

FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

NOMINATION FORM

FAI AEROMODELLING GOLD MEDAL

(for outstanding merit in organisational activities)

From NAeC : **Academy of Model Aeronautics** _____

Date : November 8,2002

Address : 5161 E Memorial Dr _____

Country : USA

Muncie, IN 47302 _____

(only one person from a country may be nominated annually by that candidate's National Aero Club)

Name of Nominee : **Frank Zaic**

Address : 22 Ave 88 Zona 15

Vista Hermosa 1 – Guatemala City

Guatemala

Requirements - one who has been either :

1. ☐ at least twice Competition Director or similar function at WC or European Championships :
dates : _____
locations : _____
2. ☐ at least 3 times FAI jury member at WC or European Championships :
dates : _____
locations : _____
3. ☐ at least 5 times judge or similar function at World or Continental Championships :
dates : _____ locations : _____
4. ☐ at least 3 years NAC delegate to FAI Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM) or another function within CIAM :
dates : _____
5. **XXX** shown outstanding merits in developing aeromodelling by organisational activities :
description : (please print)

See attached _____

NAeC Signature _____

(President or Secretary General of nominating FAI National Aero Club)
(must be submitted to the FAI Office by November 15)

FRANK ZAIC AMA PIONEER AND CO-FOUNDER

Frank Zaic was already famous among Free Flight model airplane enthusiasts long before the concept of forming an AMA came into being. He was famous both in America and in Europe. He founded a JASCO company. Junior Aeronautical Supplies Company, offering products and pieces for Indoor and Outdoor modelers, to build their own airplanes. In addition, publishing "Junior Aeronautics Year Books" beginning in 1934. His yearbooks explained slow flight aerodynamics and contained many 3-view plans.

The National Aeronautic Association, NAA, was hosting a "Nationals" each year and keeping records. Weary of the core, it began encouraging the modelers to run their own business at "Nats" time. Concerned FF flyers thus began considering forming an independent organization with self-government and keeping their own records at each Nats. A Junior Chapter of NAA, Bill Enyart, NAA's Secretary of contest committees, listened to Lt. H. W. Alden and Frank Zaic in this venture. No thought was given to breaking away from NAA, rather working closely with it.

Modelers at the 1934 Nats, Zaic handed out the first issue of "Model Aviation" magazine as Editor and Publisher. A 16 page jewel containing, among other things, a STATEMENT OF PURPOSE of the proposed new American Academy of Model Aeronautics. It was a big hit among the flyers. New Officers were named for the AAMA. These included: President, Willis Brown; Secretary/Treasurer, Lt. Alden; 3 VP's; 7 Executive Committee person including Frank Zaic, 11 Advisory Board Members (inc. Jimmy Doolittle and Bill Stout and others): and 31 persons on the new Council.

Two months later, Zaic and Alden hammered out a second issue of the small "Model Aviation" magazine, containing all of the new officers of AAMA, also all the winners of the '36 Nats. No 3rd edition of Model Aviation, Alden had become seriously ill and was hospitalized for stress and other things. AAMA President Brown called an emergency meeting with Zaic and VP Walen. They agreed the magazine would continue with Al Lewis mimeographing future issues.

NAA, under Enyart, invited the new officers and organizers of AAMA to a meeting in new York to re-form under the NAA Chapter Plan and become a Division of NAA. There was no money in the AAMA treasury, so the officials had to pay their own way to the meeting. Six showed up. Enyart offered a 13-point draft agreement, which was carefully gone over, with modifications and changes. Then AAMA President Brown signed; along with VP Walen; Zaic, representing the Executive Committee, Percy Pierce, Charlie Grant, and Frank Tlush, representing AAMA's membership also signed. Then Enyart signed for NAA. Thus was the American Academy of Model Aeronautics born as an NAA Division. The arrangement worked well. The 1937 Nats ran okay. Later the name of the new group was shortened to the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

Frank Zaic's contributions and enormous influence to the embryo AAMA cannot be over emphasized. He and Alden hatched out the Model Aviation magazine. He and Alden named the new organization. It is fair to say he led his wide following modelers into a new venture in model airplane history. A true pioneer.