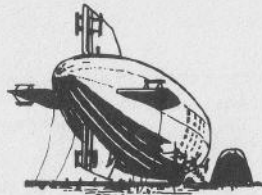


Montgomery Flight - 1904



Moffett Field - 1933



China Clipper - 1936



NASA Ames Research Center - 1982

# Northern Wings

"CRADLE OF AVIATION"

Volume 6 No. 1

The Aero Club of Northern California

Fall 2004

## Aero Club to honor Elgen Long with Crystal Eagle Earhart researcher, first to fly around world pole to pole -- solo



Capt. Elgen Long

Capt. Elgen M. Long, the first man to fly solo around the world across both poles and holder of 15 aviation records and firsts, will be the 2004 recipient of the Crystal Eagle Award, presented annually by the Aero Club of Northern California to honor those whose achievements are among the highest in aviation.

The Crystal Eagle dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. The annual awards dinner is open to anyone with an interest in aviation, not just Aero Club members.

The Crystal Eagle Award was first presented by the Aero Club in 1983 to famed aviator Gen. Jimmy Doolittle. Other past recipients include Gen. Chuck Yeager, Bill Lear, Jim Nissen, Jeanna

Yeager, Stanley Hiller Jr., Donald Engen, Wayne Handley, A. Scott Crossfield and Clay Lacy. (A complete list of past honorees is on Page 2.)

Long is now retired after a 45,000-hour flying career ranging from World War II seaplanes to Boeing 747 senior captain for Flying Tiger Lines. He is well-known for his extensive research into the disappearance of Amelia Earhart over the Pacific in 1937.

After 25 years interviewing more than 100 witnesses and examining thousands of documents, Long and his wife, Marie, found no credible evidence to change the conclusion of the Navy that Earhart ditched near Howland Island after running out of fuel on her around-the-world flight.

New evidence discovered in 1995 confirmed the Navy's findings, and was independently verified. The Longs published their book, "AMELIA EARHART: The Mystery Solved," in 1999.

Long was born Aug. 12, 1927 in Oregon. He obtained an AA Degree at the  
*(Continued on Page 2)*



- Photos courtesy of Elgen Long

Elgen Long with Piper Navajo he flew on solo flight around poles.

### Crystal Eagle Dinner

**Date:** Saturday, Oct. 30, 2004

**Reception:** 6:30 p.m.

**Dinner:** 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road at San Carlos Airport

**Cost:** \$60 including museum admission.

**Reservations:** (408) 924-6599  
(408) 646-7139

## *Capt. Elgen Long Is 2004 recipient of Crystal Eagle*

*(Continued from Page 1)*

College of San Mateo in the Bay Area.

During World War II, he flew as a radioman and navigator on more than 100 seaplane missions over the Pacific, including patrols near Howland Island where Earhart disappeared.

From 1947 until his retirement in 1987, he was a radioman, navigator, captain, instructor and check pilot for Flying Tiger Line.

On Nov. 5, 1971, flying a twin-engine 1967 Piper Navajo, Long took off from San Francisco International Airport on his world-record breaking solo flight around the poles.

From San Francisco, he flew north to Alaska and over the North Pole, then south to Europe and Africa, where he flew over the prime meridian at the equator. His journey took him across the Atlantic to South America and then over the South Pole. From there he flew to Australia and then over the equator at the International Date Line. After a detour to Tokyo, Long completed the long flights across the Pacific.

After 215 hours of flight time, covering 36,313 miles, he returned to San Francisco airport on Dec. 3, 1971.

His flight set three international records and many "firsts," including first flight around the world with landings on all seven continents and first solo flight around the world across both poles.

## *The Crystal Eagle Award*

Presented annually by the Aero Club of Northern California, the Crystal Eagle is a unique, hand-crafted work of art crystal mounted on a redwood base..

The North American eagle, a bird possessing great strength, natural grace,

## President's Message

### The Aero Club of Northern California: who we are, what we're doing, where we're going

**By Rick Willson**

Aero Club President

Just what is the Aero Club of Northern California?

