

Richard B. Roe

Richard B. Roe, 80, amateur ornithologist, model plane enthusiast, father of two, and a retired marine biologist and administrator with nearly four decades' experience in state and federal fisheries work, died December 25, 2016 from pancreatic cancer.

Born in Newton, NJ in 1936, Dick spent his entire life as a dedicated outdoorsman and passionate protector of native wildlife. Dick graduated with his bachelor's of science from Rutgers University in 1958, despite distractions of living in the Alpha Chi Rho house, and his master's from Utah State in 1962. For twelve years, he was a researcher with exploratory teams of marine biologists in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and tropical Atlantic Ocean. In his time as an administrator, Dick directed the National Marine Fisheries Service's Office of Marine Mammals and Endangered Species and the Office of Fisheries Management. As the Director of the Northeast Regional Office, he spent seven years in Gloucester, MA, managing both commercial and recreational marine fisheries along the Atlantic coast from North Carolina up to Canada. Dick retired after overseeing the modernization of the Fisheries Services' research fleet in 1995.

A lifelong fisherman and hunter, while in Gloucester, Dick acted upon his longstanding passion for flying—a pastime he described as the least forgiving of idiocy of any you might imagine. His 1943 Stearman, known as “Yellowbird,” was for many years a fixture at the Bealton Flying Circus. Uncountable numbers of Girl and Boy Scouts, curious Virginians, and semi-terrified parents experienced their first journey into the sky in Yellowbird after a Flying Circus show. As a charter member of the “Waterview Huntclub,” he indulged in his passion for hunting, fishing, and Famous Grouse.

Highlighting his strong administrative skills, Dick never became part of an organization that he didn't help one day run. He was a member of the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists and the American Fisheries Society. He served for nearly a decade as a docent at the National Air & Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center as well as chairman of their Library Committee for several years. He helped establish the Warrenton Hanger of the Order of Quiet Birdman. He belonged to the Experimental Aircraft Association and at one time acted as the Young Eagles Coordinator. He was elected to the Colt Collectors Association Board allowing him to spend time with fellow Colt enthusiasts. A few of the other organizations he participated in include the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society as Vice President, the Academy of Model Aeronautics, the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association, the Culpeper Model Barnstormers, Inc., the Northern VA Radio Control Club, and the American Model Aviation Chapter 186. He was a member of the George Washington Chapter – Model A Ford Club where he won an award for his 1929 Model A Ford—which, if you're interested in seeing it with your own two eyes, was featured in the 2011 film *J. Edgar*.

Survivors include his daughter, Alexandria Roe; his granddaughter, Isabella Salamone; and the Caribbean fish species carrying his name. His beloved wife, Andria Jane Clark Roe and his son, Robert James Roe, predeceased him.