The Aero Club of Northern California
2019 Crystal Eagle Award



Patty Wagstaf


Montgomery Fligh - 1904


Moffett Field - 1933


China Clipper - 1936


Hiller XH-44 - 1944


NASA Ames Research Center - 1981



To Patty Wagstaff the sky represents adventure, freedom and challenge. A six-time member of the US Aerobatic Team, Patty has won the gold, silver and bronze medals in Olympic-level international aerobatic competition and is the first woman to win the title of US National Aerobatic champion and one of the few people to win it three times.

Patty, one of the world's top airshow pilots, flies thrilling, low-level aerobatic demonstrations before millions of people each year. Her breathtaking performances give airshow spectators a front-row seat view of the precision and complexity of modern, unlimited hard-core aerobatics. Her smooth aggressive style sets the standard for performers the world over.



Patty grew up in and around airplanes. Moving to Japan when she was nine years old where her father was a Captain for Japan Air Lines. Her earliest memories include sitting with her father at the controls of his airplanes. At ten years old when her father let her take the controls of his DC-6, her lifelong love affair with airplanes began.

Patty's first experience with bush flying was not a positive one. The first airplane she chartered for her job crashed on take off, so Patty decided to learn to fly herself, hiring friend and later husband, Bob, to travel with her in his Cessna 185 floatplane. Since then she earned her Commercial, Instrument, Seaplane and Commercial Helicopter Ratings. She is a Flight and Instrument Instructor and is rated and qualified to fly many airplanes, from World War II fighters to jets. Patty's sister, Toni, is also a pilot for United Airlines.

Patty's skill is based on years of training and experience and love of aerobatics. She is a six-time recipient of the "First Lady of Aerobatics" Betty Skelton Award. In July 2004, Patty was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame and was the recipient of the National Air and Space Museum's Award for Current Achievement in 1994. Having received many awards for her flying, she is particularly proud of receiving the Airshow industry's most prestigious award, the "Sword of Excellence", and the "Bill Barber Award for Showmanship". Recently she was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Air Force Association In March, 1994, her airplane, the Goodrich Extra 260, went on display in the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum in Washington DC. You can see Patty's airplane and exhibit next to the Pioneers of Flight Gallery.

Patty has trained with the Russian Aerobatic Team and has flown Airshows and competitions in such exotic places as South and Central America, Russia, Europe, Mexico and Iceland. She is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, Motion Picture Pilots Association, United Stuntwomen's Association, working as a stunt pilot and aerial coordinator for the film and television industry.

From 1999-2006, Patty was Raytheon's/Beechcraft (now Textron) demo pilot for their T6A/B Texan II military trainer and light attack aircraft, performing in international Airshows such as Paris, Singapore and Farnborough. Today she continues to coach their Demo Team.

Since 2001, Patty has traveled to Kenya to give bush, recurrency and aerobatic training to the pilots of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) who protect Kenya's elephants, rhino and other natural resources from poachers.

From 2010 to 2012 Patty flew for Cal Fire as an Air Attack pilot in the OV-10 Bronco. Cal Fire pilots fly the OV-10 and the S2T Tanker out of 12 bases helping keep California safe and supporting firefighters on the ground. In 2013 she returned to Florida to start an aerobatic school, "Patty Wagstaff Aerobatic School" in St. Augustine, Florida, located at Southeast Aero, the U.S. Distributor for the Extra Aircraft and continues to fly airshows worldwide.

Continuing a life of adventure, when she's not flying you can find her riding horses, hanging out with her Jack Russell Terriers and her parrot, Buddha; riding motorcycles, traveling, practicing yoga and writing about her experiences in aviation for her column "Let it Roll" in Plane and Pilot Magazine.



National Aero Club Association 2019 Awardees

Paul Marshall



Paul Marshall is the type of person who serves others, thrives on challenge, and seeks out the opportunity to turn great ideas into reality.