The Aero Club has deep roots in California, forming as the San Francisco Flyers Club in 1926 as a chapter of the National Aeronautical Association. The chapter also played a role in 1938 in the formation of the San Jose Airport Central Committee, whose work led to the acquisition of land for the airport in 1940 and opening of the airport in the late 1940s.



**Rick Willson**

Since then, San Jose Municipal Airport has evolved into Mineta San Jose International Airport,

Although the original Aero Club chapter faded away over the years, it was re-established in 1981 as the Aero Club of Northern California, based in San Jose.

The club holds annual meetings, presents aviation scholarships to outstanding college students and NAA awards to distinguished members of the aviation and aerospace community. The club's signature Crystal Eagle Award is given annually to a major contributor to the advancement of aviation. Recipients have included legendary fliers Jimmy

keenness of vision and power in flight, has been used by humans since the dawn of flight to identify with aviation.

As the Aero Club's annual award, the Crystal Eagle symbolizes the transparent yet ever-present medium of flight.

## *Crystal Eagle recipients over the years*

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

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  
2003 – A. Scott Crossfield  
2003 – Clay Lacy  
2004 – Elgen Long

Doolittle, Chuck Yeager, Darryl Greenamyre, Paul Poberezny and Burt Rutan.

The Aero Club also organizes field trips, luncheons and other events. Recent events included private tours of the USS Hornet in Alameda, NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View and Lockheed-Martin Missiles & Space Co. in Sunnyvale.

These events are organized by the Aero Club Board of Directors, which consists of unpaid volunteers who invest their time to encourage and promote aviation activities in Northern California. The current board members bring together a broad scope of local aviation experience, encompassing airport management, airline and military aviation, commercial and general aviation and aero education.

It is our intent to increase the Aero Club's activities, based on member interest. We intend to provide aviation information of interest to our members through a quarterly newsletter and an e-mail bulletin of breaking local aviation news. We are planning a web site.

We hope you will find these new venues of interest, and we would value your input on future activities. If a specific tour, speaker or topic would be of interest to you, please contact any or our directors, or me directly at [rwillson@netmag.net](mailto:rwillson@netmag.net).

### **Aero Club of Northern California 2004-2005 Board of Directors**

**Rick Willson** – president  
**Sharon K. Sweeney** – vice president  
**John C. Pfahl Sr.** – treasurer  
**Ray Hutchings** – secretary  
**Ron Blake** – past president  
**Jerry Bennett** – director  
**Janet Russell Hitt** – director  
**Carl Honaker** – director  
**Frank Kirkbride** – director  
**Thomas E. Leonard** – director  
**Harold Oberg** – director  
**Ronald T. Reuther** – director  
**James Ricklefs** – director  
**Scott Yelich** – director

**Frank Sweeney** – newsletter editor  
Northern Wings is published quarterly by the Aero Club of Northern California, an affiliate of the National Aeronautic Association.

# AERO CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

## National Aeronautic Association

We invite you to join The Aero Club of Northern California. Throughout the history of flight, the people and organizations of California have played key roles in advancing aviation and space exploration. Membership in The Aero Club of Northern California gives you a connection with others in the aerospace industry and aviation community, here and around the country, at awards programs, luncheons and other special events, including:

**Participation in funding of aviation related scholarships**

**Membership in the National Aeronautic Association**

**“Members Only” tours**

**Invitation to attend the annual Crystal Eagle Awards Dinner**

Your membership in The Aero Club of Northern California automatically makes you a member of the National Aeronautics Association (NAA), founded as the Aero Club of America in 1905. Our Club is a chapter of the NAA, which is America’s oldest independent non-profit aviation organization and also the U.S. representative to the Federation Aeronautique International which certifies all aviation world records. As a member of the Aero Club and the NAA, you will receive benefits including:

**National Aeronautics Association - NAA’s bi-monthly publication**

**Discount on Smithsonian’s *Air & Space Magazine* (37%)**

**Eligibility for NAA Air Crew Card (FAA licensed pilots only)**

**Rental car discounts**

We look forward to having you become part of our organization.

