

# THE AERO CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

"CRADLE OF AVIATION"

Montgomery Flight  
1904



Moffett Field  
1933



China Clipper  
1936



Hiller XH - 44  
1944



NASA Ames Research Center  
1939



## *Northern Wings*

Volume 7 No. 1

[www.aeroclubnorcal.org](http://www.aeroclubnorcal.org)

Summer-Fall 2013

### Electronic Newsletter

#### **Northern Wings to be distributed through e-mail, so let us know your e-mail address**

Welcome to our new electronic version of Northern Wings - the publication of the Aero Club of Northern California. Although one of our primary missions is to honor aviation history, we've decided to enter the digital age.

There are several reasons for this change. First among them is speed in distributing Northern Wings to our members and other interested people and organizations on our mailing list.

A printed version of our newsletter required a long lead time - to prepare the content, design the graphics/layout, produce the final product on the computer, physically ship it to the printer, allow time for technical pre-print work and pressrun, pick up the finished product, and mail it with first class postage. And all of that cost, too.

With an electronic edition, we also are no longer bound by the constraints of a print edition. The information now will be unlimited, and we won't be hampered by a production schedule. That means you may see more Northern Wings than before - when news happens. And most of the photos will be in color.

While the majority of Aero Club members have e-mail addresses on file with us, we realize that some people don't have e-mail at all. So we will continue to mail printed copies of the newsletter to those without e-mail. But it will look differently than the printed version you are used to receiving. And if you have e-mail, but haven't let us know about it yet want to receive Northern Wings electronically, tell us. Just go to our website at [www.aeroclubnorcal.org](http://www.aeroclubnorcal.org).

### Crystal Eagle Award 2013

Aviation author and humorist  
Rod Machado to receive  
2013 Crystal Eagle award from  
Aero Club of Northern California

Annual dinner scheduled Nov. 1

Aviation author, humorist and flight instructor Rod Machado will become the 31<sup>st</sup> recipient of the prestigious Crystal Eagle Award, presented annually by the Aero Club of Northern California to honor those whose achievements are among the highest endeavors in aviation and aerospace.

The dinner will be held Friday, Nov. 1, at the Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road at San Carlos Airport. Dinner reservation forms will be mailed later this month.

The Aero Club also will present awards from the National Aeronautic Association to two individuals who have made significant contributions to aviation. And \$2,000 scholarships, funded by a Silent Auction at the dinner, will be awarded to three students enrolled in Bay Area college and university aviation programs.

Machado, a pilot since 1970 and holder of multiple ratings, is best known as an author of aviation books and seminar speaker at events such as EAA AirVenture, Sun 'N Fun and AOPA Expo. His seminars include Defensive Flying, Handling In-Flight Emergencies, and Aviation Humor.

Born in Oakland, Machado started flying at age 16 at Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose. He soloed at age 17 and took his private pilot check ride with famed flight instructor and air show pilot Amelia Reid.

By age 19, he was as certified flight instructor. Over the years, he earned a number of other pilot ratings, including instrument, commercial and airline transport pilot. He has several type ratings but usually flies a Cessna 150. He has logged more than 8,000 flight hours, most of it giving dual instruction.

In the 1970s, Machado left the Bay Area for Southern California, where he refined his presentation skills giving ground school instruction. He found out that humor keeps his audience entertained as he teaches flying procedures and the boring details of FARs.

Machado became a regular patron of Los Angeles area comedy clubs where he watched rising stars like Jerry Seinfeld and Jay Leno hone their acts.

Since then he has shared his humor and wisdom in two books, four videos and two audio cassette albums. He writes a monthly column, "License to Learn," for AOPA



Rod Machado  
...Aviation author, humorist

Pilot magazine, and is working on several new books.

At EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh and other events, he holds a variety of seminars such as Defensive Flying, Handling In-Flight Emergencies, and Aviation Humor.

Machado is a National Accident Prevention Counselor and in 1991 was named Western Region Flight Instructor of the Year. He has a degree in Aviation Science and a degree in Psychology from California State University at Long Beach. He also studied karate and holds black belts in Tae Kwon Do and Hapkido and ranking in Gracie Jujitsu.

## Silent Auction supports Aero Club scholarship program

Each year at the annual Crystal Eagle dinner, the Aero Club of Northern California gives three \$2,000 scholarships to outstanding students enrolled in Bay Area college and university aviation programs.

Dinner ticket prices barely cover the cost of food and other expenses and renting the venue -- the Hiller Aviation Museum. So the Aero Club relies on the Silent Auction at the dinner to raise money to fund scholarships.

