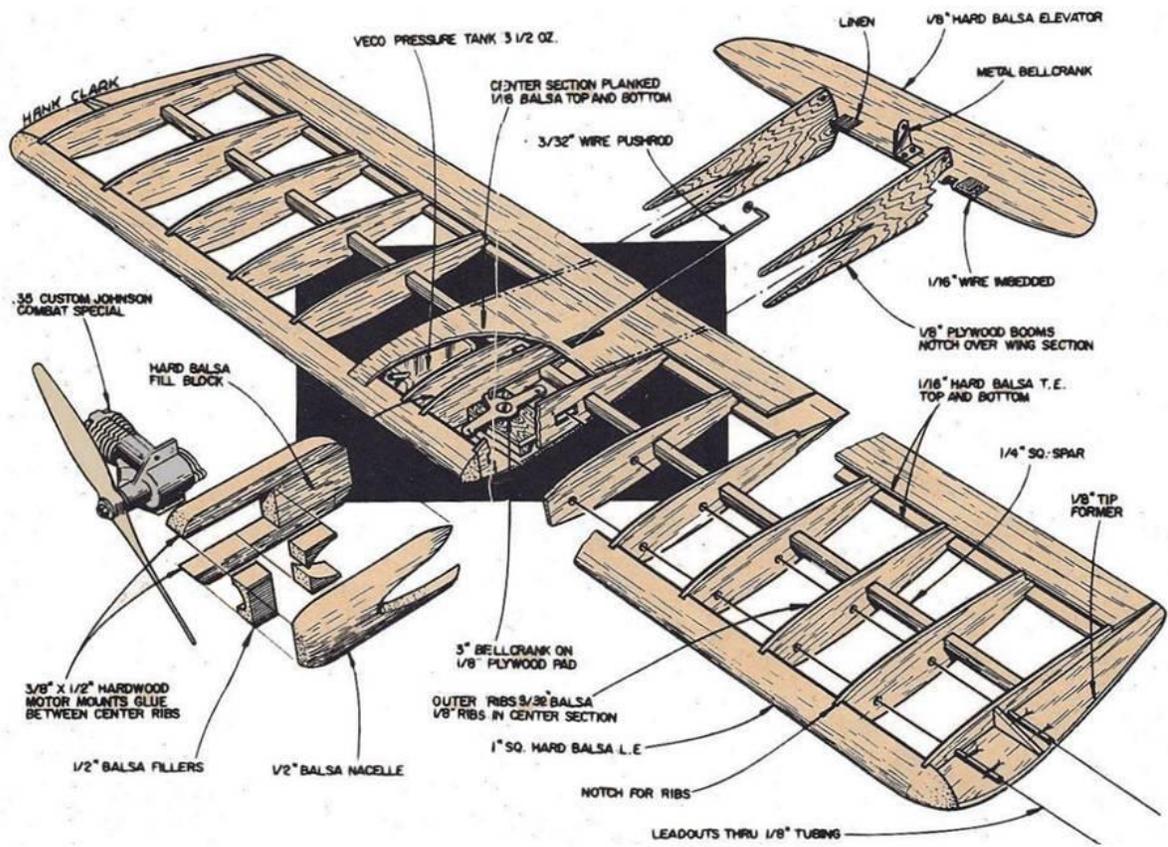
sources:

Ken Burdick's interview with Riley Wooten (Flying Lines website)

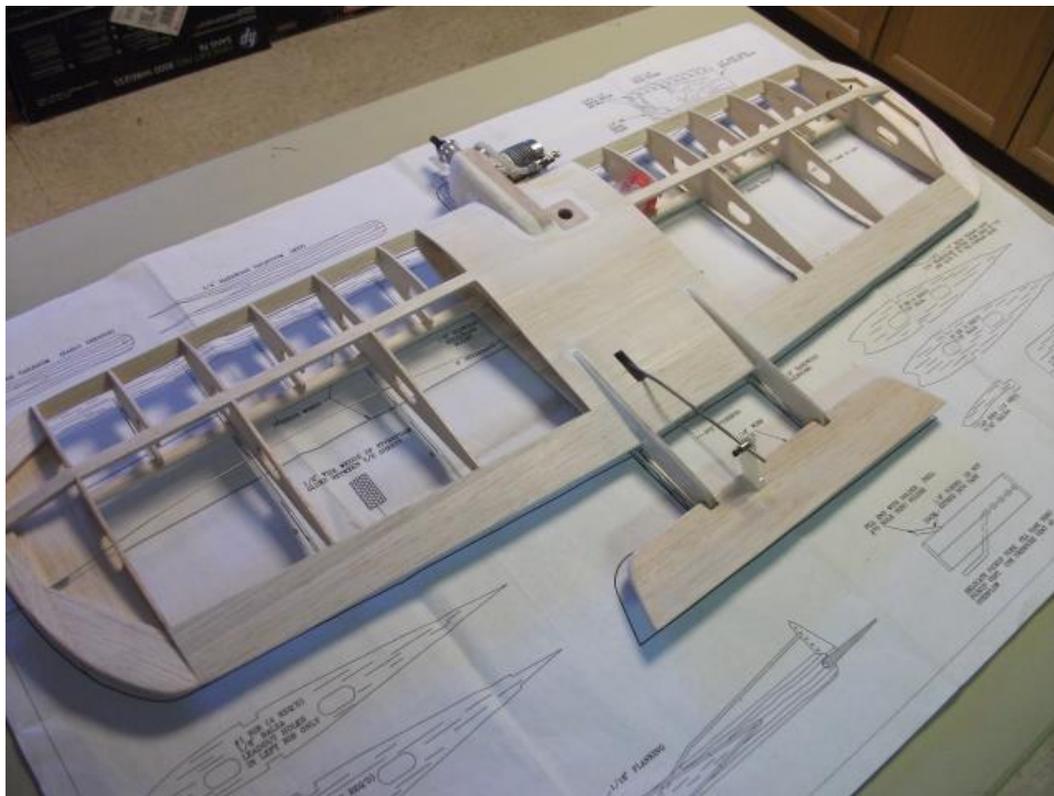
Riley's autobiography (AMA website)



