

# The Aero Club of Northern California

## 2014 Crystal Eagle Award

Presented to



# Prof. Tom Leonard



Montgomery Flight - 1904



Moffett Field - 1933



China Clipper - 1936



Hiller XH-44 - 1944



NASA Ames Research Center - 1981

Nearly 70 years ago, Prof. Thomas E. Leonard began providing the leadership and vision to deliver excellence in an aviation education at San Jose State University.

Tom was born in San Francisco in 1922 and grew up in Northern California, where he attended

high school in Ukiah and Willets. Life in California was very different then and Tom recalls that as a young teenager, he sometimes hitched a ride on a logging ship to visit family in San Francisco. Upon completing high school, Tom attended California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo. But the onset of WW2 interrupted his college education.

During the early war years, Tom went to work for Pan Am at Treasure Island working on their flying "Clipper" boats that provided airline service across the Pacific. This was followed by military service in the U.S. Army Air Corps between 1943 and 1944. Following his military discharge, he returned to his studies at Cal Poly and completed his degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

Although he intended to rejoin Pan Am after graduation, his plans were altered when the newly appointed head of the Aeronautics program at San Jose State College showed up at Cal Poly looking to hire an instructor. Tom thought it would be interesting to go to San Jose State and teach for a year. He talked to Pan Am and they agreed, so in 1946 he headed north to San Jose to start the fall program. Upon arrival, he was a little



taken back when he first saw that the College Aeronautics facilities were located in the basement of the campus science building. He recalls that "We had the only underground aviation program in the U.S." By

Spring, the program had emerged above ground into an on-campus war-surplus Quonset hut. He soon discovered that he loved teaching and his one-year commitment ended up lasting more than four decades.

While attending Cal Poly, he met his wife Ann and they were married in 1949. By 1950, the school Aeronautics program became his sole responsibility. As the Department Chairman, he added two new Aeronautics curriculums, expanded the faculty, and developed the first four-year college-level aeronautics program at San Jose State. In 1954, he succeeded in securing an FAA Air Agency Certificate authorizing the college to operate an approved Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) program. In 1956, he completed his Master's Degree in Education with an aeronautics emphasis. As the school curriculum expanded, so did the need for facilities. By 1959, he was successful in negotiating a 50-year land lease with the city of San Jose and the airport administration to build a state-of-the-art off-campus facility on San Jose Airport. The new on-airport facility was completed in 1962 and became a flagship aviation program in California. His endeavors became nationally known and recognized. By the 1980's, enrollment exceeded 800 students majoring in aircraft maintenance, flight operations, airport and aerospace management. Tom retired from SJSU in 1985, but continued to teach part-time until 1994 and until recently served as chairman emeritus. For forty years, Professor Leonard led changes in the Aeronautics program that saw it through both good and tough times. Through his tireless work, Tom has directly touched the lives of thousands of students and millions of airline passengers across the globe.



# The Aero Club of Northern California

## Thirty-Second Annual Awards Presentation

### Hiller Aviation Museum

### October 25, 2014

Welcome and Introduction of Aero Club Board and Guests .....	Max Trescott
Aero Club Scholarship Awards Presentations	
James M. Nissen Sr. Scholarship	Kurtis Rowe .....
Robert L. Hamilton Scholarship	Calvin Diaz .....
Aero Club of Northern California Scholarship	Juu-en Killinger .....
	Glynn Falcon Eric Peterson Scott Yelich

### DINNER

Aero Club - National Aeronautic Association (NAA) Awards .....	NAA President Jonathan Gaffney
Robert "Robin" Reid	
David "Dave" Morss	
Presentation: Taurus G4 Electric Airplane .....	Morss & Reid
Silent Auction End	
Crystal Eagle Recipient Introduction .....	Sandra Clifford
Guest Speaker .....	Thomas Leonard
Crystal Eagle Award Presentation .....	Max Trescott

## The Crystal Eagle Award

### 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.

The Crystal Eagle Award is presented annually by the Aero Club of Northern California to recognize an individual whose accomplishments have significantly contributed to the advancement of aviation or space technology.

### Crystal Eagle Award Winners

- 1983:** General James "Jimmy" Doolittle
- 1984:** Brigadier General Charles E. "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
- 2008:** Phil Boyer
- 2009:** Mike Melvill
- 2010:** Brian Shul
- 2011:** Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson
- 2012:** Julie Clark
- 2013:** Rod Machado



# National Aero Club Association 2014 Awardees

## Robert “Robin” Reid



Robin Reid was almost born in an airplane – his mother Amelia Reid and father Robert “Bobby” Reid Jr. of Reid-Hillview Airport were flying the night before. As a child, Reid followed the typical “airport kid” path, building and flying model airplanes, kites, and anything that was free of the ground.

