



Montgomery Flight – 1904



Moffett Field – 1933



China Clipper – 1936



Hiller XH-44 – 1944



NASA Ames Research Center – 1981

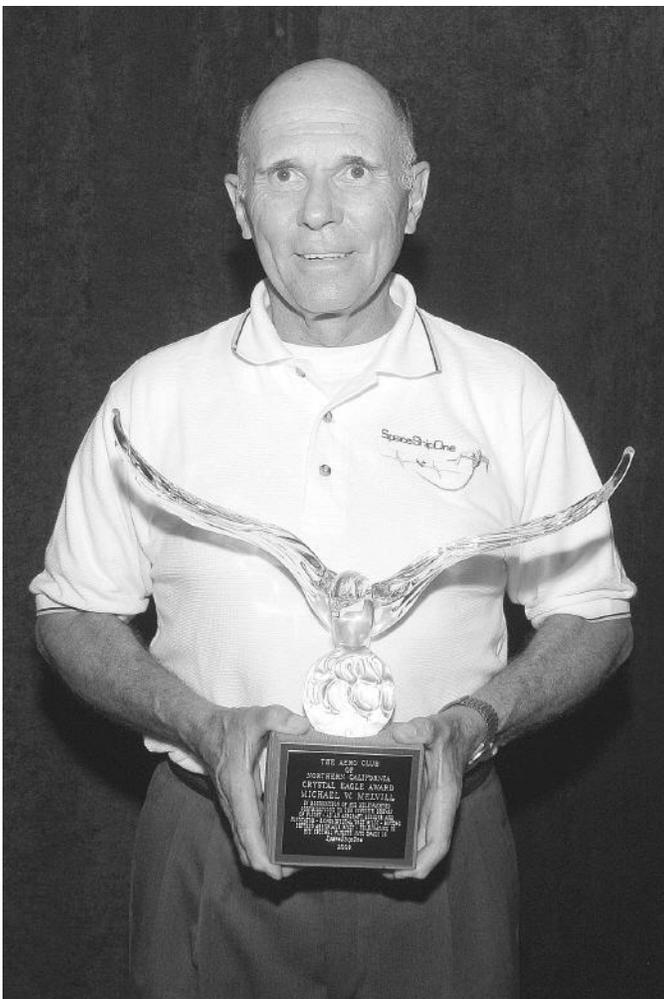
# Northern Wings

Volume 6 No. 17

The Aero Club of Northern California  
www.aeroclubnorcal.org

Winter-Spring 2010

## Melvill receives 2009 Crystal Eagle *SpaceShipOne Pilot 1st Commercial Astronaut*



– Northern Wings photo

**Astronaut Mike Melvill with 2009 Crystal Eagle Award**

The Aero Club of Northern California has awarded the 27th annual Crystal Eagle to test pilot Mike Melvill, who flew SpaceShipOne into space in 2004 to become the first commercial astronaut.

The club presents the award annually to honor those whose achievements are among the highest in aviation and space. Melvill received the honor during the Aero Club's annual Crystal Eagle Dinner on Oct. 24, 2009 at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos.

The Eagle was first awarded in 1983 to legendary aviator James "Jimmy" Doolittle. Over the years, recipients have included such aviation luminaries as Chuck Yeager, Bill Lear, Jeana Yeager, Scott Crossfield, Elgen Long, Sean D. Tucker and Steve Fossett.

Melvill made history on June 21, 2004 as the first pilot of SpaceShipOne, which was built by Burt Rutan's Scaled Composites LLC. His sub-orbital flight was the first privately funded mission to reach space. He was the 435th person to go into space.

Melvill also flew the next mission of SpaceShipOne – the first competitive flight in the Ansari X Prize competition for the first non-government organization to send a reusable manned spacecraft into space twice within two weeks.

The SpaceShipOne project won the \$10 million prize awarded by the X Prize Foundation.

In 25 years as a test pilot, Melvill logged 7,600 hours as

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## *Aero Club web site upgraded, needs member contributions*

The Aero Club of Northern California has upgraded its web site, and is requesting additional historical information to be added.

Go to [www.aeroclubnorcal.org](http://www.aeroclubnorcal.org) to see the latest improvements by Aero

Club treasurer and webmaster Eric Peterson.

The scholarship page now has three sections: About (the scholarships), Apply and Past (previous recipients of the club's scholarships with photos).

The Crystal Eagle Award section also has been divided into three sections: About, Next Banquet and Past Recipients.

