

## Doug McWha Remembered

June 15, 1935 - October 6, 2023 Doug was 88



Doug and his Easy Sport



Indoor Ember



Electric helicopter

Doug was a ERCA member starting in 1999. When the club got the field we are currently using (off Alvadore Road) he took over the tasks of mowing and watering.

In 2015, he turned over those tasks to Jim Corbett. He continued to assist with the watering until 2022.

For the past several years most of Doug's flying was indoors.

## Remembrances

Most of us remember Doug's old East Sport that he built from a kit and called "Ol' Yeller". He flew that plane every weekend and on the weekdays for many, many years. He crashed it attempting to do a limbo under a ribbon (I have video of it). Several club members helped him zip tie it back together that day. Glue wouldn't stick to it because the airplane was so oil-saturated. It ended up taking off again despite its sagging landing gear and we all cheered. One of our club members made a futile attempt to restore it for him because no other plane would do, but it was so oil-soaked that it could not be saved.

Doug tried other airplanes but just did not enjoy them like he did Ol' Yeller.

I used to tease Doug every time I saw him, asking him if he was 120 years old yet. He would shake his finger at me and we'd exchange some banter about "the latest" gossip at the club. Sometimes he would tell me about my own airplane crash before he realized he was talking about my airplane.

I always very much enjoyed catching up with him.

I shared the news with his long-time friend Frank Blain as soon as I heard. We shared our mutual belief that old Dougie was one of the best we had known over the years. He

was always willing to lend a hand, drive to and from the field for watering and other tasks, and always with a great sense of humor.

He will be sorely missed.

Pat Willis

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Doug was one of the best people you would ever meet. He's been at the field always being super supportive of me since I was just a toddler. No matter how his health was in these last few years he would always show up and be in great spirits. He will be greatly missed by all of us at the Aeronauts club.

Oliver Willis

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I first flew with Doug at the Spincer Creek field, then at Cinderella Park and then at the Alvadore field. He was involved at each field, helping things get done.

The two planes I remember him flying the most were his KAOS and his East Sport, he put a lot of air time on each of them. He also took care of the care of the runway at the Alvadore field for many years.

In the last few years he flew a lot of indoor electrics, his Ember got the most air time. He assisted us in getting us access to the Armory in Springfield and then at the Willamalane Center. We called our group of Indoor Flyers the Eugene Electric Flyers (EEF <http://www.eugenerc.org//EEF/EEFindex.htm>). Doug coordinated the flying schedule and contributed lots of photos for the web page.

I considered Doug a special friend, I will miss him.

Jim Corbett

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Doug McWha Celebration of Life December 9, 2023

If you would like to share a remembrance, please email Jim at:  
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