The donors to the Silent Auction as well as those who win bids on a variety of auction items make the scholarships possible. These scholarships have helped aviation students to move toward professional careers.

This year, generous Aero Club supporters have donated a large variety of items, ranging from flight time in aircraft and sailing excursions on San Francisco Bay to aviation art photography and flying handbooks. But more donations are needed to support the scholarship program.

Donations to the Silent Auction can be delivered to the Administration Offices at Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose. Or donors can contact Ron Blake, a member of the Aero Club Board of Directors, at 408-568-3897 or email at [ronblake@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ronblake@sbcglobal.net) for more information or to pick up a donation.

For more information about last year's scholarship winners, go to the story later in this newsletter.

## 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



## Crystal Eagle Dinner

Date: Friday, Nov.1, 2013

Reception: 6:15 p.m.

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  
2012 - Julie Clark  
2013 - Rod Machado

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) 398-4174.

## Aero Club News



**John J. Montgomery with glider  
"The Santa Clara" in 1904**  
--Santa Clara University archives



**John J. Montgomery flies glider  
"The Evergreen" in 1911.**  
-Santa Clara University Archives

## California's aviation pioneer flew before the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk

### *Montgomery author speaks to Aero Club luncheon*

Although the Wright Brothers have gotten the glory for inventing the airplane, a California scientist flew controlled gliders 20 years before the Wright's 1903 powered flights at Kitty Hawk, NC.

John J. Montgomery, who later became a science professor at what now is Santa Clara University, in 1883 piloted his glider off Otay Mesa south of San Diego in the first controlled flights of a heavier-than-air craft in the Western Hemisphere.

After years of research into the life of the prolific inventor, Craig S. Harwood, along with co-author Gary B. Fogel, have completed a newly published book, "Quest for Flight. John Montgomery and the Dawn of Aviation in the West."

Harwood, who is the great-great grandson of Montgomery's father, was the featured speaker at the Aero Club's Spring Luncheon May 24 at Michael's at Shoreline restaurant in Mountain View.

In his talk, and in the book re-examining the history of aviation, Harwood said the Wright Brothers got most of the credit because they waged a long public campaign to profit from their aeroplane patent and create an aviation monopoly. As a result, the accomplishments of Montgomery and other pioneers in the West were largely overlooked.

However, Montgomery was a scientist researching the physical laws of flight. He invented the basic methods of aircraft control and stability in the 1880s and refined his aerodynamic theories over decades.

In the early 20th century, Montgomery staged public demonstrations of his glider, named "The Santa Clara," in San Jose. But in 1911, Montgomery was fatally injured in the crash of his latest glider, named "The Evergreen," in San Jose's Evergreen district.



**Craig Harwood**  
...Author

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## Jerry Bennett retires from Aero Club Board



**Aero Club President Sandra Clifford**

*Scholarship named for longtime director*

**announces scholarship to be named for Jerry Bennett.**

--Northern Wings photo

Jerry Bennett, a member of the Aero Club Board of Directors since the club was chartered in 1981, has resigned.

Bennett, who retired as deputy director of Mineta San Jose International Airport, and later as director of the Santa Clara County airport system, is an FAA Master Pilot with more than 50 years of accident-free flying.

At the Aero Club Spring Luncheon May 24, Aero Club President Sandra Clifford announced that the Aero Club Board voted to name a scholarship in Bennett's honor. The scholarship will be one of several to be awarded during the club's annual Crystal Eagle dinner Nov. 1.



**Julie Clark accepts Crystal Eagle award from Aero Club President Sandra Clifford.**

-- Northern Wings photo

**Julie Clark receives 2012 Crystal Eagle Award**  
*Famed air show star is 30th Honoree*

Famed air show star Julie Clark became the 30th recipient of the prestigious Crystal Eagle Award, presented annually by the Aero Club of Northern California to honor people whose achievements are among the highest in aviation and aerospace

endeavors.

Clark was presented the award Nov. 9, 2012 during the San Jose-based Aero Club's annual Crystal Eagle dinner at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. The club is the regional affiliate of the National Aeronautic Association.

During the presentation, Clark gave an enthusiastic talk about the highs and lows of more than 40 years as an air show star, as one of the first female airline pilots in the United States, and of the events that motivated her to the highest levels of flying achievement.

Clark has been flying in air shows since 1980 when she formed American Aerobatics. At the controls of her Beechcraft T-34A Mentor, a much-modified Air Force trainer from the 1950s, she takes the plane to its operational limits in a rugged yet elegant routine in the sky.

