



Montgomery Flight – 1904



Moffett Field – 1933



China Clipper – 1936



Hiller XH-44 – 1944



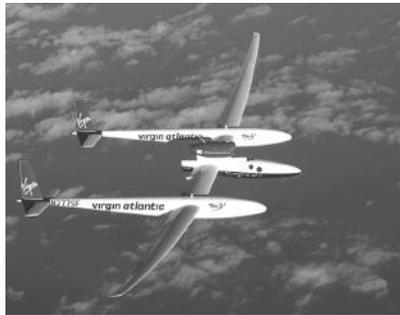
NASA Ames Research Center – 1981

Northern Wings

Volume 6 No. 11

The Aero Club of Northern California

Winter 2007-2008



Fossett pilots Global Flyer.

Aero Club to honor missing adventurer Steve Fossett with Crystal Eagle March 8



-- Steve Fossett Challenges Photo

Steve Fossett, right, and co-pilot Einar Enevoldson stand with their aircraft in Argentina after setting the absolute altitude record for sailplanes.

Jim Lafferty, Lennert von Clemm to receive National Aeronautic Association awards

The Aero Club of Northern California will honor corporate pilot and aviation business executive **Jim Lafferty** and veteran flight instructor and corporate pilot **Lennert von Clemm** with National Aeronautic Association Certificate awards for their life-long contributions to the

advancement of flight.

The two will be honored at the Aero Club's March 8 Crystal Eagle Dinner at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. Lafferty was a co-founder of the San Jose Jet Center. Von Clemm, with 24,000 hours flight time, is chief pilot at Amelia Reid Aviation.

Adventurer **Steve Fossett**, the missing aviator who was the only man to fly solo around the world non-stop in both an airplane and a balloon, will be the recipient of the Crystal Eagle Award, given annually by the Aero Club of Northern California to honor those whose achievements are among the highest in aviation.

Fossett's disappearance last September led the Aero Club Board of Directors to postpone the Crystal Eagle event until this spring. Fossett's wife, Peggy, assisted by friend and record-setter Einar Enevoldson, Fossett's co-pilot on the Aug. 29, 2006 flight that set the absolute altitude record for sailplanes at 50,727 feet, will accept the award on his behalf.

The award will be presented during the Aero Club's Crystal Eagle Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos.

The Crystal Eagle was first awarded by the Aero Club in 1983 to legendary aviator Gen. Jimmy Doolittle. Past recipients include Gen. Chuck Yeager, Jim Nissen,

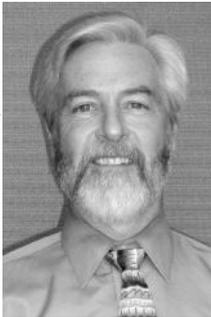
(Continued on Page 3)

Board Profile

After three decades in airports, Kirkbride planning his winery

Aero Club board member Frank Kirkbride had planned to be retired and tending his vineyard in Tennessee by now in hopes of producing classic French wines, but it didn't work out that way.

Instead Kirkbride, 56, who is assistant aviation director at Mineta San Jose International Airport, is the temporary boss of the entire



Frank Kirkbride

airport operation and its \$1.3 billion passenger terminal expansion program.

Kirkbride agreed to postpone his retirement until Aviation Director Bill Sherry recuperates from knee surgery. And so the vineyards will have to wait.

He came to San Jose five years ago as the airport's No. 2 executive, and has overseen the daily operations since then. Now there are additional duties for which he has extensive experience because his career started in airport construction, not aviation.

A civil engineering graduate of Rutgers University in his native New Jersey, Kirkbride decided on a career in aviation construction and management.

In 1975, he went to work for the Federal Aviation Administration and later became airport engineer at federally owned Washington Dulles Airport, responsible for the construction program. Afterward, he moved up to assistant manager of the engineering and maintenance division.

In 1988, Kirkbride went to Nashville International Airport in Tennessee as vice president of engineering and maintenance where he directed a massive project to build a new terminal complex.

"Just when you think you've heard it all, seen it all, something happens," he said. He came to San Jose in 2002. "There's always something new."

Now Kirkbride is thinking of his 1.5 acre vineyard on a 100-acre farm he bought 20 years ago in Tennessee.

"I call it a trial vineyard," he said. "They don't normally grow wine grapes in Tennessee."