Paul owns a Bonanza A36. He holds a private pilot certificate with an instrument rating, has logged over 2,300 hours of flight time, including 600 hours of formation time, is a formation lead pilot with Formation Flying, Inc, and has flown more than 230 Young Eagle flights.

In the past six years, Paul flew over 20 trips to Mexico in support of Liga International – The Flying Doctors of Mercy. These Liga flights typically average over 1,800 miles round trip, and require complex coordination with the Mexican Government and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to transport the volunteer Doctors, Dentists, Nurses with their equipment into remote Mexican airstrips.

After the October 17, 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, general aviation pilots flew relief supply into Watsonville, CA. Paul and fellow San Martin pilot Rod Pharis, realized a relief effort like the Loma Prieta airlift could be more effective with some preparation in advance. These discussions came together to become DART, the Disaster Airlift Response Team, with the mission to use general aviation volunteers to provide disaster-stricken communities with air support to help in their response and recovery efforts.

SCAPA (South County Airport Pilots Association) worked with Paul and Rod to set up the first

DART at the San Martin Airport. They wrote the first DART plan and refined them in a series of exercises where local pilots and other volunteers worked through daylong disaster drills.

In 2016 Paul Marshall received the Santa Clara County Emergency Manager Mick McDonald Volunteer of the Year award for his work creating the San Martin Airport DART. With the concept was proven, Paul began to push for a statewide and national network of locally-run DART organizations. Using the SCAPA DART model, Watsonville and fourteen more California airports are now in some stage of development using the DART model. Paul's outreach and DART promotion reached nationwide venues with his presentations at EAA Airventure in Oshkosh, WI, and he has been invited as a guest speaker at airport manager organizations and conferences throughout California.

Paul Marshall's drive to spread the benefits of general aviation demonstrate why Paul receives this NAA recognition.

Gretchen Kelly



Gretchen Kelly is the Airports Division Manager for the County of San Mateo where she manages the San Carlos (SQL) and Half Moon Bay (HAF) Airports, both Reliever Airports in the San Francisco Bay Area. These two airports are located 20 miles apart and each has uniquely different characteristics and challenges.

Prior to her current position, Gretchen worked for 10-years with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the San Francisco Airports District Office. She was an Airport Certification Safety Inspector and Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) Program Manager for 22 Part 139 (Air Carrier) Airports in Northern California and Nevada, and an Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grants Manager for 35 Air Carrier and General Aviation Airports. While in these management positions, she worked with multiple agencies, airport commissions, and the general public during the analysis, approval and implementation of multi-million dollar FAA grant-funded projects.

Gretchen is a Bay Area native and Mountain View High School graduate. She completed the De Anza College Automotive Technology Program and worked in the automotive industry during her college years. After graduating from San Jose State University with a BS degree in Aviation Management, Gretchen began her aviation career in corporate flight planning with Jeppesen. She then transitioned to the airport side of the aviation business starting in Airport Operations with the San Mateo County Airports followed by 5-years with the Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC). While at SJC, she worked in both the Airside Division, as a Manager on Duty (MOD), and Landside Division, as a Supervisor.

Gretchen holds an MPA from the University of Southern California and is a Certified Member (C.M.) with the American Association of Airport Executives. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Upwind Scholarship Foundation, a nonprofit organization that transforms local youth into private pilots during the summer between their junior and senior year of high school at no cost to them. Gretchen has been a private pilot since 1991 and has accumulated approximately 1,000 hours of flight time, primarily in taildraggers (Champs and Cubs). However, her most important role is that of "Mom" to her 16-year-old daughter, Ella.

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 $1.3 billion dollar Terminal B at SJC, which opened in 2010, is named the James M. Nissen Terminal Complex. Mr. Nissen was a past member of the Aero Club Board of Directors. This endowed scholarship was funded by a contribution from Sallie (Nissen) Moran.

