

Richard Verano AMA Hall of Fame Nomination

In Richard Verano's model aviation career he has accomplished the following outstanding results:

- Total of 16 US Nationals titles in RC pylon.

From 1993 to 2009 Richard represented the United States in various FAI F3D World Championships.

- 1993 FAI World Championship in Austria, 1st place individual, 1st in team, and a world record 67.2 seconds
- 1995 FAI World Championship in Muncie 2nd place individual, 2nd in team, and a world record 66.00 seconds
- 1997 FAI World Championship in Czech Republic, a world record of 64.9 seconds
- 1999 FAI World Championship in Sweden 1st in team, 3rd place individual, and a world record of 59.3 seconds -- first to record a sub minute time in F3D Pylon.
- 2003 FAI World Championship in Czech Republic, 2nd place individual, and 2nd in team
- 2005 FAI World Championship in France 4th place individual, and 9th in team
- 2009 FAI World Championship in Germany 2nd place individual and 1st in team

These international results illustrate Richard's unbelievable record in competition.

Richard enjoys the competition side of the R/C hobby. His first contest was the US Nationals held in Riverside, California in 1977. He flew novice pattern and placed a respectable 19th out of approximately 60 entries. In 1983, he entered Masters class pattern (top class back then) at the US Nationals in Chicopee, Massachusetts. Again, he placed 19th out of approximately 60 entries. In 1987 Richard started pylon racing. First he flew Formula 1, F3D, and later Q-40 and Q-500. Richard won his first National event in 1989, by taking first place in both Formula 1 and Q500 that year. From 1989 to 1998, 1990 was the only year that he did not win a national event. The biggest achievement was in 1997 when he won all four pylon events at the US Nationals. In 1998, he almost swept the pylon Nationals again, winning 2 of the 3 classes he entered.

Richard has been employed in the hobby industries his entire life. In 1975, he started working for his great friend and Hall of Fame member, Joe Bridi. Bridi Hobby Enterprise was bought out by Great Planes in the late 70's, and he ended up working for another kit manufacturer called Craft Air. In 1984, Craft Air was bought out by Mark Smith Industries, and Richard moved on and began working for another R/C company, Airtronics. In 1986, he was hired by Futaba Corporation as a quality control manager in the R/C department. In 1988, Futaba began importing the YS engine line, and Richard

transferred from Futaba QC department to the YS category. In January 2000, Great Planes obtained the rights of importing the Futaba radio line and left the YS line of engines open for other importers. Since he's had a long relationship with the Yamada family (YS engines), Richard was selected to import their engines.

Richard was born on September 9, 1958 in Angeles City, Philippines. His father was serving in the US Army at that time so he was born as a naturalized US citizen. After 23 years of service in the military, his father retired in 1969; in 1971 the family migrated to the United States. They ended up living in Carson, California where there was a large R/C club, called the BIRDS R/C club. He joined the club in 1974 and soloed the same year with a Bridi Trainer 60. Joe Zingali of Zinger Propellers was responsible for teaching him how to fly.

Richard is now busy promoting another form of pylon event called Warbird racing. With the help of a couple of key individuals, Warbird racing was run as a National event beginning in 2016. This event is very popular on the West Coast, attracting almost 50 entries per contest. YS Engines has sponsored a two-day race every September since 2013, averaging around 65 entries each year. Richard believed Warbird racing had the potential to be a large event after the 2016 US Nationals. In addition to supporting pylon racing Richard also helps many Pattern and Helicopter pilots.

Endorsements:

Bob Brown: former AMA President and AMA Hall of Fame member, former FAI Pylon Subcommittee Chairman

“Richard Verano and I have been long time friends. His competition record illustrates his extreme skills. More important, he is also an extremely fine gentleman that has globally represented aeromodelling in an extremely positive manner.”

Dennis O'Brien: NMPRA Hall of Fame member, National Champion

“I was always impressed with Richard's flying skills; I always stopped to watch him perform during a race. I was lucky enough to have called for him during one of the FAI qualifying sessions years ago and got a firsthand look at his racing prowess. I was amazed. Only a few have this skill level in pylon racing; in addition to this, he remains cordial, friendly, and willing to give advice and help when asked. Additionally, Richard is a super dedicated modeler, who, on many occasions, has represented the USA and the racing fraternity both at home and internationally with the tenacity and poise of a true champion, surely a great and deserving candidate for the AMA Hall of Fame.”

Dub Jett: AMA and NMPRA Hall of Fame member, World Champion and National Champion.

“At the team trials in 1991, Richard had some bad luck. He crashed a plane and folded a wing. He was definitely the #1 seed. Had he qualified, I would not have been world champion, I am sure. He was that good. The next year, he was not to be denied. No one was even close.”

Dan Kane, Jr.: Former NMPRA president, US F3D Team Manager & US F5D Pilot.

“As a kid, I was bitten by the pylon bug early, and for my entire modeling life pylon racing has been part of it. I have seen some of the best pilots compete, and Richard is by far one of the very best in the short list that stands above all others. Richard was a member of the Samurai Racing Team that dominated pylon racing. And there were two groups of people racing back then: 1, those that wanted to beat the Samurai team, and 2, those that wanted to be like the Samurai team. I crossed over into both categories. I always wanted to beat a Samurai pilot, but I was always secretly wishing I could be as good as them. Richard has always been available to talk and holds no secrets. His accomplishments in pylon racing speak for themselves. It doesn't matter that he is a World or National Champion, he is available for everyone. He shares everything he knows and is always willing to help.”

Steve Helms: Modeler and Industry Professional, F3A US Team Member ('81, '83 & '87)

“I have known Richard since the early 1980's as we met at trade shows as well as at the flying field competing in pattern. I was hired by Futaba Corporation of America in 1985 as Marketing Manager and realized that Richard would be a good asset to Futaba Corporation of America so I was able to hire him in 1986. Within a couple years after hiring Richard; Futaba Corporation of America became the YS Engine importer for North and South America and Richard took over the YS Engine product line as well as Hatori. Richard was very successful as he built the YS Engine into the engine of choice by 90% of the pattern pilots. He worked in this position until Futaba Corporation of America gave the exclusive rights to Hobbico in 2000. Richard is an incredible modeler and competitor it was evident even at a young age. He has competed across many different disciplines of modeling. His current business supports sport modelers as well as those involved with high level of competitions.”

December issue 1997, pg 29



Richard "The Sheriff" Verano (L) and caller Dave Shadel. Richard dominated all Racing events at the 1997 Nats.

December issue 1996, pg 93



F3D: Richard Van Baren, Dave Shadel, Richard Verano (L-R front); caller Jim Shinohara, Roy Andrassy, Hensen Bartle, caller Henry Bartle (L-R rear).



Formula I: Richard Van Baren, Dave Shadel, Mike Helsel (L-R front); Matthew Van Baren, Gary Freeman, Travis Flynn, caller Jim Shinohara, Richard Verano (L-R rear).





current record holder in Form I with a blistering 1:03.16 set at El Monte, March of last year. This is almost a full two seconds faster than the rec

