



Montgomery Flight - 1904



Meffert Field - 1933



China Clipper - 1936



Hiller XH-44 - 1944



NASA Ames Research Center - 1981

Northern Wings

Volume 6 No. 18

The Aero Club of Northern California

Winter-Spring 2011

www.aeroclubnorcal.org

Brian Shul receives 2010 Crystal Eagle

SR-71 Blackbird pilot, aviation author honored



Brian Shul -- SR-71 pilot and aviation author

Brian Shul, famed Mach-3 SR-71 Blackbird pilot and author of five aviation books, is the 28th recipient of the Crystal Eagle Award, presented annually by the Aero Club of Northern California to honor those whose achievements are among the highest in aviation.

Shul spent 20 years as an Air Force pilot. He was severely burned in a fiery crash during the Vietnam war. After more than a year of surgeries and physical therapy, he passed his physical and returned to Air Force flight duty. His final Air Force assignment was flying the Mach 3 super-secret SR-71 Blackbird spy plane -- the fastest jet-powered aircraft ever built.

Shul's most well-known book, "Sled Driver," recounts his experiences as pilot of the high-flying SR-71 in training and on missions over hostile nations.

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Clifford, Trescott lead Aero Club Board

Sandra J. Clifford, a commercial pilot and co-president of the San Francisco Bay chapter of Women in Aviation, has been elected president of the Aero Club of Northern California.

The club's board of directors also elected Max Trescott, honored by the Federal Aviation Administration as 2008 Flight Instructor of the Year, as Aero Club vice president.

The election was held during the board's January meeting.

Clifford, who is a corporate pilot for a Silicon Valley firm, previously was club vice president. She succeeds Carl Honaker as president. Trescott, a member of the club board of directors, succeeds Scott Yelich as vice president.

A graduate of the San Jose State University Aviation Department, Clifford has been a pilot for more than 20 years. She holds a flight instructor rating and has mentored many aviators who now fly throughout the world.

She is a member of other aviation organizations, including the Ninety-
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Clifford



Trescott

Aero Club honors Shul with Crystal Eagle

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At the awards banquet at the Hiller Aviation Museum on Oct. 22, guests listened spellbound as Shul spoke about his crash and his determination to overcome the near-insurmountable physical and mental disabilities it caused so he could again pilot front-line Air Force combat aircraft.

Shul joined the Air Force after graduating from East Carolina University in 1970 with a degree in history. After flight training, he became a foreign air advisor and flew 212 close air support missions in conjunction with Air America during the latter part of the Vietnam war.

His AT-28 aircraft was shot down near the Cambodian border. Unable to eject from his aircraft, Shul was forced to crash land in the jungle and was severely burned in the ensuing fireball. He crawled from the burning wreckage, and was rescued by an Army Special Forces team.

Shul was evacuated to a military hospital in Okinawa where he was not expected to survive. After two months of intensive care in 1974, he was transferred to the Institute of Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, where he underwent 15 major surgeries.

Crystal Eagle Recipients 1983-2010

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1983 – James “Jimmy” Doolittle | 1997 – Robert L. “Hoot” Gibson |
| 1984 – Charles E. “Chuck” Yeager | 1998 – Donald D. Engen |
| 1985 – Stanley Hiller Jr. | 1999 – Paul H. Poberezný |
| 1986 – William “Bill” Lear | 2000 – Wayne Handley |
| 1987 – James M. “Jim” Nissen | 2001 – Igor I. Sikorsky |
| 1988 – Anthony W. “Tony” LeVier | 2002 – A. Scott Crossfield |
| 1989 – Elbert “Burt” L. Rutan | 2003 – Clay Lacy |
| 1990 – George S. Cooper | 2004 – Elgen Long |
| 1991 – Allen E. Paulson | 2005 – Eileen Collins |
| 1992 – Jeana Yeager | 2006 – Sean D. Tucker |
| 1993 – Robert T. Jones | 2007 – Steve Fossett |
| 1994 – Frank L. Christensen | 2008 – Phil Boyer |
| 1995 – James S. Ricklefs | 2009 – Mike Melvill |
| 1996 – Darryl G. Greenamyre | 2010 – Brian Shul |



-- Keith Ian Graham photo

Aero Club President Carl Honaker (right) presents 2010 Crystal Eagle award to pilot-author Brian Shul

Shul was told he'd never be able to fly again. But after months of physical therapy, he passed a flight physical and returned to active flying duty.

He was assigned to fly the A-7D and then was chosen for the first operational A-10 squadron. He flew on the first A-10 air show demonstration team and served as an A-10 instructor.

His final assignment, for which he volunteered, was flying the super-

secret SR-71 Blackbird. He had to pass an astronaut physical exam to get the position.

After two decades and 5,000 hours in jet fighters, Shul retired from the Air Force in 1990. Since then he has pursued his writing and photography interests.

Shul owns Gallery One, a photo studio in Marysville in Northern California. When he's not writing, shooting nature photos or public speaking, Shul backpacks in the high Sierra Nevada.

Aero Club of Northern California 2011 Board of Directors

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

College students receive Aero Club Scholarships

Four college and university aviation students have been awarded \$1,000 scholarships by the Aero Club of Northern California.

The scholarships were presented during the Aero Club's annual Crystal Eagle dinner Oct. 22.