Mohammed Salman Khan



Mohammed Salman Khan was born and raised in Hayward, CA. He is more commonly known to his friends and family as "Sal" because there are so many Mohammed's in his family. Going by his middle name saves a great deal of confusion. Sal, who was born in November 1994, is the youngest of three with two older sisters. Traveling with his parents, he enjoyed sitting by the window and watching airplanes take off and land. It was then that he fell in love with aviation and knew he wanted to be a pilot. In 2016, Sal joined the SJSU Aviation program to pursue his dream. Today he is an Instrument rated private pilot with 350 hours. Sal is working on his CFI and has his commercial check-ride coming up this month. Sal is also the curren Captain of SJSU Precision Flight team and works alongside his professors at school to teach the Private Pilot ground class and Instrument ground class.

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.

Sabrina Zandbergen



Sabrina Zandbergen grew up in British Columbia, Canada. As a child, she became fascinated with videos and pictures of the world wars and specifically those who took to the sky. This fascination led her to search for a college education in aviation where she could also pursue a pilots license. This pursuit led her to California and the San Jose States Aviation program.

Since enrolling at SJSU, Sabrina has become a member of Woman In Aviation (WAI) and obtained her private pilot rating. She is currently working on her instrument rating and will continue training to earn a commercial rating.

Sabrina will graduate from SJSU in May of 2020 with Bachelor in Aviation, a focus on Professional Flight, and a Business Minor. Her future goal is to become a professional pilot for a charter company and work in the world of private jets.

Scholarships

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 semester units of college level aviation coursework and have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.



Thomas E. Leonard Scholarship



Thomas (Tom) E. Leonard (1922-2016) was born in San Francisco, California. Tom attended California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo. But, the onset of WW2 interrupted his college education. During the war years, Tom worked for Pan Am at Treasure Island and served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. After the War, Tom returned to Cal Poly and completed his degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Although he intended to rejoin Pan Am after graduation in 1946, Tom accepted an invitation to teach for one year at San Jose State College. He soon discovered that he loved teaching and his one-year commitment ended up lasting more than four decades. By 1950, he had become the Department Chairman of the Aeronautics program. He developed the first four-year college-level aeronautics program at San Jose State, secured an FAA Air Agency Certificate authorizing the college to operate an approved Airframe and Powerplan (A&P) program in 1954 and completed his Masrer's degree in Education in 1956. As the school curriculum expanded, so did the need for facilities. He successfully negotiated a 50-year land lease 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. By the 1980's, enrollment exceeded 800 students majoring in aircraft maintenance, flight operations and administration. Tom retired from SJSU in 1985, but continued to teach part-time until 1994. Mr. Leonard was a past president and and long-time member of the Aero Club Board of Directors. Funds for this scholarship have been contributed by many of the thousands whose lives were touched by this unique man.

Nikolas Bindra



Nikolas Bindra is a fourth-year student at SJSU, majoring in aviation with a concentration in Aviation Management. Growing up, Nikolas realized the flights he took were far more exciting than the destinations. It didn't take him very long to realize that he wanted to fly which he started before reaching 10th grade. Despite attending flight schools in three different states, Nikolas's was able to obtain his private license before finishing high school. As he entered San José States Aviation program, he fully intended on becoming a captain for a major airline. However, in late 2016, a visit to Dubai International airport changed it all for him. Nikolas was fortunate enough to take a tour of the Emirates flight network and hub operations. The experience changed his career trajectory towards that of Aviation Management, be it airport or airline. To further move towards that goal, Nikolas is double minoring in Business and Political Science.















AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2007 Inductee, International Air and Space Hall of Fame (SAN)
2006 Inductee, Air Show Hall of Fame
2006 Aviation Week & Space Technology Laureate,
Philip J. Klass Award for Lifetime Achievement
2005 Recipient, Air Force Association Lifetime Achievement Award
2005 Inductee, International Aerobatic Club Hall of Fame
2005 Katherine Wright Award
2004 Inductee, National Aviation Hall of Fame
2002 Katherine and Marjorie Stinson Award
1998 Bill Barber Award for Showmanship
1997 Recipient, NAA Paul Tissiander Diploma
1997 Inductee, Women in Aviation International Hall of Fame
1997 Inductee, Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame
1996 Recipient, Charlie Hillard Trophy
1996 GAN & Flyers Readers Choice Award, Favorite Female Performer
1996 Top Scoring US Pilot at World Aerobatic Championships
1985-1996 Member, U.S. Aerobatic Team
1995 Recipient, ICAS Sword of Excellence Award
1988-1994 Winner Betty Skelton "First Lady of Aerobatics" Trophy
1994 National Air and Space Museum Award for Current Achievement
1994 NAA Certificate of Honor
1993 International Aerobatic Club Champion
Us National Aerobatic Champion
1991, 1992, 1993 US National Aerobatic Championships
1990/1992/1994 Top US Medal Winner, World Aerobatic Championships
1991 Voted Western Flyer Reader's Choice Favorite Airshow Performer
1987 Rolly Cole Memorial Award for Contributions to Sport Aerobatics



The Aero Club of Northern California

Thirty-Seventh Annual Awards Banquet

Hiller Aviation Museum

November 16, 2019

Welcome and Introduction of Aero Club Board and Guests . . . . . Eric Peterson

Aero Club Scholarship Awards Presentations

James M. Nissen Sr. Scholarship	Mohammed Salman Khan	Pamela Srvdlin
Robert L. Hamilton Scholarship	Sabrina Zandbergen	Michelle Tripp
Thomas E. Leonard Scholarship	Nikolas Bindra	Richard Bandy

DINNER

National Aeronautic Association (NAA) President and CEO Introduction . . . . . Eric Peterson

Aero Club - NAA Awards . . . . . Greg Principato

Paul Marshall

Gretchen Kelly

Silent Auction End

Crystal Eagle Recipient Introduction . . . . . Eric Peterson

Guest Speaker . . . . . Patty Wagstaff

Crystal Eagle Award Presentation . . . . . Eric Peterson

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 Recipients

2018: Barry Schiff
2017: John and Martha King
2016: Steve Hinton
2015: Alan Eustace
2014: Prof. Thomas Leonard
2013: Rod Machado
2012: Julie Clark
2011: Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson
2010: Brian Shul
2009: Mike Melvill
2008: Phil Boyer
2007: Steve Fossett
2006: Sean D. Tucker
2005: Eileen Marie Collins
2004: Elgen M. Long
2003: Clay Lacy
2002: A. Scott Crossfield
2001: Igor I. Sikorsky
2000: Wayne Handley
1999: Paul H. Poberezny
1998: Donald D. Engen
1997: Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson
1996: Darryl G. Greenamyer
1995: James S. Ricklefs
1994: Frank L. Christensen
1993: Robert T. Jones
1992: Jeana Yeager
1991: Allen E. Paulson
1990: George S. Cooper
1989: Elbert "Burt" L. Rutan
1988: Anthony W. "Tony" LeVier
1987: James M. "Jim" Nissen
1986: William "Bill" Lear, Sr.
1985: Stanley Hiller, Jr
1984: Brigadier General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager
1983: General James "Jimmy" Doolittle

Our Special Thanks to:

J. LOHR VINEYARDS & WINES

HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM Where Inspiration Takes Flight

Cheat A Little CATERING

About Our Club

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

We are a regional affiliate club of NAA, the National Aeronautic Association, 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 Aeronautiqu International (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 for sutdents at all levels of learning, and to recognize and honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of aviation and space flight.

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 Grahm Bell noted that, "All subsequent attempts in aviation must begin with the Montgomery Machine."



Moffett Field - 1933

Dedicated April 12, 1933, Moffett Field was the United Statesvguardian of the Pacific. It continues to be a major aviation facility supporting federal, military and private 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.