



Montgomery Flight – 1904

Moffett Field – 1933

China Clipper – 1936

Hiller XH-44 – 1944

NASA Ames Research Center – 1981

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Peggy Fossett accepts Crystal Eagle

Award honors missing adventurer Steve Fossett

Peggy Fossett, wife of aviation record-setter Steve Fossett, accepted the 2007 Crystal Eagle Award this spring from the Aero Club of Northern California on behalf of her missing adventurer husband.

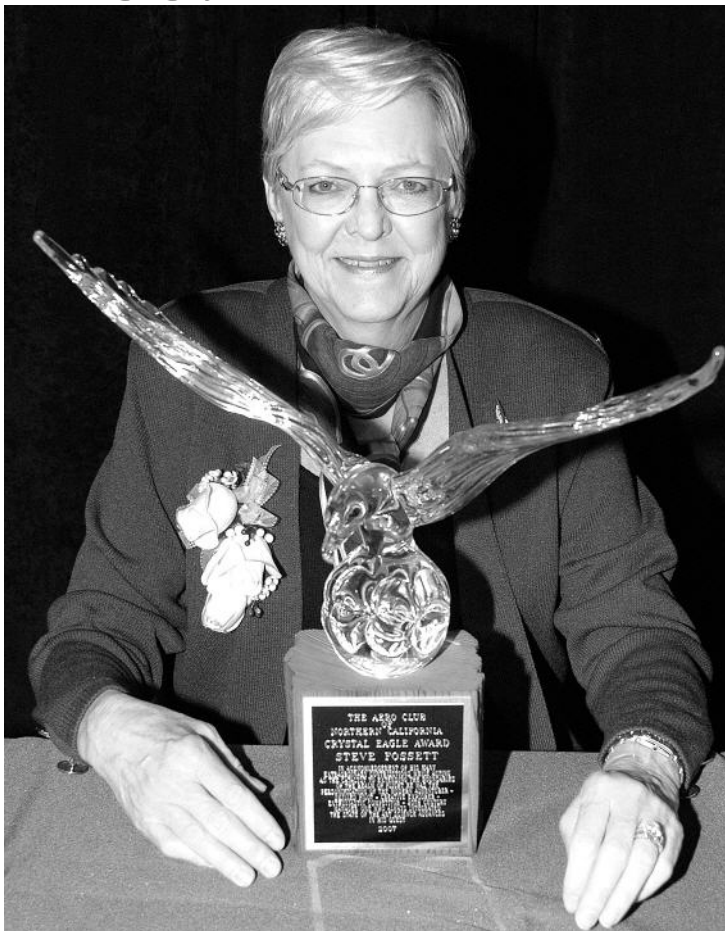
The award was presented March 8 at an Aero Club Awards Dinner, delayed since last fall by Fossett's disappearance while on a routine flight in a light plane over the Nevada desert. National Aeronautics Association awards and a number of scholarships also were awarded at the dinner, at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos.

Einar Enevoldson of Oakland, Fossett's co-pilot on their altitude record-setting flight in Argentina on Aug. 29, 2006, was the dinner speaker.

Enevoldson explained how he and Fossett, wearing NASA space suits, took their Perlan glider to 50,727 feet altitude and knew they had found the lift they needed to go tens of thousands of feet higher. However, the bitter cold at that altitude in the unheated sailplane forced them to descend to warmer temperatures instead of pushing the absolute altitude record to even greater heights, Enevoldson said.

Fossett was awarded the Crystal Eagle for his numerous record-setting aviation flights – in balloons

(Continued on Page 3)



-- Northern Wings Photo

Peggy Fossett accepted Crystal Eagle for husband Steve

Public art honors John J. Montgomery near San Jose site of his glider flights

A monument to aviation pioneer John J. Montgomery, recognized as the originator of controlled flight, now soars skyward just a short distance from the San Jose hill where he made his historic glider flights, the last one fatal, nearly a century ago.

“Soaring Flight,” a work by artist

Kent Roberts, is a vertical 30-foot glider wing formed of tubular steel and covered in steel mesh. It rises from a concrete plaza on the southeast corner of Yerba Buena and San Felipe roads in San Jose's Evergreen district.

In the backdrop is Montgomery

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-- Northern Wings Photo

John Montgomery art wing soars into stormy skies over Evergreen

Board Profile

Janet Hitt's aviation career has finally come full circle

Janet Hitt's life has come full circle – from dogs to dogs with a 57-year aviation career in between.

