



Montgomery Flight – 1904



Moffett Field – 1933



China Clipper – 1936



Hiller XH-44 – 1944



NASA Ames Research Center -- 1981

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Bud Anderson honored with 2011 Crystal Eagle



Aero Club President Sandra Clifford presents Crystal Eagle to C. E. "Bud" Anderson.
-- Northern Wings photo

*29th annual Aero Club
award goes to famed
World War II triple ace*

Colonel C.E. "Bud" Anderson, a World War II triple ace and career Air Force test pilot and fighter commander, became the 29th recipient of the Crystal Eagle Award, presented annually by the Aero Club of Northern California to honor those whose aviation and space achievements are among the nation's highest.

Anderson, flying P-51B and P-51D Mustangs he named "Old Crow," shot down 16 German Luftwaffe fighters, shared in the kill of a bomber and

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Aero Club awards scholarships to four SJSU students

Four high-achieving San Jose State University aviation students have received scholarships from the Aero Club of Northern California.

The \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to Travis Champ, Robert Hofer, Colton Thomas and Kathy Tran during the Aero Club's annual Crystal Eagle Award Dinner.

Travis Champ is the recipient of the 2011 Robert L. Hamilton Scholarship. In high school, he received an Air Force Academy appointment, but was denied a pilot slot due to childhood asthma.

Champ enrolled at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona and earned his private pilot certificate and multi-engine rating. After a year, enrolled in the San Jose

State aviation program. He worked as an aircraft refueler at Livermore Airport and has obtained his instrument, single- and multi-engine commercial certificates, and his certified flight instructor rating.

Robert Hofer was awarded the 2011 Steve Fossett Scholarship.

He had been set on becoming a pilot since his 10th birthday when his parents arranged his first flight. Hofer earned his private pilot certificate at age 17, his instrument rating at 18 and his commercial rating at 19.

After high school in Corona, Hofer enrolled in the San Jose State aviation program and is working on his certificated flight instructor rating. He is involved with a number of student aviation organizations, and is a junior

analyst for NASA's Aviation Safety Reporting System

Hofer plans to become a corporate pilot and ultimately break into the commercial space flight industry.

Colton Thomas was awarded the 2011 James M. Nissen Scholarship.

Thomas grew up in the family home under the downwind leg of Reid-Hillview Airport's Runway 31R. He graduated from Evergreen Valley High School in 2005 and enrolled in the Aerospace Engineering program at Cal Poly, Pomona. But in fall 2009 he entered the aviation program at San Jose State and last year passed his check ride for private pilot. He is currently working toward an instrument rating.

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Famed World War II ace receives Crystal Eagle

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destroyed another aircraft on the ground during two tours of duty in Europe in 1944.

The San Jose-based Aero Club held the awards dinner last Oct. 22 at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos.

During the dinner program, Anderson talked about his life-long love of flight and the extensive fighter combat training he received, which eventually sent him into combat.

Anderson enlisted in the U.S. Army as a 20-year-old aviation cadet in 1942. Two years later, he was assigned to the 363rd Fighter Squadron of the 357th Fighter Group at RAF Leiston, England. He became the group's third leading ace, flying P-51s on 116 missions without being hit by fire from enemy aircraft and without

turning back for any reason.

The group's orders were to "pursue and destroy" the enemy fighters attacking the American bombers. His most memorable mission came when his flight of four Mustangs was attacked by four German ME-109 fighters. The Americans shot down three of the enemy. Anderson scored two of the kills, the last one a classic one-vs-one dogfight with a very skilled German pilot.

In his 30 years of military service, Anderson flew more than 100 types of aircraft, logging more than 7,000 hours flight time. He was a test pilot and chief of fighter operations at Wright Field, chief of flight test operations and deputy director of flight test at Edwards Air Force Base, and served two tours at the Pentagon.

Anderson commanded three fighter organizations including in 1970 the 355th Tactical Fighter Wing in Vietnam. He retired as a colonel in 1972, then managed the McDonnell Aircraft Company's flight test facility at Edwards AFB until 1984.

The Crystal Eagle Award was first presented by the Aero Club in 1983 to legendary aviator Gen. Jimmy Doolittle. Recent recipients included Elgen Long, Eileen Collins, Sean D. Tucker, Steve Fossett, Phil Boyer, Mike Melvill and Brian Shul.



—Northern Wings photo

C.E. "Bud" Anderson with Crystal Eagle Award.

The Aero Club also presented National Aeronautic Association Certificate awards to Bob Overby, managing director of Jeppesen Data Plan in San Jose, and longtime Hayward FBO Mike Couthes for their life-long contributions to the advancement of flight.



