



PILOT PROFILE

Randy King

Q. How did you get started in aerobatics?

A. I got my initial taste of aerobatics as part of my Naval Aviator training in the T-28C. I started flying contest aerobatics about six years ago when I purchased a Vans RV-4.

Q. What practice time have you been able to put in leading up to this contest?

A. I usually practice in an aerobatic area just a few minutes from my home field, the Wimauma Airpark (FD77). Leading up to the contest, I generally fly 20 minutes a day and try to visit one of the local aerobatic boxes when they are open.



Q. Do you have a coach or coaches (formal or informal)?

A. No, I don't really use a coach but do try and get some ground coaching during the practice sessions at the contest site.

Q. What "big picture" goals do you have in aerobatics?

A. I want to win a Sportsman contest! Other than that, I just enjoy participating and helping the more accomplished members of the sport by volunteering at the contest.

Q. Did you have a particular mentor that helped you get started in aerobatics?

A. Ron Schrek and Bill McClean. Both RV flyers

Q. What is your favorite maneuver?

A. Hammerhead!

Q. The plane that you fly this year, how long have you had it? If you've had it a short time, what was your previous airplane?

A. I've owned my RV-8 since June of 2018. Previous airplane was an RV-4. I installed inverted oil systems in both, upgraded the harness in both, and installed an ADSB avionics suite in the RV-8.

Q. If this is NOT your first contest, do you have any tips or tricks for newcomers that you wish someone would have told you?



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A. Get to the contest a couple of days early! Practice at the contest site. Get some ground coaching. Don't worry about flying out of the box on your first few flights and feel free to take a break during the sequence if you need one for altitude, positioning or because you made a mistake!

Q. Do you plan on attending any other contests this year?

A. Sebring (spring and fall), and the Mark Fullerton Memorial in Rome, GA. Maybe some others too depending on how things go.

Q. Are you planning on going to the Nationals?

A. Considering.

Q. Do you have someone (a rival) at the contest that you are trying to beat?

A. No specific people really but I do enjoy coming out ahead of some of the contestants flying purpose-built aerobatic airplanes! My RV-8 is a good aerobat but no match for the Extras and such!