Flying is in the Reid family genes. His mother became a nationally known air show pilot and flight instructor. His father was a crop duster pilot, and his grandfather was one of the two brothers who founded Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose.

On his 16th birthday, Reid soloed five different taildraggers. His mother taught him all the “by the book” skills while his father started teaching him mountain flying and advanced survival skills normally not learned by a teenager with 20 hours solo time. By age 17, Reid had a private pilot license with single and multi-engine ratings, at age 18 he had his commercial license and at 19 he got his flight instructor rating and started working for his mother and simultaneously working toward his A&P license at Amelia Reid Aviation.

Reid honed his flying skills with government survey flights, flight instructing, banner towing and night-sign flying and gaining experience in a vast assortment of antique, vintage, experimental and aerobatic aircraft. He flew night cargo flights, then moved into the airlines. He currently flies as a co-pilot on the Boeing 747-400 for Northwest Airlines.

Over the years, he piloted a Shoestring racer in the National Air Races at Reno, and began test-flying experimentals and newly-restored antique aircraft, including the DH-88 DeHavilland Comet replica built by Bill Turner; “Pete” racer; Gee Bee Y; Miles and Atwood; and Brown B-2 “Miss Los Angeles.”

When his mother died in 2001, Reid and his wife Marici took over operation of her flight school, which had been at Reid-Hillview Airport since 1960. Over the next five years, he and the other mechanics methodically restored aircraft and focused the flight school on “stick and rudder” tailwheel basics and aerobatics. The flight school later was sold, and Reid, his wife and their sons Scooter and Jonathan moved to Independence, Oregon, onto an airpark where they have a small FBO. Reid’s mother, Amelia, was honored by the NAA and Aero Club with this same award in 1992.

## David “Dave” Morss



Morss started flying in 1968 at age 14 and has since logged more than 27,000 hours. He is founder and president of Myriad Research and conducts flight tests on experimental aircraft of all types. One of aviation's top test pilots, Morss holds multiple pilot ratings. He has flown more than 300 types of aircraft including first flights on 40 prototype aircraft such as the Thunder Mustang, Legend and Turbo Raven. In 1998, in recognition of his test career, the Society of Experimental Test Pilots awarded Morss the Spirit of Flight Award honoring his accomplishments in flight testing.

Morss is a seasoned air-racing veteran. This year marked his 34th consecutive appearance at the Reno National Air Races. He has competed in five classes; Formula One, Sport Class, Bi-Plane, Jet and Unlimited. Morss currently holds the record for the most races at Reno -- 233 and counting.

In 1998, 1999 and 2000 Morss captured the Gold at Reno in the new Sport Class flying the factory Lancair IV. He set course records for fastest lap, fastest qualifying speed and race records in 1998 and was awarded the Pulitzer Aviation Trophy from the National Aeronautic Association. In 1999, he broke the records setting new marks for the class and earning him his second Pulitzer from the NAA. In total, Morss holds 13 world speed records, 10 of which stand.

Morss is a two-time recipient of the Bob Downey Memorial Award for most inspirational competitor at Reno and the George Owl Outstanding New Design Award for his racer “Fastlane.” He is active in the warbird community and currently flies the B17 Memphis Belle for the Liberty Foundation.

Morss has flown for a major airline, been a three time soaring champion, and flight instructor. He was a FAA Designated Pilot Examiner for 25 years. He currently serves as an FAA Airworthiness Representative. He also flies a Lancair Legacy and Turbo Twin Comanche. Morss and his wife Karen live in Redwood City, California

# Scholarships

The Aero Club of Northern California annually provides scholarships to college students actively studying aviation at a Bay Area college. Due partly to the success of last year's silent auction, this year the Aero Club is awarding three two-thousand dollar scholarships tonight. Successful applicants must be at least a sophomore, have completed at least 15 semester units of college level aviation coursework and have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5

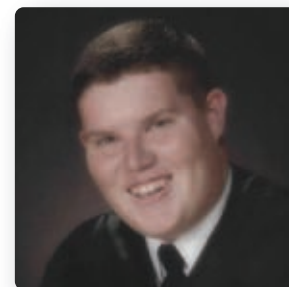
## James M. Nissen Scholarship



James (Jim) M. Nissen (1915-1994) was born in Livermore, CA. In 1937, after receiving his engineering degree from the University of California at Berkeley, he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy, and later became a naval aviator and flew various military aircraft including the PBY Catalina. He briefly flew trans-Pacific seaplanes for Pan American Airways before accepting a research test pilot position in 1941 with Ames Research Center at Moffett Field with the National Advisory Committee on Aviation (NACA), now NASA. In 1945 he joined North American Aviation as a test pilot. At the same time, with two partners, he founded an aviation company and developed 16.4 acres of land leased from the city of San Jose, creating a small airport. In 1946 he sold his share of the business and was hired by the city of San Jose as its first Airport Manager.

