

Navy Instructor's Hobby Flies High in Classroom

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Chief Aerographer's Mate N. H. Likes checks over his radio-controlled model airplane before using it to teach a theory of flight class.

LAKEHURST – An instructor at the Naval Air Technical Training Center's aerographer's mate school brought his hobby into the classroom, and may have set a first in Navy schooling.

By using a radio-controlled model airplane to explain the theory of flight to a class, Chief Aerographer's Mate N. H. Likes was trying to get away from dull textbooks. Each student got an opportunity to work the controls to see what response the plane had to different maneuvers. Chief Likes said this gave them experience they could only have obtained in actual flight.

The novel lesson came about when the chief was assigned to teach courses in the theory of flight. He noted some students were finding the subject matter hard to grasp. After teaching a few times using an old format, the chief brought in some movies in an attempt to improve the lesson and the students' comprehension. But they didn't have the desired result.

Chief Likes is happy with the way the students have reacted to use of the model. He says he now has 100 per cent participation, compared to only 20 or 30 per cent with the old methods and materials. He predicts a bright future for model planes in the classroom. For a small cost, he says, any aviation school can acquaint students with the theory of flight, long before they ever go near an aircraft.

Submitted by LCDR Dennis Ruth, USN (Ret.)