### New Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_



Individual membership:	\$35.00
Scholarship Fund donation: (optional)	\$ _____
Total Enclosed:	\$ _____

Make check payable to: *The Aero Club of Northern California*  
 Mail to: Aero Club of Northern California  
 San Jose State University Aviation Department  
 1120 Coleman Ave.  
 San Jose, CA 95110  
**(The Aero Club of Northern California is a tax deductible 501(c)(3))**

## Museum Profile:

### Hiller Institute showcases aviation’s past and leaves clues to its future

The Hiller Aviation Institute in San Carlos, founded by helicopter pioneer Stanley Hiller Jr., is dedicated to the dreams of flight. Looking back 130 years and looking forward 100 years, its vintage and futuristic aircraft chronicle the story of aviation's past, while leaving clues to its future.

Two large display areas contain the majority of the museum exhibits. Among the historic aircraft on display are the Avitor, powered by a 1-hp steam engine that flew for a mile unpowered in 1869, the 1911 Curtiss Pusher, and the 1944 Hiller-copter XH-44, the first coaxial helicopter to fly in the US, and the first helicopter to be built on the West Coast

Visitors may watch through a large picture window as workers restore vintage aircraft for display. Outside in the rear, exhibits include the nose section of a Boeing 747 commercial airliner.

The Hiller Institute’s board of trustees created two branches: the Aviation Museum and the Education and Research Center. The museum provides the historical foundations of aviation development of the past century and links to the next hundred years of transportation. The Education and Research Center collects and analyzes air transportation data from a wide range of sources, and disseminates the results to

the public as well as business and academic communities.

The Hiller Aviation Museum is located at 601 Skyway Road at the San Carlos Airport in San Mateo County. Telephone is (650) 654-0200.

The museum can be reached by taking the Holly Street/Redwood Shores Parkway exit east from Highway 101. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for seniors age 65 and older and youths ages 8 to 17. Children under 8 are admitted free with a paying adult. Information may be obtained from the institute’s web site at [www.hiller.org](http://www.hiller.org).

# SJC breaks ground for new James M. Nissen Terminal

City dignitaries and community leaders broke ground for the new North Concourse of the James M. Nissen Terminal at Mineta San Jose International Airport Aug. 18.

The \$289-million terminal expansion, named for San Jose's first airport manager who built much of what today comprises the airport, is expected to be completed about February 2007.

The Aero Club of Northern California launched the campaign to name the terminal for Nissen, a former Navy. Pan American and NASA research test pilot who served as San Jose's first airport manager until he retired in 1975. He died in 1994.

The Aero Club also was instrumental in getting the city council to name the airfield after former mayor Ernie Renzel, who led the campaign in 1939-1940 for the city to purchase land for an airport.

Aero Club Vice President Sharon Sweeney represents aviation interests on a steering committee, working to ensure public art illustrates San Jose's aviation history.

The North Concourse is the first project in the airport's \$1.8 billion passenger terminal expansion plan.



**Dignitaries wield shovels at SJC groundbreaking.**

## SCHEDULE OF AVIATION EVENTS THIS FALL

### *Reno Air Races*

Sept. 16-19, Reno Stead Airport, Reno, Nev. 41<sup>st</sup> National Championship Air Races and air show. Races in five classes. More information on the web at [www.airrace.org](http://www.airrace.org)

### *Reid-Hillview Day*

Sept. 25, Saturday. Annual open house at Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose, sponsored by the Reid-Hillview Association. Aircraft displays, 10-cent-a-pound rides, exhibits, vendors. Free admission.

### *Wings of History*

Oct. 9, Saturday. Open house at Wings of History air museum, 12777 Murphy Ave., San Martin, at South County Airport. Tours. Barbecue lunch. Biplane rides. Free admission.

### *Crystal Eagle Award Banquet*

Oct. 30, Saturday, 6:30 p.m. Annual Crystal Eagle banquet of Aero Club of Northern California. Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Drive, at San Carlos Airport. Tickets \$60. Reservations: (408) 924-6599.

## The Aero Club of Northern California

1120 Coleman Ave.  
San Jose, California 95110  
(408) 924-6599

Chartered in 1981 by 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 to 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.