

John Hunton's remembrances of Tom Chipley

Tom Chipley was a very funny guy. He was funny in his sense of humor and in the joy of it expressed in his approach to model airplane designs, (Giant Mud Duck) and in his approach to life. He was great fun to be around.

I came to know Tom well while working in the Warrenton area. He had a small office in downtown Warrenton. On many occasions some of us, always Kirby Nelson when he was not flying for the airlines, would gather at Tom's office then we would go to lunch. Those lunch sessions featured wonderful discussions about model aviation and about life in general.

Tom became a legend in the model aviation world by doing "center folds" for the Model Aviation magazine for many years. He also designed and sold kits of his superb Giant Mud Duck airplane designs. The Mud Duck models were built quickly from Foam Core materials, not the usual tedious balsa sticks.

When Tom lost his wife, he had to give up his small office and started focusing on his artwork. In later life, his sister Carter gave Tom some necessary support until his untimely death.

Tom Chipley will be remembered by most for his work in model aviation, but he will be remembered by his close friends as a warm, friendly and funny guy.

John Hunton