



## From the Flight Deck

Chuck Heightland, Section Chair

I'm Chuck Heightland, the FY-2001 Chair for AIAA San Diego Council. The new council year has recently gotten underway and we, the elected and appointed members of the council, are looking forward to a busy, exciting and rewarding year. For several reasons, this year's activities will be pivotal for AIAA San Diego.



To begin with, the section will formulate and launch activities that will culminate in the 2003 celebration of the evolution of flight. Through the years San Diego has been deeply involved in the evolutionary steps of powered flight. Today, it continues to have a major role in not only flight operations, but also in the innovations and developments that will lead the nation and the world into the coming century of powered flight.

Secondly, work is underway to bring a major AIAA technical conference to San Diego; I will keep you apprized of the details. Your Council, in conjunction with corporate leaders, is also working on San Diego hosting several student activities that are both regionally and nationally significant. We will also be organizing special speaker programs, technical skills development programs and field trips. We are also evaluating the section's potential for starting student mentoring programs that will aide in the educational process of the next generation of engineering, science and aerospace professionals.

Now to a more troubling topic; I am writing this in the aftermath of AIAA San Diego's first event of the new fiscal year. This was our August 25th NASA experimental vehicles tour. The trip included a presentation and viewing of the X-33 with the last minute addition of a side visit to NASA/Dryden to view the X-34 and X-38 vehicles. The troubling aspect of this is the low interest and turnout for events such as this tour. Less than 3% of our membership signed up for this particular event. Typically, throughout the year, less than 8% attend monthly events in San Diego. Over the last several years the apathy has extended to our special speakers programs, and last year's nationally significant Dutch Flats

Aerospace Historic Site dedication ceremony commemorating the First Flight of the Spirit of St. Louis. My concern is not just in defining the scope of the coming year, but for the general future of the section.

Can this growing apathy be reversed?

Let me list what I believe needs to be the goals for not only the council, but for the section in general:

- Promoting the mission of AIAA in the San Diego community (defined as the furthering of the Arts and Sciences of Aeronautics and Astronautics).
- Improved recognition of AIAA preeminence in Aerospace related issues.
- San Diego community outreach:
  - Involvement in government relations
  - Promotion of technical expertise
  - Development and presentation of informational programs
  - Education and development of tomorrow's leaders

I would like to propose a general call for solutions. Are the above topics important enough to stimulate your interest and involvement? Write, Fax, or Email me at: P.O. Box 2530, Fallbrook, CA, 92088; Voice: (760) 728-9249; Fax: (760) 728-9239; E-Mail: [heightlandc@thg-engr.com](mailto:heightlandc@thg-engr.com). Your input is essential. Right now the council is seemingly working in a vacuum and apparently at cross-purposes to your interests, needs and desires.

## Annual Awards Banquet

The Section Annual Awards Banquet and Installation of Officers was held Thursday, May 31, 2001, at the Island Club at Naval Air Station North Island. The featured speaker was John Swihart, AIAA Honorary Fellow.

The following awards were presented for 2000-2001:

### National Awards

Goddard Astronautics Award	Ivan Getting
Special Service Citation	George Faulkner
Outstanding Section (Large), 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Byron Lowry
Membership (Large), 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Jim Peterson
Young Professional Activities (Large), 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Sunshine Russell

### Section Awards

Outstanding Contribution to AIAA at the National Level	John Swihart
Outstanding Contribution to the AIAA San Diego Section	Tracie Okada
Outstanding Contribution to the Community	Tom Chandik
Outstanding Contribution to Aerospace Engineering	Ivan Getting
Outstanding Contribution to Aerospace Management	Doug Fronius
Outstanding Leadership on a Major Project	Bill Chana

### Reuben H. Fleet Scholarships

San Diego State University	Chad Berman
San Diego State University	Ryan Call
San Diego State University	Adelbert Lagoy
San Diego State University	Timothy Lo

### San Diego Science Fair Awards

Junior Division	Krista Taylor
Junior Division	Tad Dames



Lori Fleet Martin, great-granddaughter of Reuben H. Fleet, presented the Reuben H. Fleet scholarships in honor of the founder of Consolidated Aircraft Corporation and past President of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, the predecessor to AIAA. The scholarships are presented annually to San Diego area high school student and college AIAA student chapter applicants.

Outgoing 2000-2001 Council officers were honored, and incoming Section officers were installed for the 2001-2002 year. For a list of this year's Council officers, see page 3.

