



The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of CDR AARON W. S. (SAM) SNYDER, USN/Ret.



February 3, 1932 – January 18, 2021

Compiled and formatted by JS (03/2016); Updated by JS (01/2021)

The following information was gathered from biographical material submitted to the AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame by James Talley in 2014. Aaron Snyder was inducted into the Hall of Fame in that same year.

- Started modeling in 1937 at the age of five. Started flying in full-scale aircraft two years later.
- Early on, he created highly-researched, detailed scale models. He spends long hours in his personal customized workshop.
- He has donated many models to museums and schools across the U.S. He has donated a Cox Cessna Radio Control Trainer, Hitec Focus II SS AM transmitter and a kit box for a Cox Cessna Radio Control Trainer to the National Model Aviation Museum.
- Worked at Beech, Cessna, Ocean Air Airlines, and served in the U.S. Navy and Army as a pilot.
- Has been involved in teaching modeling techniques locally, at clubs, schools, and at YMCA classes. Has also taught while in the military. He teaches all types of flight – RC, FF and CL.
- Has served as a Contest Director for many contests and is an AMA Leader Member.
- Sam’s website, UAVde.com (UAV Design by Sam Snyder), is devoted to model aviation.

Competition Highlights

Year	Competition/Organization	Award	Placing	Airplane
1951	Plymouth International Invitational			Westland Whirlwind (scratch-built)
1963	WAM, Scale/CL Speed event	Overall Champion		DeHavilland Comet
1976	National Model Meet, Dayton, OH, Formula 40 Speed event		1st	
1990	Pasadena IMA	Original Design	1st	
1990	Pasadena IMA	Best Craftsmanship	1st	
1999	GSW Jet Meet	Best Military Scale		Mig 15
1999	GSW Jet Meet	Pilot’s Choice		Mig 15
1999	Superman Event #11	Best Craftsmanship		Mig 15
1999	Traplett Publications	Best Cockpit Craftsmanship		Mig 15

2000	Florida Jets Meet	Critics' Choice		DeHavilland DH-113 Vampire
2000	Rocket City Meet, Huntsville, AL	Best of Show		DeHavilland DH-113 Vampire
2000	Superman Event #12	Best Craftsmanship		DeHavilland DH-113 Vampire
2002	Superman Event #14	Best Craftsmanship		DeHavilland DH-108 Swallow
2003	Florida Jets Meet	Designer Achievement award		DeHavilland DH-108 Swallow
2006	Superman Event #18	Best Craftsmanship		Lockheed TR-2A (U-2)
2008	Top Gun	Gray Eagle		
2008	Top Gun	Special Recognition award		Vulcan
2009	Top Gun	Critics' Choice		Avro Vulcan B Mk2
2011	Greater Southwest competition	Best Military Scale		Gloster Javelin
2013	Bomber field competition	Best of Show		Focke-Wulf FW-189A
2013	Bomber field competition	Best Military Scale		Focke-Wulf FW-189A

Publication Participation

Publication Date	Magazine	Airplane	Cover	Article
1976 to 1977	Model Aviation		X	Control Line Speed column
1999/06	Contrails	Russian Mig 15	X	
2000/02-03	Jet International	British DeHavilland DH-113 Vampire	X	X
2004/05-06	Scale International	German Dornier DO-23G	X	X
2005/04	Contrails	British DeHavilland DH-113	X	
2007, unknown month	Contrails			<i>Estimating Construction Weight of a Model Prior to Construction</i>
2007/09	Contrails	British Avro Vulcan B Mk2	X	
2009/04	Jet Power	British Avro Vulcan B Mk2	X	X

2012/01	Model Airplane News	British Gloster Javelin		X
2012/09	Contrails	British Gloster Javelin	X	
Unknown date	Aviation Modeler International	DeHavilland Sea Vixen		X

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