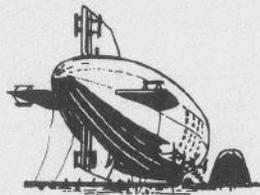


Montgomery Flight - 1904



Moffett Field - 1933



China Clipper - 1936



NASA Ames Research Center - 1982

Northern Wings

"CRADLE OF AVIATION"

Volume 6 No. 2

The Aero Club of Northern California

Winter 2005



Earhart researcher Elgen Long is 22nd recipient of Crystal Eagle

Elgen M. Long, the first man to fly solo around the world across both poles and holder of 15 aviation records and firsts, became the 22nd winner of the Aero Club of Northern California's prestigious Crystal Eagle Award.

The Crystal Eagle is presented annually by the Aero Club to honor those whose achievements are among the highest in aviation.

Aero Club President Rick Willson presented Long with the honor Oct. 30 during the club's annual Crystal Eagle dinner at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos.

National Aeronautic Association Certificates of Honor were presented to three Ninety-Nines. Scholarships were awarded to three aviation students at San Jose State University.

(Continued on Page 3)



Rick Willson presents Eagle to Long

Thomas Leonard, retired chairman of the San Jose State University Department of Aviation, has been named an Elder Statesman of Aviation by the National Aeronautic Association

Leonard, who is on the board of directors of the Aero Club of Northern California, was one of seven people nationwide who were honored for their contributions of significant value to aeronautics.



He was chosen for more than four decades as a dedicated college aeronautics department chairman.

After earning his aeronautical engineering degree at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Leonard joined the faculty at San Jose State College in 1946 where he focused his time, energy and talent to nurture a new aviation program.

Over the years Leonard made it the flagship aviation program in California, which sent almost 4,000 graduates into the aviation industry. Now 82, Leonard retired in 1985

Tonseth retires as SJC director

After 40 years in the aviation industry, the past 15 years as director of Mineta San Jose International Airport, Ralph Tonseth retired in December.

On his watch, San Jose developed a new master plan and has begun construction on a \$1.8 billion terminal expansion project.

During his time at the helm, passenger volume skyrocketed in San Jose, only to plummet along with the rest of the airline industry in the aftermath of 9-11, then began a slow recovery. His major accomplishments include constructing the Terminal A parking garage, rebuilding of the airport's main runway system, building a new international arrivals facility and bringing in Southwest Airlines.

All of that was looking toward the future, a trait Tonseth says is indispensable for an airport director.

You cannot give up on vision, he said. "You must push the rock uphill and be constantly looking 10 to 20 years ahead."

Tonseth came to San Jose in 1990 from Fresno Air Terminal, where he



Carl Honaker, right, presents Aero Club clock to Ralph Tonseth

was director of aviation. But his roots in the industry go back to 1964 at Los Angeles International Airport, where he joined the staff after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree and doing graduate work at California State University Los Angeles. Later he was assistant director of aviation at Ontario airport and director at Stockton airport.

Tonseth served as president of the California Association of Airport Executives (CAAE) and as chairman of the American Association of Aviation Executives (AAAE). He received the AAAE President's Award and was CAAE Airport Manager of the Year.

Schedule of Aviation Events

Moffett Field Museum To reopen on Feb. 12

The Moffett Field Museum, closed a couple of years ago when lead paint and PCBs were found around historic Hangar One, is scheduled to reopen Feb. 12 – the 70th anniversary of the USS Macon crash off Point Sur.

The museum has been relocated into a renovated warehouse near the hangar to house a growing number of Lighter-Than-Air, Navy and NASA artifacts. For more information, contact the Moffett Field Historical Society at (650) 603-9827 or visit the web at www.moffettfieldmuseum.org

Aero Club plans flight data facility tour in March

The Aero Club of Northern California is arranging a members-only tour of the Jeppesen Data Plan facility in downtown San Jose in March. The company provides international flight planning, landing/overflight permits and weather services for the business aviation community. Club members will be notified.