### AIAA Historic Site Dedication

Bill Chana and Mike Lazar

Dr. Sheila Widnall, AIAA President, and Doug Fronius, Director of Engineering, Logistics, and Technology at the Northrop Grumman Corporation's Ryan Aeronautical Center, led a dedication ceremony April 28, 2001, at the San Diego Aerospace Museum Pavilion of Flight, recognizing the April 28, 1927 first flight of Charles A. Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis*, from the Dutch Flats Airport in San Diego. The airport was at the corner of Barnett Avenue and Midway Drive, the current location of the United States Post Office. An AIAA *Historic Aerospace Site* plaque was presented to the Postmaster, and now hangs in the lobby of the Post Office building.

Honored guests included Eric and Morgan Lindbergh, grandsons of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, Jerome Ryan, son of T. Claude Ryan, and Glenn Crouch, Postmaster. Georgia Mathias Borthwick, a secretary of Ryan Airlines, Inc., who witnessed that first flight, was unable to attend, but provided her vivid recollection of that historic event via a taped interview played at the ceremony.

Ryan Airlines, Inc built the Spirit of St. Louis. Charles Lindbergh came to the San Diego company, then located at the Dutch Flats site and known for its M-1 mail plane, and signed an agreement for the construction of the *Spirit* monoplane in February 1927. Co-sponsorship of the dedication ceremony by Northrop Grumman's Ryan Aeronautical Center, linked back through history to Ryan Airlines, allowed for holding a catered event at the Aerospace Museum.

The AIAA Historic Aerospace Sites Program was established in January 2000 to promote the preservation and dissemination of information about significant accomplishments in the aerospace profession. Other sites recognized by the Historic Sites Committee for 2001 include: the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base, California; the Aerojet Engineering Plant in Pasadena, California; Aunt Effie's Farm in Auburn Massachusetts, site of Robert Goddard's first successful rocket launch; Hoffman's Prairie Site, Dayton, Ohio, where the Wright Brothers made their successful flights in 1904-1905; the site in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina where the Wrights flew their gliders and the 1903 Wright Flyer; and Tranquility Base, site of the first lunar landing. Six additional sites are slated for recognition in 2002.

### Section Member Honored

The 2001 AIAA Piper General Aviation Award is being awarded to Bill Chana, a long-time AIAA member active at section and national levels. The award is presented for outstanding contributions leading to the advancement of general aviation. The award citation reads "For extensive activity in the development of general aviation aircraft, and for the founding of the AIAA General Aviation Systems Technical Committee." The award, consisting of an engraved bronze medal, certificate of citation, and rosette pin, will be presented at an awards luncheon Tuesday, October 16, 2001 at the First AIAA Aircraft Technology, Integration, and Operations Forum, in conjunction with the Aviation Week's Aerospace Expo Conference & Exhibits October 16-17 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

### X-33 and X-34 Tour

On Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 33 members of our Section, the Professional Engineer and Scientists Organization at the Naval Aviation Depot, North Island, Scaled Composites employees (including Bert Rutan), and an AIAA Western Office representative, attended a tour of the X-33 and X-34. Following a bus trip from San Diego, the group assembled at the Lockheed Martin X-33 Project Office at

10:00 and received a formal presentation on the recoverable X-33 SSTO vehicle. Of particular interest was the detailed information presented on the Aerospike engine and the thermal protection tiles by Carl Meade, Program Director. This was followed by a tour of the vehicle production area. The group then departed for Edwards AFB and lunch at the Officer's Club, followed by a tour of the X-34 hangar, led by the Project Engineer, Larry Myers. At 4:30, the bus headed back home for San Diego.

### Membership Information

Jim Peterson

**ATTENTION MEMBERS!** If you are a Member who has demonstrated a successful professional practice in the arts, sciences, or technology of aeronautics or astronautics for the equivalent of at least eight years, or have had at least eight years of continuous professional membership in AIAA, you may apply for a membership upgrade to Senior Member. Upgrade submittals are accepted anytime throughout the year. The Membership Committee reviews applications on a monthly basis. Senior Members receive a certificate and lapel pin. Achieving the Senior Member grade is a prerequisite to becoming an Associate Fellow.

Using the following website links, you can download the appropriate form for upgrade: <http://www.aiaa.org> brings you to the AIAA home page. Then, in the following order, click on: "Membership Benefits & Activities", "Honors and Awards", and "Upgrades". This will display the membership upgrade prerequisites and a link to the downloadable upgrade form for Senior Member. To request a hard copy of an upgrade form, please contact AIAA Customer Service at (800) 639-2422 and ask for the AIAA Membership Upgrade Forms.

For more information on AIAA Senior Member and Associate Fellow Upgrades, contact Sonja Moore at [sonjam@aiaa.org](mailto:sonjam@aiaa.org).

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.** If you have moved or changed jobs recently, please call the AIAA Headquarters Customer Service Center at (800) 639-2422, and provide them with the current information. You can also make online changes to your file in the membership database. First, go to the AIAA home page at <http://www.aiaa.org> and click on "Members Only". Then click on "Change/Update Member Information". Enter your last name and member ID number. This will display your current personal, business and home information. Press the "Make Changes" button to enter new or revised data.