Over the next 29 years (1946-1975) he developed the small airfield into the Bay Area's third major jetport - Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC). At the time of his retirement as Director of Aviation, SJC had achieved national status with service to every major U.S. destination city, including non-stop flights coast-to-coast and service to Hawaii. In honor of Mr. Nissen's pioneering efforts to developed San Jose's airport, the new SJC Terminal Complex has been named the James M. Nissen Terminal.

Our 2014 James M. Nissen Scholarship recipient is Kurtis Rowe. Kurtis, an Eagle Scout, graduated from Pioneer High School in Woodland California in 2013. Since that time he has been a student in the SJSU Aviation Department with a goal of working within the airline industry or airport management. He has found his time at SJSU very fulfilling with academic and social activities including Alpha Eta Rho and the Precision Flight Team. While not yet a pilot, that too is one of Kurtis' goals.



## Robert L. Hamilton Scholarship

Robert (Bob) L. Hamilton (1936-2002) was born in Hanford, CA. In 1954 he joined the United States Army and was initially trained in helicopter maintenance. After a tour in Germany, he was accepted into the Army helicopter pilot program and following his training served two tours in Vietnam as a rescue helicopter pilot. He was awarded the prestigious Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars, and 30 Air Medals. In 1986, he was inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame at Fort Rucker, Alabama. While most of his 6,300 flight hours were in helicopters, he also piloted fixed-wing aircraft and flew professionally for several companies in the San Jose area. Many of his flight hours were in the large twin-rotor Chinook CH-47 -- the first helicopter to utilize a fly-by-wire flight control system. Mr. Hamilton was a past officer and Board Member of the Aero Club of Northern California. Funds for this scholarship were established by a very close family friend at the time of Mr. Hamilton's death. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.



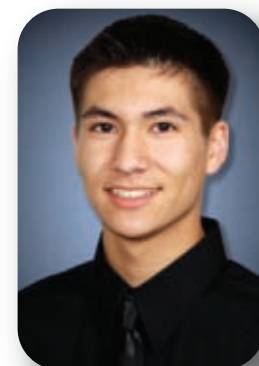
Calvin Diaz, our 2014 Robert L. Hamilton scholarship recipient has found great motivation in the Air Force ROTC program. It is through ROTC, his education at San Jose State University, and his future goal of obtaining a pilot certificate with the Flying 20's, that Calvin plans to meet his ultimate goal of becoming a commercial airline pilot.



## Aero Club of Northern California Scholarship

This endowed scholarship was established to recognize the many contributions made by members and donors to the Aero Club of Northern California. Funds for this scholarship come solely from member donations, proceeds from the annual awards dinner silent auction, and donations generated at other Aero Club events.

The 2014 Aero Club of Northern California Scholarship recipient is Juu-en Killinger, an individual who has been fascinated with aviation since he was a very young child. Juu-en is a current SJSU student pursuing a Bachelor's in Aviation Operations as well as a Business minor. He expects to transition to the new SJSU Professional Pilot program next year and use his education as a springboard to a career as a professional pilot.



## Our Special Thanks to:



HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM  
Where Inspiration Takes Flight



## About Our Club

The 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.

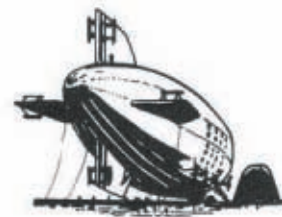
## About Our Logo

Incorporated in the logo of The Aero Club of Northern California are some of the most significant contributions the Northern California area has made to the art and science of flight.



*Montgomery Flight - 1904*

Often referred to as "*The Father of Basic Flying*" Dr. John Montgomery was a true aviation pioneer. San Jose was the site of many of his historic achievements. Alexander Graham Bell noted that, "All subsequent attempts in aviation must begin with the Montgomery Machine."



*Moffett Field - 1933*

Dedicated April 12, 1933, Moffett Field was, until recently, the United States guardian of the Pacific. It continues to be a major aviation facility supporting both federal and military operations.



*China Clipper - 1935*

Lifting from San Francisco Bay waters on November 22, 1935, the Clipper became the first airplane to fly the Pacific non-stop. Cutting over 15 days off the best surface time from San Francisco to Manila, it led to the elimination of the barriers of space and time.



*NASA Ames Research Center - 1939*

Northern California's continued contributions to the quest for our ultimate destiny is assured by the ongoing advancements in aerospace science and technology at NASA's Ames Research Center.