Hitt, a member of the Aero Club Board of Directors, started flying lessons in 1946 at a little grass strip near Philadelphia at age 17. She paid for instruction with savings from working in collie kennels.

Now, four years after she retired from the Federal Aviation Administration as an operations inspector, Hitt travels extensively throughout the country judging



Janet Hitt

collies and shetland sheepdogs for the American Kennel Club.

Over the years, her flying career included stints as a charter pilot, flight instructor, and company pilot for many different operators including the original Bellanca Aircraft Corporation, and in a wide variety of airplanes from New Jersey to the Caribbean to Hawaii. She was an FAA operations inspector and accident investigator for 28 years.

She has been married since 1952 to Bill Hitt, a retired navy aviator.

In 1969 in Hawaii, Hitt flew in one of the better-known aviation scenes in movie history when 20th Century Fox was filming "Tora Tora Tora" on Oahu.

Remember the scene – the bright yellow biplane cruising over Oahu is suddenly surrounded by a cloud of Japanese warplanes on their way to attack Pearl Harbor. The Stearman suddenly rolls over into a split-S and dives away from the warplanes.

An actress on a sound stage had the dialogue. But Hitt was at the controls.

Aero Club awards scholarships to San Jose State aviation students

Four San Jose State University aviation students received \$1000 Aero Club of Northern California scholarships during the club's annual Crystal Eagle Awards dinner.

Pamela Bohnner received the John C. Pfahnl Sr. Scholarship. She is the founding president of the SJSU student chapter of Women in Aviation and works as an international trip planning intern with Jeppesen. A student pilot, she will graduate in Spring 2009. Her goal is to operate an air taxi service.

Justin Greenway was the recipient of the Robert L. Hamilton Scholarship. Born in San Jose and raised in Kansas, he entered San Jose State in 2004. Greenway has served as the secretary of SJSU chapter of Alpha Eta Rho, an international aviation fraternity.

An instrument-rated commercial pilot, he will graduate in December and will use his scholarship for multi-engine training.

Matthew Neff was awarded the James M. Nissen Scholarship. Inspired by an uncle who is an airline pilot, Neff completed ground school courses at Cabrillo College before transferring to San Jose State. He is the student representative on the SJSU Aviation Advisory Board and is an officer in Alpha Eta Rho, the American Association of Airport Executives and Women in Aviation. He plans a career in aviation management. He graduated in May.

Christopher "Crit" Scholer was awarded the H. Gene Little Scholarship. Born and raised in San Jose, he graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory before entering San Jose State in 2002.

He is captain of the San Jose State precision flight team. He will use his scholarship for training to



--Northern Wings Photos

Christopher "Crit" Scholer with Director Scott Yelich



Pamela Bohnner, Matthew Neff win Aero Club scholarships



Recipient Justin Greenway with Director Scott Yelich

become a flight instructor. Scholer will graduate from SJSU in December.

Aero Club of Northern California 2007 Board of Directors

- Carl Honaker** – president
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 - James Ricklefs** – director
 - Sharon K. Sweeney** – director
 - Frank Sweeney** – director and newsletter editor
- Northern Wings is published quarterly by the Aero Club of Northern California, an affiliate of the National Aeronautic Association.

Jim Lafferty, Len von Clemm honored with NAA Awards

The Aero Club of Northern California has presented National Aeronautic Association Certificates of Recognition to two veteran commercial pilots to honor their achievements in aviation.

The awards, given at the Aero Club's annual Crystal Eagle Dinner on March 8, went to Lennert von Clemm of Union City and Jim Lafferty of Saratoga, both longtime aviators at Santa Clara County airports.

Lafferty was a co-founder of the San Jose Jet Center at Mineta San Jose International Airport and currently operates his aircraft sales business there. Von Clemm, with 24,000 hours flight time, is chief pilot at Amelia Reid Aviation at Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose.

Von Clemm made his first solo flight in an Aeronca Champ in Florida



Club President Carl Honaker, right, presents NAA award to Jim Lafferty

in 1961, and later that year moved to San Jose. Over the years, he has been a flight instructor, crop duster, FBO and corporate business jet pilot. He is an airline transport pilot with type ratings in seven jets and the Ford and Bushmaster TriMotors.

