

The Aero Club of Northern California 2009 Crystal Eagle Award

Presented To



Mike Melvill



Montgomery Flight - 1904



Moffett Field - 1933



China Clipper - 1936



Hiller XH-44 - 1944



NASA Ames Research Center - 1981

A Few of the Rutan Designed First Flight Aircraft



Grizzly



Catbird



Raptor



Proteus



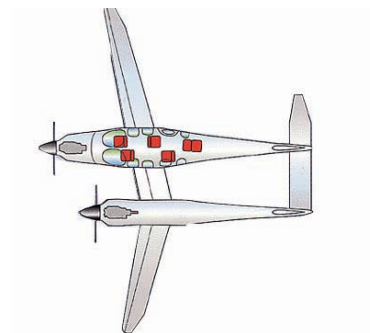
Solitaire



Ares



Boomerang



Boomerang top view

The Aero Club of Northern California
Twenty-Seventh Annual Awards Presentation
 Hiller Aviation Institute
 October 24, 2009

Welcome and Introduction Carl Honaker

DINNER

Introduction of Aero Club Officers and Board Members Carl Honaker

Aero Club - National Aeronautic Association (NAA) Awards
 John Blair Carl Honaker
 Brian Stout Tom Leonard

Aero Club Scholarship Awards Presentations
 Robert L. Hamilton Scholarship Monte Miller Sandra Clifford
 James M. Nissen Sr. Scholarship Amber Hartmannsson Scott Yelich
 Aero Club of Northern California Scholarship Brian Hsu Eric Peterson

Guest Speaker Mike Melvill

Crystal Eagle Award Presentation Carl Honaker

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



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The Aero Club of Northern California annually provides three scholarships to college students actively studying aviation at a Bay Area college. Successful applicants must be at least a sophomore, have completed at least 15 hours of college level aviation coursework and have a cumulative GPA of 2.5.

More information on our scholarship program can be found on our website: www.aeroclubnorcal.org.

James M. Nissen Scholarship

James (Jim) M. Nissen (1915-1994) was born in Livermore, California. In 1937, after receiving his engineering degree at 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. The airport at the time was also home to more than 600 general aviation and corporate aircraft. The new SJC Terminal Complex now under construction will be named the James M. Nissen Terminal. Mr. Nissen was a prominent aviation historian who restored several antique and vintage aircraft. Among them were his 1917 Thomas-Morse S-4C Scout and 1918 Curtiss JN-4D

Robert L. Hamilton Scholarship

Robert (Bob) L. Hamilton (1936-2002) was born in Hanford, California. 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 fly-by-wire flight controls systems. Mr. Hamilton was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. Mr. Hamilton was a past officer and member of the Aero Club Board of Directors. Funds for this scholarship were established by a very close friend of the Hamilton family at the time of Mr. Hamilton's death.

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.

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A tradition at our annual awards dinner is the silent auction fundraiser for scholarships. The Aero Club thanks the many donors who provided the items included in tonight's silent auction. Please view the items on the silent auction table and enter your bids on the sheets provided. The proceeds are used to fund scholarships for aviation students. Cash or Checks please, no credit cards.

<u>Donor</u>		<u>Item Description</u>
Kapaa, Kauai Beach Condo	Jean Tinsley	One week use for two people
Atlantic Aviation	Tim Murray	AVGAS Certificates at San Jose International
Aris Helicopters	Steve Sullivan	Turbine Helicopter flight from Moffett Field
Lafferty Aircraft Sales	Jim Lafferty	Bonanza A36 flight (1 hour) from SJC
Corporate Air Technology	Steve Frost	Two Cases of Aeroshell W-100 oil
L.A.C. Avionics	Daryl Strachan	\$500.00 Gift Certificate
Trade Winds Aviation	Walter Gyger	Introductory Flight from RHV-Glass Panel 172
Aero Dynamic Aviation	Zdravko Podolski	Aerobatic training (1 hour) in a Citabria
Squadron 2 Flying Club	Mike McClelland	Introductory Flight from RHV
Flying S Aviation	Brian Stout	Christen Eagle Flight from San Martin Airport
Carl Honaker		Lunch for four, RHV airport and tower tour
J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines	Bill Flint	Magnums of Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon
Cooper-Garrod Vineyards	George Cooper	Test Pilot wine-Autographed by George Cooper
Frank Sweeney		Framed Blue Angels Print
Sharon Sweeney		Children's Aviation Book by Kermit Weeks
3-ZERO Café	Mark Smith	Breakfast or Lunch at Half Moon Bay Airport
Golden Tee Restaurant	Michael Reta	Dining Gift Certificate - Monterey Airport
Roy Aero	Pat Roy	Avgas certificates at Palo Alto Airport (PAO)
Aviation Supplies (PAO)	Bob Walls	Child's Bomber Jacket - Toddler Size 3
Gary Petersen		Hand made Sea-Glass necklace and earrings

THE WORLD'S FIRST COMMERCIAL ASTRONAUT

On June 21, 2004, Michael Winston "Mike" Melvill became the first person to enter space in a privately-funded spaceplane when he piloted SpaceShipOne on flight 15P to an altitude of 305,491 feet (approximately 100 km or 62 miles). In doing so, he became the world's first **Commercial Astronaut**, the 433rd person to enter space, the first civilian pilot to earn astronaut wings and the first person to earn astronaut wings in a spaceplane since the X-15 flights of the 1960's. On September 29, 2004, he again piloted SpaceShipOne into space on flight 16P, the first competitive flight in the *Ansari X Prize* competition.



Long-EZ. In 1997, he and Dick Rutan flew the Long-EZ around the world.

Mike currently holds nine U.S. national records and nine world records. He was awarded the Aviation Week and Space Technology Laurel Award for Innovation / Entrepreneurship in 2004 and the 2004 Robert J. Collier

Trophy from NAA for his work on SpaceShipOne.

Mike is a member of and has received two Iven C. Kincheole Award from the **Society of Experimental Test Pilots**. In 1999, he was recognized for his flight testing of the Proteus aircraft - a high altitude vehicle. In 2004, he was recognized for his flight-testing of SpaceShipOne.

Mike started flying in 1969. Since that time, he has amassed over 7,000 hours of flight time in 127 different fixed-wing aircraft and 11 different helicopters. Included in this list are the first test-flights in ten aircraft designed by Burt Rutan: the Grizzly, Solitaire, Catbird, Predator, Model 144 UAV, Ares, Boomerang, Raptor, Proteus and SpaceShipOne.



Mike was born in Johannesburg, South Africa where he attended Highbury Preparatory School and Hilton College. In the 1970's he moved from England to the United States where he later became a citizen.

He has built and flown two of his own aircraft: a Model 27 Variviggen and a Model 61

Mike is married to Sally and has one son and four grandchildren.

He is a long-time member of **AOPA** and **EAA**.



Model 27 Variviggen



Model 61 Long-EZ

Our Special Thanks to:



About Our Club

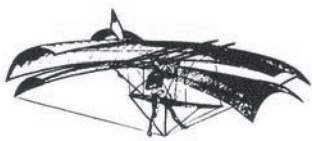
The Aero Club of Northern California was formed to promote those activities which advance aviation and aerospace within Northern California

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.

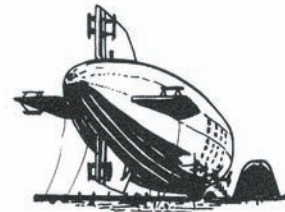
About Our Logo

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.