Riley with his "Quicker"

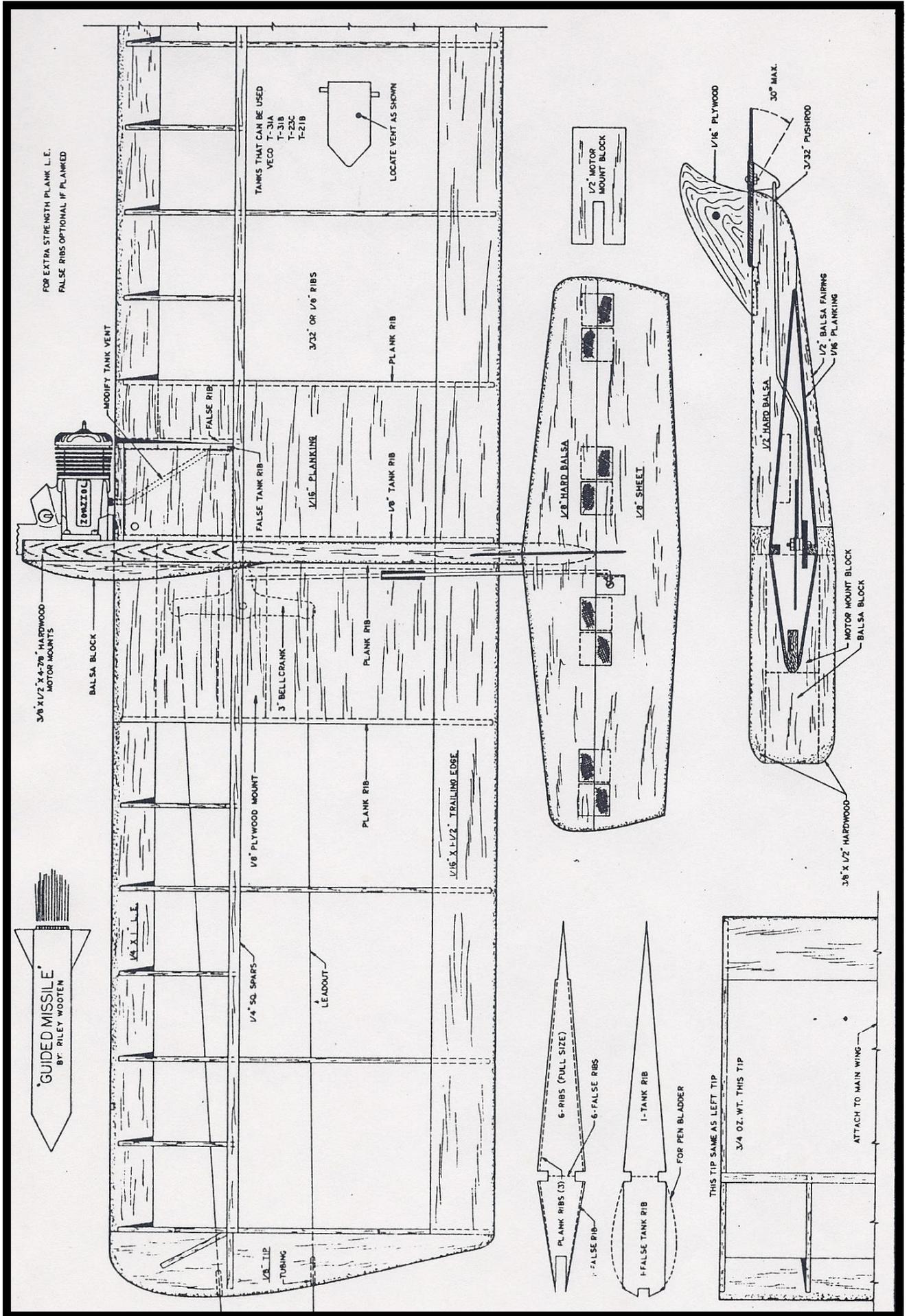


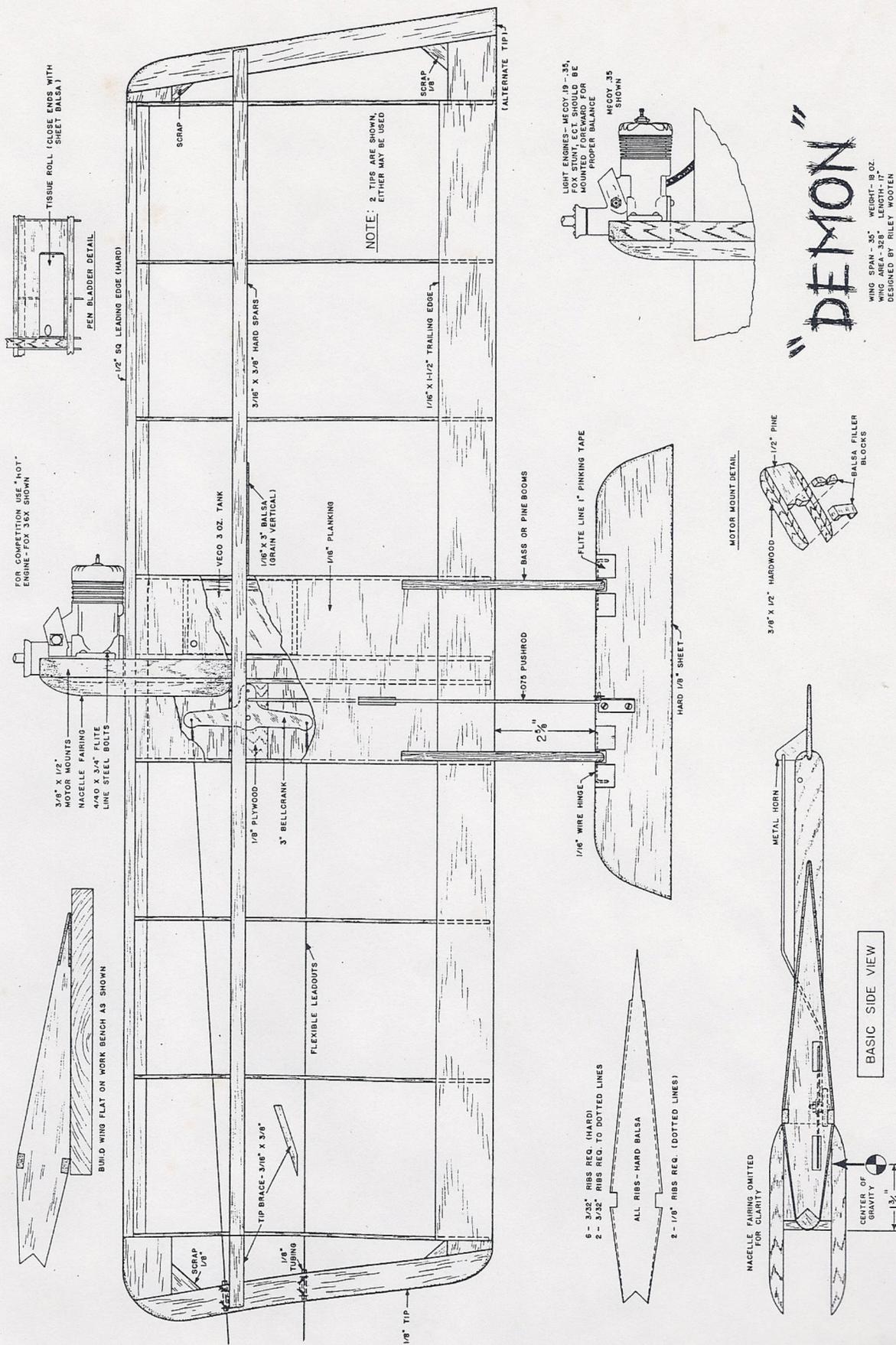
Riley Wooten's Voodoo – Circa 1960



Riley's Sneaker design bare bones built from Barry Baxter plans

Riley's Guided Missile-1959





**Riley's Voodoo-photo taken at the 2012 Combat Graffiti Event
I believe this airplane belongs to Mel Lyne**



**Recent addition to the Mears Combat Museum
Riley's Demon design kitted by his own company - Flite Line Products**



Riley's Vampire kitted by his company-Flite Line Products
The display in the bottom photo is from Bob Mears Combat Museum

