

**Randy Smithhisler Biography &
2013 NorthWest Scale Aero-Modeling
Grand Champion - Expert**



I started building and flying R/C model airplanes back in 1986. My wife (Denise) bought me a Carl Goldberg "Gentle Lady" non-powered glider for Christmas of that year. I taught myself to fly with this model at a local school yard. Then in 1987 I built an electric powered "Electra" glider. This got me "hooked" on electric power! Over the next few years I built and flew numerous small electric powered models and became aware of the newly released Astroflight "Cobalt" electric motors. These motors were a big step-up in the development of electric powered flight.

My first scale competition was in 1992 at the old Bremerton R/C club. It was basically a Fun Scale event and very low key. I used two Astroflight Cobalt 25 powered models for this event and if I remember right, only a 1600mah Nicad battery pack for fuel. This gave me barely enough flight time to finish the nine maneuvers; there was absolutely NO reserve power available to "go around".

My first big opportunity to enter the world of “serious” scale modeling came in the winter of 1995. I was approached by Bob Benjamin (AMA Hall of Fame member) and SIG Manufacturing Co. . They recognized that electric powered modeling was becoming more popular and they needed someone to build and convert one of their 1/4 scale J-3 “Cubs” to electric power. I jumped at the chance! My conversion was powered by the newly released Astroflight Geared 90 motor. This proved to be a fantastic combination and the model flew like a dream. In fact, it took home a trophy at the first Scale Masters event that it was flown at (the 1996 Evergreen Scale Rally, 1st in Sportsman Class).

Over the past 18 years I have probably competed in at least 50 or 60 scale events, ranging from Fun Scale to National Championships. A few of my most memorable competitions are the 1997 AMA NATS (3rd in Sportsman), my first USSMA Championship (Texas, 1997), the 2007 USSMA Championship in Hemet, CA with Earl Aune flying my model in Team Scale (7th Place trophy), the 2009 Championship in Wenatchee with Jeremy Fursman and I placing 3rd in Team Scale, and the most recent 2013 Northwest Scale Aero-Modelling Championships (I am still in shock over that 1st Place result).

Currently, I am building a Top Flite Stinson Reliant “SR-9” kit (100” wingspan). I hope to have it finished by the end of this year. Then I have a beautiful Proctor Nieuport 28 kit on the shelf that is begging to be converted to Electric power.

Best regards,

Randy Smithhisler



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