

Compact Workshop 9—World's "Messiest" Shop/Paul White

The late Paul White's shop had two distinctions:

- 1) It was about as messy and cluttered as any shop you'll ever see, and...
- 2) more work came out of this shop in a month than is produced in most shops in several years.

Paul's shop was across the end of a small single-wide coach, separated from the kitchen by a large towel hanging across the door as a curtain to keep dust out of the rest of the coach. Airplanes and other projects covered most of the other counter surfaces, chairs and bed in the coach too. Before you could sit or do anything, you had to move at least one project. He was always making something and would often have several projects going at the same time. He only took enough time to clear the space needed for the next operation. (Married men will note this is a shop that only a bachelor could get away with.)

In addition to his models, Paul was noted for his work on full-size race cars for shops like Dan Gurney's All American Racers and custom aircraft that won awards at the EAA show in Oshkosh. He also built from scratch a jet turbine engine that is on display in the Foundation's craftsmanship museum* in Vista, CA and did much of the restoration work on the vintage IndyCar that Joe Martin raced for many years.

*See www.CraftsmanshipMuseum.com

In 2003, Paul was killed by a hit and run driver while crossing the street near his home. His loss is a big one for the world of modeling and he will be missed by his friends. You can learn more about Paul and his shop in Joe Martin's book, [*Tabletop Machining*](#).



A portion of the workbench along the back wall of Paul White's single-wide coach was constantly covered with tools and projects. He was always just too busy to clean up. On the lower bench you can see a functioning model jet turbine engine Paul constructed from scratch in his tiny shop.