Terminal demolition begins at San Jose Airport

Construction workers have begun demolishing a section of the north ticket wing at Mineta San Jose International Airport's old Terminal C to make room for construction of the first phase of the new Terminal B. The project is part of the airport's \$1.3 billion passenger terminal expansion program. The new facilities are expected to open in 2010. At that time the remainder of Terminal C will be demolished.

Oakland Airport completes Terminal 2 project

Oakland International Airport has completed a \$300 million renovation of Terminal Two, which houses Southwest Airlines, and the passenger drop-off zone. The project, which started in 2003, doubled the number of security checkpoint lanes to 10. Next, the airport plans a \$300- to \$400-million renovation of the 1962-vintage Terminal One.

Calendar of Aviation Events

Aero Club Crystal Eagle Dinner

March 8, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. dinner at the Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos Airport. Cost is \$60 for Aero Club members, \$75 for non-members, including museum admission. Reservations: (408) 646-7139.

California Capital Airshow

March 15-16 at Mather Airport, Rancho Cordova. This year's show will feature the U.S. Navy Blue Angels jet demonstration team. Information at

www.californiacapitalairshow.com.

Santa Clara Valley 99s Pasta Night

March 20 at 6 p.m. The Santa Clara Valley 99s will hold their annual Pasta Night Raffle and Silent Auction to benefit the San Jose State University Precision Flight Team. The cost is \$20 for the a catered Italian dinner. Santa Clara Elks Lodge, 1680 Martin Ave., Santa Clara. RSVP by March 16 to Mayetta Behringer at (408) 264-0229.

2008 Watsonville Fly-In and Air Show

May 23-25 at Watsonville Municipal Airport. Antique aircraft and warbirds will be on display and in the air. Air shows will be flown Friday night and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. In information at

www.watsonvilleflyin.org.

Vertical Challenge

June 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos Airport. The annual Vertical Challenge all-Helicopter Air Show will feature more than 50 helicopters on display and in flight demonstrations. Information at

www.hiller.org.

National Championship Air Races

Sept. 10-14 at Reno Stead Field, just north of Reno, Nev. Races will be held in six classes of aircraft, ranging from the tiny Formula One planes to the Unlimited Racers all four days. Information at www.airrace.org.

Aero Club of Northern California 2007 Board of Directors

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Scott Yelich – vice president

Eric Peterson – treasurer

Ray Hutchings – secretary

Rick Willson – past president

Jerry Bennett – director

Ron Blake – director

Sandra J. Clifford -- director

Janet Russell Hitt – director

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Thomas E. Leonard – director

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Sharon K. Sweeney – director

Frank Sweeney – director

and newsletter editor

Northern Wings is published quarterly by the Aero Club of Northern California, an affiliate of the National Aeronautic Association.

Aero Club to award Crystal Eagle to Fossett

(Continued from Page 1)

Stanley Hiller Jr., Burt Rutan, George Cooper, Jeana Yeager, Frank Christensen, James S. Ricklefs, Darryl Greenamyre, Robert "Hoot" Gibson, Paul Poberezny, Wayne Handley, A. Scott Crossfield, Clay Lacy, Elgen Long, Eileen Collins and Sean D. Tucker.

Fossett has set 117 world records, including five non-stop circumnavigations of the globe as a solo balloonist, airplane pilot and sailor.

He was to receive the award at the annual Crystal Eagle Dinner last Oct. 20. But Fossett disappeared Sept. 3 after he took off from a private airstrip near Minden, Nev., in a single-engine Citabria Decathlon aircraft.

Days of aerial searches and satellite surveillance failed to turn up a trace of Fossett in the rugged and barren Nevada desert. The search was officially suspended on Oct. 2.

In 2002, on his sixth attempt, Fossett became the first person to make a solo balloon flight around the world. He took off from Western Australia on June 19 and landed more than 13 days later in Queensland, Australia, covering 20,626 statute miles.

As an airplane pilot, Fossett made the first solo non-stop and non-refueled flight around the

Crystal Eagle Dinner

Date: Saturday, March 8, 2008

Reception: 6:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road at San Carlos Airport.

Cost: \$60 for Aero Club members, \$75 for non-members, including museum admission.

