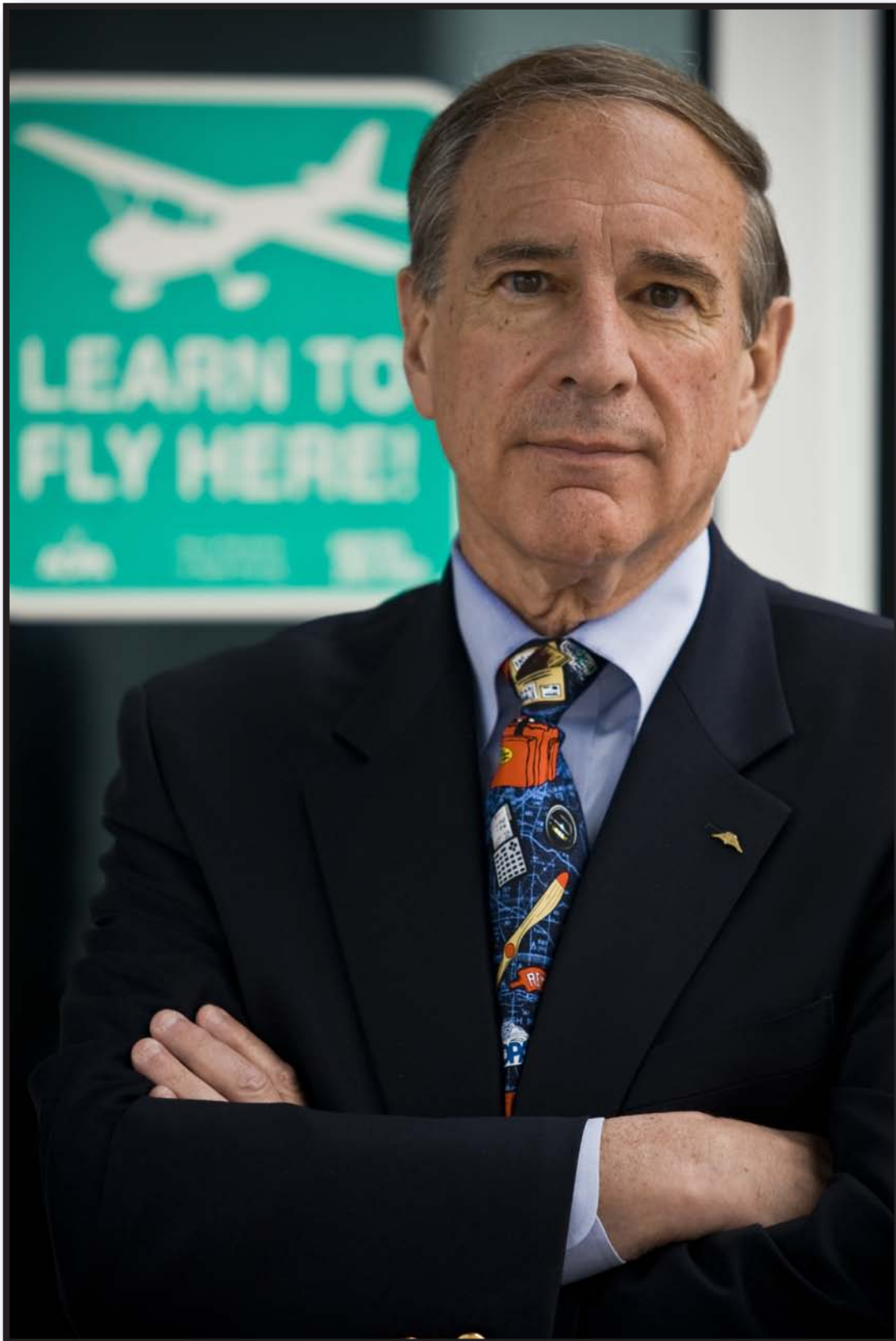


**The Aero Club of Northern California**  
**2008 Crystal Eagle Award**  
**Presented To**



**Phil Boyer**



**P**hil Boyer, a 7,000-hour-plus instrument- and multiengine-rated pilot, has been president of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association since 1991. During his tenure, Boyer has helped increase AOPA membership to 415,000 – two-thirds of all certificated pilots in the United States, making it one of the world's

largest and most influential civil aviation organizations.

AOPA has fought for general aviation issues in venues ranging from local city councils and state legislatures to the U.S. Congress. Most recently, AOPA has led the opposition to the general aviation user fee plan that the Bush Administration and the airlines have pushed arguing that the current system, based on fuel taxes, has built the best aviation system in the world and can easily finance the new ATC systems of the future.

AOPA played a major role in the fight to reform the tort law process that nearly killed the piston-engine aircraft industry in the 1980s through passage of the 1994 General Aviation Revitalization Act.

Boyer also led a successful campaign to persuade the Federal Aviation Administration to certify the satellite-based Global Positioning System for general aviation flight operations.

In addition to political issues, AOPA under Boyer's leadership has developed an extensive series of traveling safety seminars for pilots throughout the country, as well as online aviation safety courses. AOPA has established the AOPA Air Safety Foundation, as well as an AOPA Political Action Committee to help elect aviation-friendly candidates to Congress.

Before becoming AOPA president, Boyer was senior vice president/development for Capital Cities/ABC Video Enterprises, Inc. where he created ABC's "Wide World of Flying".

## The Crystal Eagle: A distinctive work of art

The Crystal Eagle Award is a unique work of art crystal handcrafted in Italy.

It is fitting that the eagle should be the symbol for the Aero Club's annual award. The North American eagle is recognized as a bird possessing great strength, natural grace, keenness of vision and power in flight. The eagle has historically been used by man to identify with flying.

The Crystal Eagle is mounted on a California redwood base, unique to Northern California. In its natural state, redwood has unusual durability, commensurate with the recipients of this coveted award.



## About Our Club

**T**he Aero Club of Northern California was formed to promote those activities which advance aviation and aerospace within Northern California

We are a chapter of our parent organization, the National Aeronautic Association (NAA), which having been founded in 1905 as the Aero Club of America is the oldest independent, non-profit aviation organization in the United States, and the sole U.S. representative to the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI).

So central to aviation was the Aero Club that until 1926 it issued all pilot licenses in the United States.

The first five pilot licenses issued by the Aero Club were:

1) Glen H. Curtiss, 2) Lt. Frank P. Lahm, 3) Louis Paulham, 4) Orville Wright, and 5) Wilbur Wright. Until 1926, all other pilot licenses issued in the United States subsequent to these five were issued by the Aero Club of America.

We embrace the goals of our parent organization in our efforts to support a vigorous aviation and space program. The club supports students at all levels of learning, including endowing a number of scholarships for local aviation programs. We also strive to recognize and honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of aviation and space flight.

Learn more about us at [www.aeroclubnorcal.org](http://www.aeroclubnorcal.org).

## Past Crystal Eagle Award Recipients

**1983:** General James "Jimmy" Doolittle  
**1984:** Brigadier General "Chuck" Yeager  
**1985:** Stanley Hiller, Jr.  
**1986:** William "Bill" Lear, Sr.  
**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 M. Long  
**2005:** Eileen Marie Collins  
**2006:** Sean D. Tucker  
**2007:** Steve Fossett