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**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP.** You may also renew your membership online or via telephone, using a credit card. Call the AIAA Headquarters Customer Service Center at (800) 639-2422. If you have become retired or unemployed, you may renew at a lower rate.

If you have any questions regarding membership or advancing your membership grade, please call Jim Peterson at (858) 279-1940 or email him at [jdpete@pacbell.net](mailto:jdpete@pacbell.net).

## 2001 - 2002 San Diego Section Council

Position	Name/Company	Work Phone	Email Address
Chair	Chuck Heichtland, THG Engineering	(760) 728-9239	<a href="mailto:heichtlandc@tha-enar.com">heichtlandc@tha-enar.com</a>
Vice Chair - Planning	Dan Hearn, Intel Recce Fund	(619) 462-8932	<a href="mailto:dhearn@cts.net">dhearn@cts.net</a>
Vice Chair - Technical	Penelope Ulander, Naval Aviation Depot, NI	(619) 545-3935	<a href="mailto:Ulanderpj@navair.navy.mil">Ulanderpj@navair.navy.mil</a>
Secretary	Byron Lowry, Lockheed Martin Systems Int.	(619) 435-4327	<a href="mailto:Lowry.Byron@H60FIT.nasni.navy.mil">Lowry.Byron@H60FIT.nasni.navy.mil</a>
Treasurer	Colin Etheridge, Solar Turbines	(619) 544-5136	<a href="mailto:Etheridge_Colin_J@solarturbines.com">Etheridge_Colin_J@solarturbines.com</a>
Program Arrangements	Tom Chandik, General Dynamics (ret.)	(619) 276-8961	
Field Trips	Jim Leland, Naval Aviation Depot, NI	(619) 545-2710	<a href="mailto:LelandJM@navair.navy.mil">LelandJM@navair.navy.mil</a>
Newsletter	Mike Lazar, Northrop Grumman Corp.	(858) 618-4208	<a href="mailto:mlazar@ryanero.com">mlazar@ryanero.com</a>
Flyers	Angie Crenshaw, Naval Aviation Depot, NI	(619) 545-7962	<a href="mailto:CrenshawA@navair.navy.mil">CrenshawA@navair.navy.mil</a>
Internet Webmaster	VACANT		
Community Relations	Quentin Goss, USAF (ret.)	(858) 451-6213	<a href="mailto:Qgoss@worldnet.att.net">Qgoss@worldnet.att.net</a>
Public Policy	Richard Kuhn, NASA (ret.)	(858) 487-3255	<a href="mailto:Rekuhn@pacbell.net">Rekuhn@pacbell.net</a>
History & Bylaws	Bill Chana, W. F. Chana Associates, Inc.	(858) 488-7183	
Region VI Delegate	Keith Glassman, Naval Aviation Depot, NI	(619) 545-3736	<a href="mailto:GlassmanKF@navair.navy.mil">GlassmanKF@navair.navy.mil</a>
Membership	Jim Peterson, General Dynamics (ret.)	(858) 279-1940	<a href="mailto:Jdpete@pacbell.net">Jdpete@pacbell.net</a>
Honors & Awards	Doug Armstrong	(858) 451-5637	<a href="mailto:Drdouqarm@aol.com">Drdouqarm@aol.com</a>
Professional Society Liaison	Warren Johnson, BFG Aerospace (ret.)	(858) 278-1317	<a href="mailto:Wmjohanson2@earthlink.net">Wmjohanson2@earthlink.net</a>
Education/Student Activities	VACANT		
Young Professionals	Mark Ringlein, SAIC	(858) 826-9064	<a href="mailto:RussellSC@navair.navy.mil">RussellSC@navair.navy.mil</a>
Pre-College Outreach	Chris Root, Naval Aviation Depot, NI	(619) 545-0626	<a href="mailto:RootCB@navair.navy.mil">RootCB@navair.navy.mil</a>
SDSU Faculty Advisor	George Faulkner, SDSU	(858) 270-6604	<a href="mailto:DGfJR@aol.com">DGfJR@aol.com</a>
SDSU Student Chair	Tim Lo		
UCSD Faculty Advisor	Robert Skelton, UCSD AMES Dept.	(858) 822-1054	<a href="mailto:bobskelton@ucsd.edu">bobskelton@ucsd.edu</a>
UCSD Student Chair	TBD		
<b>AIAA SAN DIEGO SECTION</b>	<b>P.O. Box 881464, San Diego CA 92168</b>		



American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
San Diego Section  
P. O. Box 881464  
San Diego, CA 92168