Reservations: (408) 646-7139



--Virgin Atlantic Global Flyer Photo

Fossett's Aerial Adventures

Steve Fossett and Sir Richard Branson (above photo) with the Virgin Atlantic Global flyer that Fossett piloted around the world nonstop solo without refueling. At right, the Perlan sailplane that Fossett and Einar Enevoldson flew to set the absolute altitude record for a sailplane.



world from Salina, Kan., in 67 hours in the Virgin Atlantic Global Flyer in 2005.

The next year, again alone aboard the single-engine jet Global Flyer, he set the absolute record for the longest flight of any aircraft in history, going around the world in 76 hours 43 minutes and covering 25,766 miles non-stop unrefueled.

Fossett grew up in Garden Grove, Calif., and graduated from Stanford University. He founded

and managed a Chicago-based financial trading company.

Advance reservations are necessary because seating is limited. Tickets, including museum admission, are \$60 each for Aero Club members and \$75 for non-members. For additional information, contact the Aero Club at (408) 646-7139, e-mail at crystaleagle@aeroclubnorcal.org or check the club website at www.aeroclubnorcal.org.

Crystal Eagle Recipients

- 1983 – James "Jimmy" Doolittle
- 1984 – Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager
- 1985 – Stanley Hiller Jr.
- 1986 – William "Bill" Lear
- 1987 – James M. "Jim" Nissen
- 1988 – Anthony W. "Tony" LeVier
- 1989 – Elbert "Burt" L. Rutan
- 1990 – George S. Cooper
- 1991 – Allen E. Paulson
- 1992 – Jeana Yeager
- 1993 – Robert T. Jones
- 1994 – Frank L. Christensen

- 1995 – James S. Ricklefs
- 1996 – Darryl G. Greenamyre
- 1997 – Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson
- 1998 – Donald D. Engen
- 1999 – Paul H. Poberezny
- 2000 – Wayne Handley
- 2001 – Igor I. Sikorsky
- 2002 – A. Scott Crossfield
- 2003 – Clay Lacy
- 2004 – Elgen Long
- 2005 – Eileen Collins
- 2006 – Sean D. Tucker
- 2007 – Steve Fossett

History Corner

Reid-Hillview Airport Thrives in Silicon Valley

In the 1920s and 1930s, several small privately owned airports were opened among the orchards and dairy farms of the Santa Clara Valley. Only Reid-Hillview Airport in East San Jose survives today.

The Alum Rock Airport was closed in the 1920s because of dust problems. The King Road Airport was wiped out in the 1950s by the Tropicana Village housing tract construction.

Cecil and Robert "Pop" Reid opened the Garden City Airport at eastern end of San Antonio Street in East San Jose in 1934, but three years later the state took the land for right of way for Highway 101. So the Reids and three partners each chipped in \$5,000 to buy 36 acres at the end of Tully Road, between Tully and Cunningham Avenue, and opened Reid's Hillview Airport in 1939. It was an instant success, with more than 200 airplanes based there.

With the outbreak of World War II, federal officials closed all general aviation airports within 150 miles of the coast. When the ban was lifted



Reid's Hillview Airport was a busy airfield in 1949.

--Reid Family Photo

after the war, Reid's Hillview was the first to reopen.

By 1961, two of the partners had died. The Reids and their remaining partner and heirs sold the airport to Santa Clara County for \$600,000 -- \$50,000 less than a developer would have paid them.

The county expanded the field to just under 200 acres, added more facilities and renamed it Reid-Hillview Airport. A second runway was added, new hangars were built and a terminal building was constructed during the 1960s.

Over the years, the airport

operations and the number of based aircraft grew. Today Reid-Hillview is home base for 620 general aviation aircraft. Last year, the control tower logged 160,000 flight operations.

And there is still a connection to the Reid Family. Amelia Reid Aviation continues under that name, although family members no longer own the flight school.

Santa Clara County also operates Palo Alto Airport, relocated from Stanford University land to the edge of San Francisco Bay in 1934. In 1972, the county built South County Airport in San Martin.

The Aero Club of Northern California

**2500 Cunningham Avenue
San Jose, California 95148
(408) 929-1060**

Chartered in 1981 as a chapter of the
National Aeronautic Association



-- To keep the public informed of the importance of aviation and space flight to the nation's economic progress, its security, and to international understanding.
-- To support a vigorous aviation and space education program for students at all levels of learning.
-- To recognize and honor those who make outstanding contributions to the advancement of aviation and space flight.