
Biography of ROBERT BOUCHER

Transcribed by JS (09/06), updated by JS (10/07)

*The following was printed in the April 1996 issue of Model Aviation magazine.
Note: Robert Boucher was inducted into the Model Aviation Hall of Fame in 1995.*

“**Robert Boucher** of Marina Del Rey, California, is best known in the modeling community for his pioneering work in electric power. As co-founder, and later owner and president of AstroFlight, Robert continues today to develop new and innovative products for the modeling community and contributes to the technology associated with all types of power tools.

Now 62 years of age, Robert's modeling career can be traced back to the 1940s. As a competitor, he has flown in a variety of events over the years. These events range from Control Line Aerobatics in 1948 to electrics and sailplanes in recent years. At the 1973 Nats in Oshkosh, he flew electric models in both RC Scale and Pattern against the standard models of the day. In 1971, he set a closed-course world record of 302 kph at Waimanalo, Hawaii using his own sailplane design, the Malibu.

As a designer or co-designer, Robert created a variety of designs ranging from sailplanes to electric trainers and Scale models. AstroFlight has kitted all of these designs, including the Malibu, Astro Sport Trainer, Astro Viking, Partenavia P-68 twin and Porterfield.

Together with his brother Roland, he designed, built and flew a Radio Control model in 1949. The 72-inch model sported a single-channel proportional rudder control and was powered by an Arden .19 engine. As co-inventor of electric flight, he holds US Patent 3957230. The advent of practical electric flight has been made possible by Robert's continuing efforts in creating or developing high-power, lightweight cobalt motors, quick charging systems, speed controls, gearboxes and other items. In 1973, he developed an electric drone that flew for an hour and 29 minutes at 75 miles per hour while carrying a six-pound payload.

Over the years, his efforts have included leadership roles in clubs and national organizations as well as contest director activities. Additionally, he has written numerous articles, newsletters and technical papers.

Robert is active in civic affairs such as local, state and national chambers of commerce and the California Industry Leadership Council. He has made numerous appearances lobbying on behalf of workman's compensation insurance reform.”