The Past Recipients section

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*Board profile*

## Sandra Clifford aviation mentor to many pilots

Flying airplanes is “the greatest gift I have ever given myself,” Aero Club director Sandra J. Clifford says.

“I love to journey, to explore, to witness amazing views, to experience moments in time that are precious, and to be a part of our special aviation community.”



**Sandra Clifford**

Clifford, the newly elected vice president of the Aero Club of Northern California, is a corporate pilot for a Silicon Valley firm, but over 20 years in the cockpit her contributions to aviation have gone

far beyond that. She has taught and mentored many aviators who now fly throughout the world.

Example Number One: The San Jose State University Department of Aviation, of which she is a graduate. After she spoke at the department’s commencement ceremony six years ago, frustrated students told her of a chaotic department, where the program was being systematically downsized and faced a serious threat of being eliminated.

Clifford mobilized the students to apply pressure in the academic and political arenas to save and improve the program, and it paid off.

“San Jose State aviation grooms future leaders,” she said. Clifford is the current co-president of the San Francisco Bay chapter of Women in Aviation. Last August, she participated in the first Women Aviators of Africa Conference in Kenya, and helped organize flights for children in that country’s orphanages.

Clifford met her husband and fellow pilot at Reid-Hillview Airport when she was a flight instructor. She now has two stepsons.



--Northern Wings Photo

**Scholarships: Brian Hsu, Amber Hartmannsson, Monte Miller**

## Three San Jose State students receive aviation scholarships

The Aero Club of Northern California has awarded \$1,000 scholarships to three San Jose State University aviation students.

Amber Hartmannsson, Brian Hsu and Monte Miller received the scholarships at the club’s recent Crystal Eagle dinner.

Hartmannsson was the recipient of the James M. Nissen Scholarship. Working her way through college with jobs at Reid-Hillview, Palo Alto, San Carlos and Hayward airports, she competes with the SJSU Precision Flight Team. In 2008, she was the second-highest scoring female contestant in the region.

With a bachelor of science degree in aviation operations, she plans to pursue a flying career that will allow her to serve others, such as flying for an air ambulance service or with an aid and support organization.

Hsu was the recipient of the Aero Club of Northern California Scholarship. A Bay Area native, he attended the University of California Santa Cruz. However, after taking his first flight in a light airplane, he transferred into the aviation program at San Jose State, working at jobs at Reid-Hillview and San Jose International airports.

He is a active member of the SJSU Precision Flight Team, and also is an

accomplished jazz musician. He plans to start flight instructing upon graduation.

Miller received the Robert M. Hamilton Scholarship. He graduated from San Jose State in December with a B.S. degree in aviation operations. Miller served two terms as president of the San Jose State chapter of the Alpha Eta Rho aviation fraternity and is captain of the precision flight team.

He financed his primary flight training by working as a fueler at Reid-Hillview Airport and will use the scholarship toward his advanced ratings. His goal is to be a corporate pilot.

### **Aero Club of Northern California 2010 Board of Directors**

**Carl Honaker** – president  
**Sandra J. Clifford** – vice president  
**Eric Peterson** – treasurer  
**Ray Hutchings** – secretary  
**Rick Willson** – past president  
**Jerry Bennett** – director  
**Ron Blake** – director  
**Glynn Falcon** – director  
**Janet Russell Hitt** – director  
**Thomas E. Leonard** – director  
**Harold Oberg** – director  
**Sharon K. Sweeney** – director  
**Max Trescott** – director  
**Scott Yelich** – 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.

## NAA, Aero Club honor John Blair and Brian Stout



President Carl Honaker presents NAA Award to John Blair, left.



Brian Stout, left, receives NAA Award from Tom Leonard

## Astronaut Melvill awarded 2009 Crystal Eagle

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the pilot of more than 130 types of aircraft. He made the first flights in 10 of the Burt Rutan-designed aircraft.

At the dinner, Melville mesmerized his audience with a step-by-step narrative of the SpaceShipOne development and his flights into space.

The craft was carried to 48,000 feet by mother ship White Knight, then cut loose so Melvill could fire the rocket engine that boosted SpaceShipOne to 337,000 feet above Earth at mach 3.3,

followed by a nearly half-hour descent to landing.

Born in South Africa in 1940, Melvill came to the United States in 1967 and became a U.S. citizen in 1975.