She calls her plane "Free Spirit" and flies a patriotic presentation, "Serenade in Red, White and Blue," which is choreographed to Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" or "God Bless Canada." Multicolored wingtip smoke trails her maneuvers, and her performance concludes with dazzling fireworks.

Flying is probably in her genetic code. Clark was building model airplanes at age 8 instead of playing with dolls. Her father, Ernie Clark, was a captain for Pacific Airlines who on occasion smuggled his daughter aboard on flights in the baggage compartment and then into the cockpit of a DC-3 or F-27.

But in 1964, on a flight from Nevada to Oakland, a passenger entered the unlocked cockpit and shot to death Captain Clark and the first officer. The airliner crashed, killing all aboard. But Julie Clark became ever more determined to become a pilot, and spent her college book money on flying lessons.

After college, Clark worked several jobs at a time and took nearly any flying job she could get to build time and earn higher ratings. She was a civilian flight instructor for the U.S. Navy at Lemoore Naval Air Station in 1974-75, where she learned tactical maneuvers, formation flying and aerobatics.

Her big break was in 1976 when she was hired by Golden West Airlines to fly DeHavilland Twin Otters, carrying mail at night and passengers by day.

The following year, she was hired by Hughes Airwest (formerly Pacific Airlines), becoming one of the first women to fly for a major airline. Hughes Airwest became Republic Airlines and later merged into Northwest Airlines. Clark advanced to Northwest captain in 1984 and retired from the airline in 2004.

Clark is rated in 66 types of aircraft. In 33 years of solo aerobatic air show flying, as well as at the controls of an airliner, she has logged more than 31,000 hours accident-free.



**Julie Clark with Crystal Eagle.**  
-- Northern Wings photo

## Steve Frost, Sharon Sweeney honored with awards from National Aeronautics Association

San Jose airport businessman Steve Frost and aviation community activist Sharon Sweeney were honored with National Aeronautics Association Certificates of Merit during the Aero Club's annual Crystal Eagle Dinner.

Frost is president and general manager of Corporate Air Technology International Airport, aircraft repair facility over maintained late-model high aviation aircraft and His firm manages corporate Dassault Falcon business

Frost, a California native, mechanic and in parts sales companies during the

In 1985-86, he co- and formed a limited

Corporate Air Technology, an FAA Part 145 aircraft repair station at the San Jose airport.

Sharon Sweeney has a long history as a defender of aviation in Santa Clara County. Over the past 15 years, she has been a major player in the political fight to preserve Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose.

She mobilized aviators, historians, civic leaders and the Aero Club in a successful campaign to name Mineta San Jose International Airport's passenger terminal complex for James M. Nissen, who over 30 years built the airport from a grass strip to a major metropolitan airport. She led the drive to name the airfield for Ernest Renzel, who organized the campaign to acquire land for a city airport. Sweeney is a private pilot and member of the Santa Clara Valley 99s. She served as chair of the San Jose Airport Commission in the late 1990s and is a member of the Aero Club Board of Directors.



Steve Frost speaks after receiving NAA award. Aero Club President Sandra Clifford and Director Tom Leonard at left.

-- Northern Wings photo



NAA President Jonathan Gaffney, right, presents NAA award to Sharon Sweeney. Her husband, Frank Sweeney, introduced her.

-- Northern Wings photo

at Mineta San Jose

The nationally known the past 26 years has performance general corporate business jets. aircraft, focusing on the jets.

worked as an aviation for a number of 1970s and mid-1980s. developed a business plan partnership to establish

## Aero Club of Northern California awards three scholarships to San Jose State aviation students



**Thomas Ondrasek is presented with scholarship by Director Eric Peterson**

--Northern Wings photo



**Lisa Mathis accepts scholarship check from Director Scott Yelich**

--Northern Wings photo



**Stephen Meder receives scholarship check from Vice President Max Trescott**

--Northern Wings photo

Three San Jose State University aviation students have received \$2,000 scholarships each from the Aero Club of Northern California.

**Lisa Mathis** was awarded the 2012 James M. Nissen Scholarship. After graduating from high school in 2007, she attended a community college in San Diego before moving north to attend the aviation program at San Jose State.

She is vice president of Alpha Eta Rho, the aviation fraternity at San Jose State, and secretary of Women in Aviation at SJSU. Mathis works as a dispatcher at an FBO at Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose.

"Winning the Aero Club of Northern California scholarship has changed my life immensely," she said. ""This scholarship enabled me to begin my flight training and to pursue a life-long dream."

Mathis plans to begin her career in aviation management to gain experience and the financial resources to become a professional pilot for a seaplane-based operation. The scholarship helped her to begin flight training so that she can earn her private pilot certificate by the time she graduates from SJSU in May 2014.