—Northern Wings photo

NAA President Jonathan Gaffney, Aero Club President Sandra Clifford and Crystal Eagle honoree C.E. "Bud" Anderson.

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. Greenamyer
 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
 2010 – Brian Shul
 2011 -- C.E. "Bud" Anderson

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and newsletter editor

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NAA President Jonathan Gaffney presents NAA Certificate to Robert Overby



NAA President Jonathan Gaffney presents NAA Certificate to Mike Coutches, with wife Frances

NAA, Aero Club honor Bob Overby, Mike Coutches

Robert Overby, managing director of Jeppesen Data Plan in San Jose, and longtime Hayward FBO Michael B. Coutches have received National Aeronautic Association Certificates for their life-long contributions to the advancement of flight.

NAA President Jonathan Gaffney made the presentations during the Aero Club's annual Crystal Eagle Awards Dinner at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos.

Overby began his career as a flight

planner with Lockheed Air Services in 1979 after graduating from San Jose State University with a degree in aeronautical operations. In 1990 Jeppesen purchased the division from Lockheed and Overby became manager of Global Operations Services. Since 1997, he has been managing director of Jeppesen's Data Plan Division responsible for the company's worldwide international trip planning.

Coutches began his career in the 1940s with Pan American Airways

when the airline operated Trans-Pacific flying boats out of Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay.

In 1950, he established his own business, American Aircraft Sales & Service at Mills Field, now San Francisco International Airport, and later moved to Hayward Airport.

Coutches bought 30 surplus World War II military fighter planes in 1958, reconditioned them and resold the aircraft, expanding his business into a prominent East Bay FBO.

Aero Club awards scholarships to four SJSU students

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Thomas is president of the Alpha Eta Rho aviation fraternity at San Jose State and has been the treasurer of the San Jose State Precision Flight Team. He hopes to become a pilot with the Air National Guard after graduation.

Kathy Tran is the recipient of the 2011 Aero Club of Northern California Scholarship. A San Jose native, she is a magna cum laude graduate of Oak Grove High School. After enrolling in the San Jose State aviation program, she began training for her private pilot certificate.

Tran is the vice president of SJSU's chapter of Women in Aviation, treasurer of the Alpha Eta Rho aviation fraternity and is a member of the SJSU Precision Flying Team. After graduation, she plans to enroll in an airframe and powerplant program and become a professional pilot.



Aero Club Treasurer Eric Peterson presents scholarship to Kathy Tran



Aero Club Treasurer Eric Peterson presents scholarship to Robert Hofer



Aero Club Vice President Max Trescott presents scholarship to Travis Champ



Aero Club Director Scott Yelich presents scholarship to Colton Thomas

Veteran aviator Harold Oberg, 91, Aero Club director, dies

Harold H. Oberg, longtime aviator and member of the Aero Club of Northern California Board of Directors, has died at age 91.

Oberg, of Salinas, was a World War II veteran who flew more than 50 types of military and civilian aircraft over more than half a century and played a small role in the founding of what is now Mineta San Jose International Airport. He died Jan. 26.

Oberg was born Oct. 24, 1920 in Madrone near Morgan Hill. He graduated from Live Oak High School in 1938, then attended Hartnell College majoring in aviation and engineering. He made his first solo airplane flight in a J-3 Piper Cub on Feb. 29, 1940 at Salinas Airport.

When Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941, Oberg enlisted in the Army Air Corps and completed flight training at bases in Chino and in Arizona. Commissioned a first lieutenant, he ferried airplanes around the world with the Air Transport Command.



Harold H. Oberg 1920-2012

After the war, Oberg bought an aviation business in Salinas, operating 18 new Aeroncas for flight training and three twin Beechcrafts for charter work. He named it Valley Flying Service. He also developed

flying schools in King City and Paso Robles. He flew for small airlines in California and Florida, and operated a crop dusting business in the Salinas Valley from 1959 to 1978. He was an FAA flight examiner for many years.

In the mid-1940s, he bought California Aviation Activities in San Jose from founder Jim Nissen, who was selling his business to become manager of the soon to be developed San Jose Municipal Airport. Oberg moved the airplanes to Salinas.

Oberg remained in the Air Force as a liaison officer to the Air Force Academy, retiring as a lieutenant colonel after 40 years service. Then he and his wife of 68 years, Mary Jane, traveled the world.

In later years he was active in local service clubs, civic affairs and served on the advisory committee for the aviation programs at Hartnell and Gavilan colleges. In addition to the Aero Club board, he was a member of the Carmel Valley Quiet Birdmen.

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.