

## Model building school as the key to success

**Why the Czech Raketomodelářský Klub Krupka (RMK) has so many European and World Champions – including in the junior class.**

Hans Langenhagen

První soutěž 1972



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### 50 years anniversary

The club is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022 and members can look back on a successful half century of rocket model sports. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia separated into two countries, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Factories closed and people had to reorientate themselves in a

labour market that was only slowly re-emerging. Many clubs did not survive this process.

### Thanks to the perseverance of the club management

That members of the Krupka club remained faithful to their sport was due to the perseverance of the club leadership, they recognised

not just the possibility, but the actual necessity of offering model making opportunities to children and youngsters as a meaningful recreational pursuit. Many social issues in families could be mitigated by children becoming members of the club. RMK Krupka deserves great credit for this.

But how to find potential members? G. Berkeley's saying can be applied here: "To be is to be perceived". In addition to known methods such as advertising



on the club website, club presence at exhibitions and announcing events in the daily press, contact with schools is still the best approach. Around the turn of the century, the RMK therefore introduced a "model building school" for children in primary grades 1 to 5 in Krupka along with children of employees of businesses located in Krupka, Usti and Teplice as well as children from childrens' homes in the area.

## Different Offers

Depending on their age, children are offered the opportunity to build from Styrofoam and Balsa, and are given demonstrations of small rockets. Following on from that, 9 to 11 years olds are provided with information about model building materials and, with the help of club supervisors,



build later a first rocket. Children also learn about the history of cosmonautics. They try out their models in the club's garden and are delighted when, after some practice, they can achieve extended gliding flights and successful landings. Everyone leaves content and some will find their way back as members of the RMK. Of these, only some will be interested enough to take things further and can be guided towards major accomplishments under the supervision of Bedrich Pavka.

Around 500 children take part in the model building school annually. Several RMK members who are junior World and European champions also took part in the model building school. They can look back on 16 World Championship titles and 20 European Championship titles.



## We look back

Reflection on the 50 years also shows a significant social component, not just in the fact that the adults from back are now older but are still happy to be around after 50 years of the club's existence.





*Kateřina Vaníková - 2x mistryně světa*



*Martin Pavka - 5x mistr světa*

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## Successful Careers

It is also a great pleasure to hear of the successful careers of those who were children back then. Some of the girls studied medicine (one of them is a doctor with the air ambulance) and the boys have become mechanical or electrical engineers or tradesmen.

None of them are without work. And none of them will neglect to bring their own children to the anniversary event and thus show them how much pleasure can be gained from taking part in aeromodelling and model rocket flying in a community.

