

BRIEFINGS



May–August 2025

HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM WHERE INSPIRATION TAKES FLIGHT

PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS AMERICA'S GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

by Jon Welte



From its earliest days,
aviation's potential
to cross the seas

captured the public's imagination.
Pan American World Airways,
first established the same year
that Charles Lindbergh flew the
Atlantic, proved instrumental in
making the world smaller for the
traveling public.

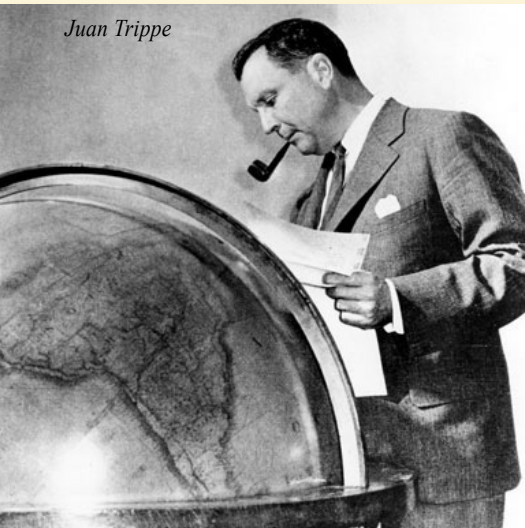
Founded as Pan American Airways in 1927, Pan Am won a contract to carry mail between Florida and Cuba but had neither suitable aircraft nor the legal authority to land at Havana. Pan Am joined forces with Aviation Corporation of the Americas (ACA) to gain access to both, leading to Pan Am's first flight in October 1927.

Pan Am's eventual merger with ACA gained it aircraft, but the most impactful addition was a young entrepreneur named Juan Trippe. A Yale graduate trained as a US Navy aviator during World War I, Trippe had grown weary of working on Wall Street and began investing in the nascent airline industry in 1925. Trippe's leadership role at Pan Am spanned four decades, during which time the airline transformed civil aviation.

Through the late 1920s and early 1930s Pan Am expanded south from Cuba throughout Latin America. Airports at this time were little more than open fields and lacked the facilities needed for large airplanes. From its very first flight in 1927, Pan Am relied heavily on flying boats – airplanes designed to land and take off from the water. Unlike airports, well-developed seaports were available around the world and provided the facilities that Pan Am required. By the mid-1930s Pan Am had routes up and down both coasts of South America using aircraft such as the Sikorsky S-42, a large flying boat able to carry dozens of passengers 1,000 miles or more.

By 1935 Juan Trippe sensed opportunities across the Pacific and began development of routes west from San Francisco. While ports existed in both Hawaii and the Philippines, the empty ocean between them reached

Juan Trippe



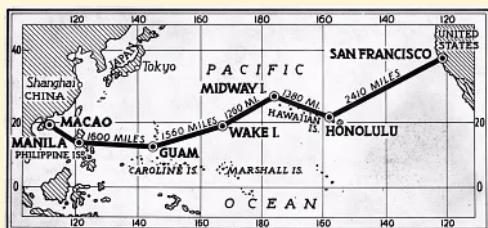
European Train Enthusiasts MODEL TRAIN EXPO – JULY 15 & 16 –



Planes, Trains & Cool Cars Saturday Aug. 9



too far for even the newest flying boats. Undeterred, throughout 1935 Pan Am crews built entirely new facilities, including luxury hotels to provide accommodation to travelers, on a series of remote Pacific islands. By late 1935 this network allowed the first commercial flights across the Pacific. Pan Am's clippers departed San Francisco and made overnight stops at Honolulu, Midway, Wake, Guam and Manila before continuing to Hong Kong or Macao. Just six days was needed to make the journey from California to China, a savings of weeks compared to the fastest ocean liners.