The scholarship winners are:

Jason Dodd, a student at the San Jose State University Department of Aviation, received the 2010 Robert L. Hamilton Scholarship.

Dodd came to San Jose State in 2007 as a business major but soon changed to aviation. His goal is to become a commercial pilot.

He took his first flying lesson in February 2008 and since has earned his private, instrument and commercial ratings, paying for his training with savings from multiple jobs. Dodd is captain of the SJSU Precision Flight Team, and will use the scholarship to complete training for certificated flight instructor.

Carlyn Smith received the James M. Nissen Scholarship. A student at the San Jose State aviation program, she works as an office assistant at AeroDynamic Aviation, formerly Amelia Reid Aviation, at Reid Hillview Airport.

Working in the office of a flight school has helped her learn the inner workings and many aspects of a general aviation business. For the past two summers, she also has worked with the Aviation Summer Camp at the Hiller Aviation Museum. Smith is currently vice president of Women in Aviation at SJSU.

After graduating, Smith plans to earn both an Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic certificate and a Master's degree. She hopes to one day be an in-house mechanic for a flight school at a small general aviation airport and to continue her involvement with aviation educational programs.

Jason Utpadel was awarded a 2010 Aero Club of Northern California Scholarship. A Bay Area native, he



— Northern Wings photo

SCHOLARSHIPS— Tracy Zedeck, Jason Dodd, Carlyn Smith and Jason Utpadel.

entered the San Jose State aviation program in 2007.

Although he originally intended to become a commercial pilot, Utpadel realized that he was drawn to the management side of the industry.

Utpadel is president of the Alpha Eta Rho aviation fraternity at San Jose State, and played a key role in the relocation of the SJSU Aviation program from San Jose International Airport to Reid-Hillview Airport.

Following graduation, Utpadel plans to pursue a Masters degree at the Mineta Transportation Institute. His scholarship will enable him to begin training for his private pilot certificate.

Tracy Zedeck, who hopes to become a commercial helicopter pilot,

also received a 2010 Aero Club of Northern California Scholarship.

Zedeck grew up in Berkeley. In 2004 she had graduated from college in Colorado and received her private pilot certificate. By 2007 she had a commercial certificate and has worked towing gliders in the Rocky Mountains and flying ski-planes to land climbers on glaciers in Alaska. She also worked as a scheduled Part 135 pilot in Alaska, as well as flew skydivers and towed banners.

Her goal is a career as a helicopter pilot with an emergency medical service or aerial firefighting service. She is currently enrolled in the Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) program at the College of Alameda, and is saving money for helicopter flight training.

NAA President Gaffney visits Aero Club board

National Aeronautic Association President Jonathan Gaffney (right) speaks to Aero Club Board of Directors during his Nov. 17 visit. Gaffney spoke of best practices to gain and maintain new members. The board met with Gaffney during a reception at Jeppesen Data Plan Inc. in downtown San Jose.



NAA honors Andreini, Sweeney for achievements

Longtime air show pilot Eddie Andreini and retired aviation journalist Frank Sweeney received National Aeronautic Association Certificates of Merit for their career-long contributions to the advancement of flight during the Aero Club's annual Crystal Eagle Dinner at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos.

Andreini, of Half Moon Bay, is an air show icon throughout the West. For decades he flew a Bulldog Stearman in aerobatics and in recent years added a World War II-type Russian Yak 9 fighter to his routines.

Andreini began flying in an L-2 Taylorcraft at age 16. Since then he has logged more than 6,000 flight hours in a variety of aircraft, including P-51 Mustangs, Yak-55s, Pitts Specials and the Russian AN-2.

His Super Stearman, which began life as a World War II trainer, now has a 450-horsepower Pratt & Whitney engine, enclosed cockpit and a number of other modifications. His show features twisting and tumbling maneuvers at speeds from 0 to 200 mph and ends with an inverted ribbon cut.

Sweeney wrote about aviation and people who fly from 1968 until his



Aero Club President Carl Honaker (right) presents NAA award to Eddie Andreini. Andreini, in retirement from the San Jose Mercury News in 2004. An aircraft pilot since 1974, he has logged flight time in 16 types of aircraft, and is currently flies Catabrias and Cessnas.

As aviation reporter for the Mercury News, Sweeney wrote about everything from airport development and aviation technology to his personal experiences at the controls of a variety of aircraft ranging from a 1917 Curtiss Jenny to the U.S. Navy



Aero Club director Sharon Sweeney (right) presents NAA award to Frank Sweeney. Sweeney, a member of the club's quarterly publication, Northern Wings. He currently is chairman of the San Jose International Airport Commission, which advises the San Jose City Council on aviation issues.

His wife Sharon, a member of the Aero Club Board of Directors, made the award presentation Oct. 22. Sweeney, also a member of the Aero Club board, is editor of the club's quarterly publication, Northern Wings. He currently is chairman of the San Jose International Airport Commission, which advises the San Jose City Council on aviation issues.

Sandra Clifford, Max Trescott lead Aero Club

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Nines, the women pilot's organization founded by Amelia Earhart.

Trescott, who started flying at age

15, has authored two aviation books and instructs glass cockpit aircraft at Palo Alto Airport. He writes an avionics and technology column for EAA's Sport Aviation.

The Aero Club of Northern California

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Chartered in 1981 as 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.