99s plan Pasta Night to benefit SJS flight team

The Santa Clara Valley 99s will hold its annual Pasta Night fundraiser Thursday, March 17, to benefit the San Jose State University precision flight team. The dinner, at \$15 per ticket, will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 1680 Martin Ave., Santa Clara. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

Reservations are available with Mayetta Behringer at (408) 264-0229. For more information, contact Susan Worster at (408) 725-1429 or at www.santaclaravalley99s.org

After a yearlong battle, the aviation community won its fight to include local aviation history in the public art that will grace the new James M. Nissen passenger terminal at Mineta San Jose International Airport.

On Nov. 16, the San Jose City Council agreed with the aviation community and amended the airport's terminal art master plan to include aviation history, over the objections of the city Office of Cultural Affairs.

The campaign, launched by the Aero Club of Northern California and led by Vice President Sharon Sweeney and Director Jerry Bennett, was aimed at securing aviation history in significant artwork and to explain the contributions made by Jim Nissen, the first airport manager; Ernie Renzel who negotiated the purchase of the land for the airport in 1938; and Norman Mineta who worked for aviation as mayor, congressman and now U.S. transportation secretary.

In addition to art work reflecting the region's aviation history, the council ordered that the art "commemorate the aviation history of San Jose and acknowledge the contributions of Jim Nissen, Ernie Renzel and Norman Mineta in an appropriate place within the North Concourse."

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.



NAA honorees Mayetta Behringer, Fran Grant and Jeanne McElhatton

CRYSTAL EAGLE AWARDS BANQUET Aero Club presents 3 Ninety-Nines with NAA certificates of honor

(Continued from Page 1)

Long, 77, is 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 research into the disappearance of Amelia Earhart.

The world's only remaining flyable Lockheed 10E Electra, identical to Earhart's plane, was flown into San Carlos for the dinner. In 1997, Linda Finch flew this airplane around the world to retrace Earhart's path of 60 years before.



Elgen Long with Crystal Eagle

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

NAA awards went to Mayetta Behringer, Fran Grant and Jeanne McElhatton for their contributions to aviation advancing the art, sport and science of aviation and space flight.

Behringer, who soloed in 1945 and in her 80s still flies on a regular basis, has logged more than 6,800 hours. She holds instrument, flight instructor and airline transport pilot ratings, and was a Civil Air Patrol squadron commander,

Grant, who began flying in 1939, was a co-founder of the Fear of Flying Clinic in 1976 and a leader in bringing aviation and aerospace education into California schools.

McElhatton is a commercial pilot, flight instructor, college instructor and lecturer and co-founder of the Fear of Flying Clinic. A charter pilot with more than 6,000 hours, she was a member of the Aviation Safety Reporting System (ASRS) staff.

- 1994 – Frank L. Christensen
- 1995 – James S. Ricklefs
- 1996 – Darryl G. Greenamyers
- 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

Three San Jose State students awarded aviation scholarships

Three San Jose State University aviation students were scholarship recipients at the Aero Club's annual Crystal Eagle Dinner.

Christopher Russek, 22, who will graduate in Spring 2006, received the James M. Nissen scholarship sponsored by the family of San Jose airport's first manager. Russek transferred to San Jose State from West Valley College. A 400-hour flight instructor, he hopes to become a professional pilot.



Chris Russek

Rumar Arzadon, 19, received the Roy G. Hester Scholarship, named for Hester, who operated his aviation insurance business at San Jose airport for more than 20 years.



Rumar Arzadon

Arzadon graduated from Overfelt High School's aviation academy and transferred to San Jose State in Fall 2003. A student pilot, he hopes to become an airline pilot.



Sean Cooksy

Sean Cooksy, 20, received the Robert L. Hamilton Scholarship, named after the former Aero Club board member, Army helicopter pilot and civilian aviator. Cooksy transferred to San Jose State from Mesa Junior College last fall and will graduate in Spring 2006. A 350-hour commercial pilot with instrument and multi-engine ratings, he wants to be a jet charter pilot.

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 Internationale 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 Avenue

San Jose, CA 95110

(The Aero Club of Northern California is a tax deductible 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization.)

The Aero Club of Northern California

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Chartered in 1981 as a chapter of 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.