Melvill met Burt Rutan, who was the 1989 Crystal Eagle honoree, after he had built a Rutan VariViggen in his home, beginning a long association with the legendary aircraft designer. Melvill retired in October 2007 as vice president and general manager of Scaled Composites.



Melvill with 1990 Crystal Eagle honoree George Cooper, left.



Crystal Eagle honoree Melvill with President Carl Honaker

## Crystal Eagle Recipients 1983-2009

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  
 2008 – Phil Boyer  
 2009 – Mike Melvill

A longtime general aviation activist who successfully fought to save Reid-Hillview Airport and a former university aviation professor who operates an FBO in San Jose were the recipients of National Aeronautics Association awards.

John Blair and Brian Stout were honored at the recent Crystal Eagle Dinner of the Aero Club of Northern California.

Blair is widely recognized in the Silicon Valley aviation community as a tireless airport advocate for the continued operation of Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose, which twice in the past 15 years came under substantial political attack for closure. He was awarded the NAA’s Certificate of Honor.

He spearheaded the Coalition for Responsible Airport Management and Policy (CRAMP), now named Silicon Valley GA, to play a pivotal role in favorably influencing the political structure to secure continued operation of Reid-Hillview.

He successfully mobilized collaboration within the general aviation community to thwart all efforts to close the airport by helping elected officials sort through the closure rhetoric so that common sense and favorable airport policies prevailed.

Blair worked tirelessly, balancing great personal hardship with the need to get things done, yet never asked for any reward or recognition.

Stout was awarded an NAA Certificate of Merit. He has been engaged in aviation at many levels for more than past 40 years.

As an educator, he was an aviation professor for 25 years at San Jose State University, teaching aircraft structures, powerplants and production.

An aerobatic competitor, Stout’s personal airplanes include a Christen Eagle II and a 1947 Republic Seabee.

For a number of years, Stout has been the owner of Flying S Aircraft at Reid-Hillview, specializing in general aviation aircraft maintenance.

## Glynn Falcon, Max Trescott join Aero Club Board of Directors

A university aviation educator and a highly honored flight instructor have joined the Aero Club of Northern California Board of Directors.

They are Glynn Falcon, director of the San Jose State University Department of Aviation, and Max Trescott, honored by the Federal Aviation Administration as 2008 Flight Instructor of the Year.

The Aero Club board of directors also re-elected Carl Honaker, Santa Clara County airports director, to another one-year term as president. Director Sandra Clifford, a commercial pilot, was chosen to serve as vice president, succeeding director Scott Yelich.

Falcon is the director of aviation for the Aviation and Technology Department at San Jose State University. He received his BS degree



**Glynn Falcon**

in aviation operations from San Jose State in 1970, and learned to fly with the SJSU Flying 20s at Reid-Hillview Airport. He earned a Juris Doctorate degree in 1974.

Falcon has been teaching college-level courses for 40 years, and providing both ground and flight instruction since 1967. He practiced aviation law, primarily accident cases, with his own law firm until 2006, when he returned to full-time teaching. He has more than 5,000 flight hours and regularly flies IFR in his Piper Arrow.



**Max Trescott**

Trescott started flying at age 15 and is passionate about preserving general aviation for future generations.

He worked for 25 years in sales, marketing and management at Hewlett-Packard before pursuing aviation as a vocation.

Trescott has authored two books, one on the Garmin G1000 and the other on flying IFR with modern WAAS-based GPS receivers. Trescott instructs in a variety of glass cockpit aircraft at Palo Alto Airport, California. He was the 2008 National Certificated Flight Instructor of the Year and writes a monthly avionics and technology column for EAA's Sport Aviation magazine. A frequent speaker at AirVenture and Sun 'n Fun, he also writes an active blog on General Aviation topics at [www.maxtrescott.com](http://www.maxtrescott.com).

## Upgraded Aero Club web site needs member contributions

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includes photos and videos of Crystal Eagle dinners, mostly beginning in 2004, where available.

The Newsletter Page also has been updated.

However, the club is missing much historical information and photos of

past Crystal Eagle honorees, scholarship winners and newsletters before 2004.

"There are a lot of awards for which I have no photos," Peterson said.

"Perhaps our members will have something they are willing to share."

Peterson said he is happy to accept

photos in any format – prints, slides, negatives or electronic – that he can digitize and return the originals promptly.

And, he added, "Are there any old newsletters out there that people are willing to share?" to be turned into more of the club's history.

## The Aero Club of Northern California

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(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.