Lafferty is a graduate of the San Jose State University Aviation Department who has sold and



Club Director Frank Sweeney, right, presents award to Len von Clemm

delivered airplanes around the world. From 1984 to 2000, he was president of the San Jose Jet Center.

He was U.S. national precision flight champion in 1974 and 1976. Lafferty is a commercial pilot with single-engine, multi-engine and instrument ratings and is type-rated in three jets. He has flown more than 50 aircraft types over 9,600 hours.

Peggy Fossett accepts Crystal Eagle on behalf of adventurer

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and powered aircraft as well as sailplanes. Fossett was the only man to fly solo around the world non-stop in both an airplane and a balloon.

The Crystal Eagle Award is given annually by the Aero Club of Northern California to honor those whose achievements are among the highest in aviation.

The Crystal Eagle was first awarded by the Aero Club in 1983 to legendary aviator Gen. Jimmy Doolittle. Past recipients include Gen. Chuck Yeager, Jim Nissen, Stanley Hiller Jr., Burt Rutan, George



Keynote speaker Einar Enevoldson explains glider altitude record flight

Cooper, Jeana Yeager, Frank Christensen, James S. Ricklefs, Darryl Greenamyre, Robert "Hoot" Gibson, Paul Poberezny, Wayne Handley, A. Scott Crossfield, Clay Lacy, Elgen



Club President Carl Honaker, right, presents Eagle to Peggy Fossett

--Northern Wings Photos

Long, Eileen Collins and Sean D. Tucker.

Fossett set 117 world records, including five non-stop circumnavigations of the globe as a solo balloonist, airplane pilot and sailor.

He was to receive the award at the annual Crystal Eagle Dinner last Oct. 20. But Fossett disappeared Sept. 3 after he took off from a private airstrip near Minden, Nev., in a single-engine Citabria Decathlon aircraft.

Days of aerial searches and satellite surveillance failed to turn up a trace of the missing adventurer in the rugged Nevada desert. The search was officially suspended on Oct. 2.

Crystal Eagle Recipients

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
 2002 – A. Scott Crossfield
 2003 – Clay Lacy
 2004 – Elgen Long
 2005 – Eileen Collins
 2006 – Sean D. Tucker
 2007 – Steve Fossett

Nissen Passenger Terminal taking shape in San Jose expansion

On schedule to open fully in 2010, the massive North Concourse is dominating the skyline at Mineta San Jose International Airport's passenger terminal complex.

Over the past year, the concourse has evolved from a skeletal frame into a building that will provide nine airline gates in the terminal complex, named for James M. Nissen, the city's first aviation director who built the airport from a grass strip into a major airport for Silicon Valley.

Inside, the concourse has a light, airy feeling, in ways seeming almost cathedral-like.

Although some gates may be opened early, the \$355 million concourse will go into full service in two years when the first phase of adjacent Terminal B is completed.

The projects are part of the airport's \$1.3 billion terminal expansion plan, which includes new roadways and a large rental car garage to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

Kirkbride retires, leaves SJC and Aero Club

Aero Club board member Frank Kirkbride, the assistant director of aviation at Mineta San Jose International Airport, has retired to tend his vineyard in Tennessee to produce classic French wines.

Kirkbride, 57, came to San Jose six years ago as the airport's No. 2 executive, and has overseen the daily operations since then. He ends a long

career in aviation construction and management for several major airports and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Kim Becker, a SJC deputy director, has been promoted to succeed Kirkbride. She came to San Jose in 1995 as an operations superintendent and was named a deputy director in 1999.



-- Northern Wings Photo
Soaring interior of Mineta San Jose International Airport's new North Concourse seems cathedral-like.

Public art memorial dedicated to pioneer John J. Montgomery

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Hill, where the Santa Clara University professor made many of his pioneering flights.

Phrases and quotes from Montgomery's work are sandblasted into the plaza surface.

The project was part of San Jose's

Public Art program.

In 1883, in what many consider the first controlled manned flight, Montgomery flew a glider he called the "Gull" off the bluffs near San Diego. It had parabolic wings and was controlled by warping or bending the wingtips to change lift and steer it.

In the early 1900s, Montgomery, a Santa Clara University physics professor, was perfecting his gliders.

He flew his most sophisticated glider, the "Evergreen," more than 50 times off the hill in San Jose's Evergreen district, but was fatally injured in a crash in 1911.

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.