

Don MacDonald's Article as it was posted in the July 2020 Edition of Sport Aerobatics



DON MACDONALD'S GROGAN BELT

BY DON MCDONALD, IAC 2621

I received the Grogan Belt at my third contest sponsored by IAC Chapter 88 at Owosso, Michigan, July 11-12, 1981. The belt was hand-tooled by Tom Grogan of Freeport, Long Island, New York. He and his wife, Boots, were active IAC members in the early years of the International Aerobatic Club. Tom didn't fly competition; he just enjoyed the IAC people, was a judge, and helped out in every way. Boots was always in the scoring room with the mechanical adding machines, and then later rudimentary calculators that were used to compile the final scores.

Tom always felt sorry for the pilots who came in last in Sportsman. Being a craftsman in leather, he decided to create the belt for the last-place finisher in Sportsman at Fond du Lac. That's where it started — and he later started making belts for other contests as well.

The 1981 Sportsman sequence shown on this belt has received comments from other IAC members when I have shown them the belt, in particular the snap roll and barrel roll (no longer Sportsman figures). I have listed the figures shown on the belt that represents those flown in the 1981 Sportsman Known sequence.

Slow roll	Hammerhead
Split-S	90-degree turn
Inside loop	Half-Cuban-eight
Immelmann	Reverse half-Cuban-eight
Snap roll	270-degree turn
1-1/4 spin	Barrel roll



Please note the "poor man's" inverted fuel and oil system in the photo of my 1946 dipped wing Piper J-3 Cub. Both inverted fuel and oil vent to the bungees.

Photo credit: Robert F. Pauley



Two of several perennial friends of Chapter 52.

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Tom and Boots Grogan (as posted in the August 1981 edition of Sport Aerobatics)