

The Aero Club of  
Northern California

1997 Award Winner

**ROBERT L. GIBSON**



# NAVAL AVIATOR (CAPTAIN USN) – NASA ASTRONAUT

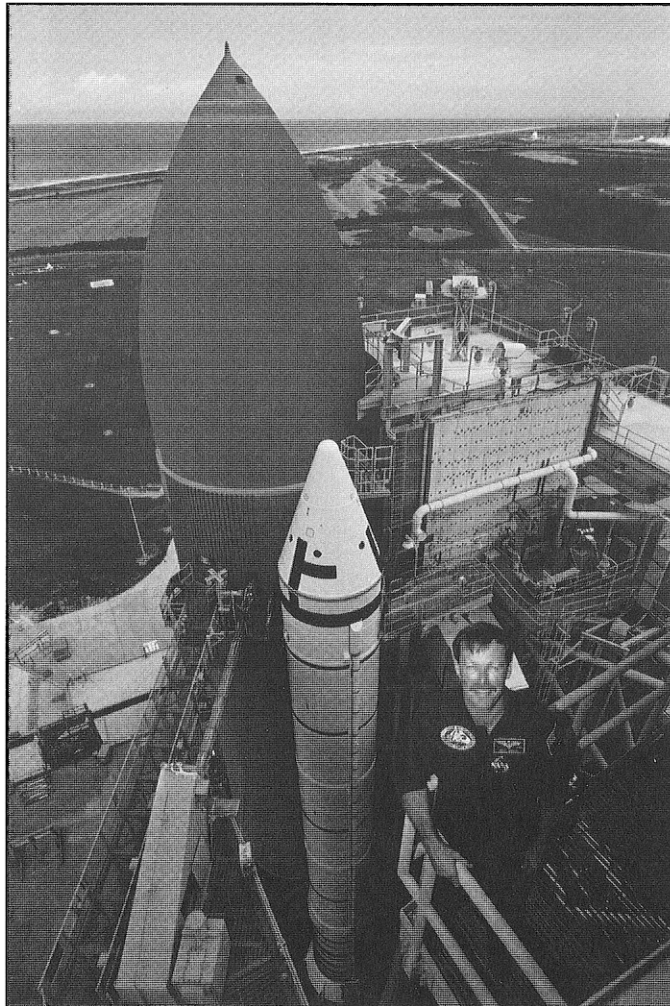


*As spacecraft commander, Gibson commanded a crew of seven-members (up) and eight-members (down) on Space Shuttle mission STS-71. This was the first Space Shuttle mission to dock with the Russian Space Station Mir, and involved an exchange of crews. The Atlantis Space Shuttle was modified to carry a docking system compatible with the Russian Mir Station. It also carried a Spacelab module in the payload bay in which the crew performed various life sciences experiments and data collections. Mission duration was 235 hours, 23 minutes.*

# ROBERT L. GIBSON

ROBERT L. "HOOT" GIBSON was born on October 30, 1946, in Cooperstown, New York. He graduated from Huntington High School, Huntington, New York, in 1964. He received an associate degree in engineering science from Suffolk County Community College in 1966, and a bachelor of science degree in aeronautical engineering from California Polytechnic State University in 1969. Gibson entered active duty with the Navy in 1969. He received primary and basic flight training at Naval Air Stations Saufley Field and Pensacola, Florida, and Meridian, Mississippi, and completed advanced flight training at the Naval Air Station at Kingsville, Texas.

While assigned to Fighter Squadrons 111 and 1, during the period April 1972 to September 1975, he saw duty aboard the USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) and the USS Enterprise (CVAN-65) – flying combat missions in Southeast Asia. He is a graduate of the Naval Fighter Weapons School, "Topgun." Gibson returned to the United States and an assignment as an F-14A instructor pilot with Fighter Squadron 124. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Maryland, in June 1977.

