

**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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> in Sportsman), my first USSMA Championship (Texas, 1997), the 2007 USSMA Championship in Hemet, CA with Earl Aune flying my model in Team Scale (7<sup>th</sup> Place trophy), the 2009 Championship in Wenatchee with Jeremy Fursman and I placing 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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