**Stephen Meder** was the recipient of the 2012 Aero Club of Northern California Scholarship. A 2008 graduate of Santa Clara High School, Meder attended De Anza College before transferring to San Jose State. He has been working as an aircraft fueler at Mineta San Jose International Airport.

His student activities included the Northern California Business Aviation Association mentoring committee, the Flying Twenty, Women in Aviation, and Alpha Eta Rho at San Jose State.

"Thank you to all of the donors that made the scholarship possible," Meder said. "It helped me continue my flight training and expand my involvement in the aviation community. It was one heck of a pat on the back."

Outside of aviation, he has earned a black belt in Tae Kwan Do and has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America.

Meder plans to pursue a career as a professional pilot. He is the 2013 student liaison to the Aero Club Board of Directors.

**Thomas Ondrasek** was awarded the 2012 Robert L. Hamilton Scholarship. He started working for an FBO in Houston, Texas, while still in high school and entered college after graduation. Ondrasek enlisted in the Navy after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, was trained as an aviation electrician's mate and worked on F-14 Tomcats.

After five years, he left the Navy to resume college studies and earned his private pilot certificate and instrument rating. He has competed as a member of the SJSU Precision Flight Team and has served as the Maintenance Officer for the Flying 20 and as a past Treasurer for Alpha Eta Rho.

Ondrasek plans to work as a flight instructor to gain experience and become an airline pilot.

## Gone West

### **Paul Poberezny, 1999 Crystal Eagle recipient, EAA founder**

Paul Poberezny, the charismatic founder of the Experimental Aircraft Association and recipient of the 1999 Crystal Eagle Award from the Aero Club of Northern California, died Aug. 22 at the age of 91. Poberezny was a military pilot for 30 years and served during World War II and Korea before retiring as a lieutenant colonel from the Wisconsin Air National Guard in 1970. He was born in Kansas in 1921 and taught himself to fly at age 16 in a single-seat Waco glider he helped restore. Poberezny founded EAA in the basement of his Milwaukee-area home in 1953 with his wife Audrey, and they built it into a vibrant organization that now boasts 170,000 members in more than 100 countries, and its annual gathering, EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisc., is one of aviation's premiere events.



**Paul Poberezny receives 1999 Crystal Eagle. Aero Club President Scott Yelich at left.**



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### **Barbara Erickson London, WWII WASP**

Barbara Erickson London, who commanded a Women Air Service Pilots (WASP) squadron during World War II and went on to a successful aviation business career, died July 7 at age 93. London was one of five Bay Area women who flew as WASP ferry pilots who were honored by the Aero Club of Northern California in 2010 for their service to the United States during World War II.

The WASP pilots flew the latest fighters, bombers and other aircraft from the factories to military bases and to the men who were destined for combat in Europe and the Pacific.

London, of San Jose, was one of the first women to respond to the call for duty in 1942, initially as a pilot in the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS). That group was later merged into the WASP program. She flew several hundred military aircraft from the Douglas Aircraft Co. factory in Long Beach to various military bases and is the only woman pilot from World War II to receive the air medal. Her daughter, Terry Rinehart, was one of the first female airline pilots and is a member of the Aero Club Board of Directors.

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### **Quentin Burden, 2005 NAA honoree**

Quentin Burden, former Douglas and Lockheed test pilot who was honored by the Aero Club with a National Aeronautic Association award in 2005 for his long contribution to aviation, died June 11 after a long illness. He was 94.



Burden, who entered the Navy in 1941 and flew off aircraft carriers in the Pacific during World War II, became chief test pilot for Douglas Aircraft Co. afterward. He flew a variety of aircraft ranging from the DC-3 through the F4D Skyray.

Later Burden became a corporate pilot for Lockheed Missiles & Space Co., based at then-San Jose Municipal Airport. In the 1960s, he was project test pilot on the Lockheed Q-Star night-flying reconnaissance planes that flew stealth missions in Vietnam

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**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 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.

**Aero Club of Northern California  
2013 Board of Directors**

**Sandra J. Clifford** - president

**Max Trescott** -- vice president

**Eric Peterson** - treasurer

**Carl Honaker** - past president

**Ron Blake** - director

**Glynn Falcon** - director

**Janet Russell Hitt** - director

**Ray Hutchings** - director

**Thomas E. Leonard** - director

**Terry Rinehart** - director

**Sharon K. Sweeney** - director

**Rick Willson** - director

**Scott Yelich** - director

**Stephen Meder** -- student liaison

**Frank Sweeney** - director and newsletter editor

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

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