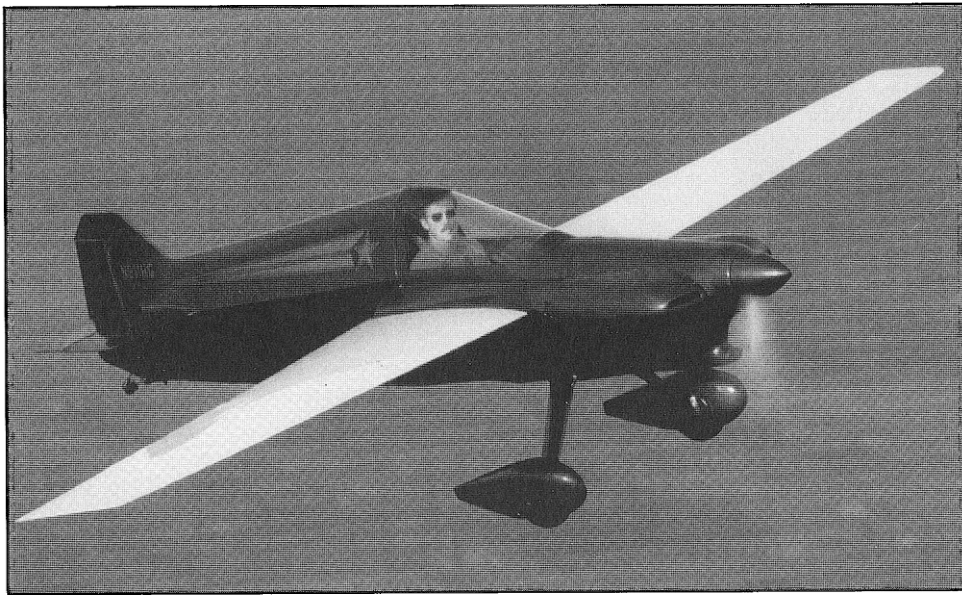


Selected by NASA in January 1978, Gibson became an astronaut in August, 1979. He has flown five missions from 1984 to 1995. In the five space flights, Gibson has completed a total of 36-1/2 days in space. He has served as Chief of the Astronaut Office and as Deputy Director, Flight Crew Operations. Gibson has been awarded the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) "Louis Bleriot Medal" (1992), and the Experimental Aircraft

Association (EAA) "Freedom of Flight" Award (1989). Military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Distinguished Flying Cross; 3 Air Medals; the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"; a Navy Unit Commendation; Meritorious Unit Commendation; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He is currently a First Officer with Southwest Airlines and is trained to fly and operate the Boeing 737 in scheduled and unscheduled airline operations.

Gibson is married to Dr. M. Rhea Seddon. They have four children, Julie, Paul, Edward and Emilee. He considers Lakewood, California to be his hometown.



*Gibson enjoyed home built aircraft and formula one air racing. He established world records for "Altitude in Horizontal Flight" Airplane Class C1A in 1991 and "Time to Climb to 9,000 Meters" in 1994*

*A Navy F-14 landing aboard an aircraft carrier. Gibson's experience included the test and evaluation of F-14A aircraft while assigned to the Naval Air Test Center's Strike Aircraft Test Directorate. He has over 6,000 hours in over 50 types of civil and military aircraft.*



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# Fifteenth Annual Awards Presentation

The Aero Club of Northern California

June 14, 1997

San Jose, California

Welcome and Introduction ..... Jerry Bennett

Invocation ..... Rev. Dwight Kintner

## DINNER

Introduction of Aero Club Officers and Board Members ..... Jerry Bennett

Aero Club - NAA Special Honor Award

• Gayle Womack ..... Barbara Murren

James M. Nissen Scholarship Award ..... Bill Potter

Roy Hester Scholarship Award ..... Scott Yelich

Guest Speaker

• Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson ..... John Pfahnl

Crystal Eagle Award Presentation ..... John Pfahnl

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## The Crystal Eagle 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

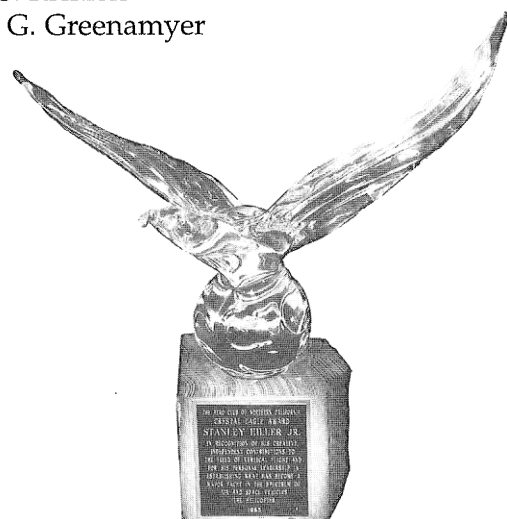
## The Crystal Eagle:

### 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 been used by man to identify with flying since its inception to our current successes in space.

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.



## Our Special Thanks to:

Hillis Printing/Chuck Hillis  
Hugh Center Trust/Art Lund  
Sixteenth St. Design/Bill & Kim Pfahnl  
Student AAAE Chapter - SJSU

San Jose International Airport (SJC)  
Special Recognition  
• Shirley Ibay

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 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. All other pilot licenses issued in the United States subsequent to these five were until 1926 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 students at all levels of learning, and to recognize and honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of aviation and space flight.

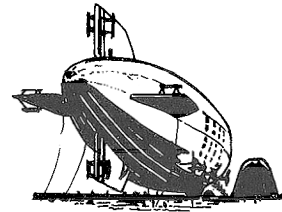
## About our logo ...

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.



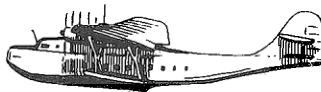
*Montgomery Flight - 1904*

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



*Moffett Field 1933*

Dedicated April 12, 1933, Moffett Field until recently was 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 1940*

Northern California's continued contributions to involvement in the quest for our ultimate destiny is assured by the ongoing advancements in aerospace science and technology at NASA's Ames Research Center.