During World War II Pan Am's aircraft flew mail and passengers for the war effort, though always under the direct control of Pan Am's own highly trained crew. Pan Am's last and greatest flying boats, the Boeing 314s, had entered service just before the onset of hostilities in Europe in 1939 and served extensively during the war. In December 1941, the *Pacific Clipper* was in New Zealand when Pearl Harbor was attacked. To avoid destruction it continued west, returning home in January 1942 following an unplanned circumnavigation of the world. In 1943, the *Dixie Clipper* became the first airplane to fly a sitting US president when it carried Franklin Roosevelt to and from Casablanca to meet with Winston Churchill.



The end of the war proved to be the end of an era, as the conflict spurred airfield construction around the world. The time of the flying boat was at an end, and Pan Am transitioned to a fleet of the newest landplanes – Douglas DC-4s, Boeing 377s and Lockheed Constellations. Throughout

this period Pan Am provided exceptional service comparable to the finest first-class experience on any ocean liner.



In 1955 Pan Am again transformed air travel, this time with a pivotal order for modern jet airliners – Boeing 707s and Douglas DC-8s. Initially placed into service on transatlantic routes from New York in 1958, these jets could fly in hours what the flying boats managed in days. In 1965, Juan Trippe made an unprecedented move in encouraging the development of, and becoming a launch customer for, the Boeing 747. First flown in revenue service by Pan Am in 1970, the 747's huge capacity made possible "tourist class" travel, lower-priced tickets accessible to ever more passengers. In production through 2023, the 747 made neighbors of the whole world.

Juan Trippe retired from the presidency of Pan American World Airways in 1968, and ten years later the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978 dramatically changed the face of commercial air transport. Pan Am struggled with the transition, ultimately shuttering in 1991. Yet in pioneering long-distance flights Pan Am defined an era known today as a golden age in air travel – crossing oceans, linking continents and connecting people all around the globe.

This summer the Hiller Aviation Museum opens a newly updated exhibit highlighting Pan American World Airways, featuring airline uniforms, aircraft models, a climb-aboard interactive aircraft for children and a newly restored replica of the Tower of the Sun, a spectacular architectural feature of the Pan Am transpacific terminal on Treasure Island. Pan Am is gone from our skies, but its legacy lives on – and is remembered at the Hiller Aviation Museum.

Resources

- *An American Saga – Juan Trippe and his Pan Am Empire*, Robert Daley, 1980
- *Pan Am: An Aviation Legend*, Barnaby Conrad, 1999
- *Pan American Clippers: The Golden Age of Flying Boats*, James Trautman, 2019

President's Perspective



Clearer skies, warmer days and shorter nights – summer is soon at hand at the Hiller Aviation Museum!

It's been a busy spring here, with staff and volunteers alike working to bring new exhibits and experiences to all of our visitors. In March the Museum welcomed a veritable who's who of air racing celebrities as it unveiled its new air racing exhibit, featuring a meticulously painted two-thirds scale model of the P-51 racer *Plum Crazy*, winner of the 1970 National Championship Air Races. In the weeks to come, the Museum celebrates the pioneering heritage of Pan American World Airways as described in this edition's feature story.

Sharing stories like these is key to the Hiller Aviation Museum's mission to use aviation to inspire adventure and innovation. Air racing's golden age pushed flying heroes to the forefront as they expanded the boundaries of what was possible in the air, while Pan Am's quest to vault the seas inspired the development of aircraft unimaginable in the days of Wilbur and Orville Wright just a few decades earlier. These stories continue to inspire us nearly a century later – and telling them would not be possible without your support.

We'll see you at the Hiller Aviation Museum this summer!

Jon Welte, President & CEO

Boeing 747 over San Francisco



Carolyn Balsdon Hiller 1924 - 2025

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Mrs. Carolyn Balsdon Hiller, who departed this life on March 29, 2025, at the age of 100, surrounded by the love of her family.



Born on December 3, 1924, on a family ranch near Grimes, California, Carolyn was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. She lived a life of quiet strength, deep wisdom, and boundless grace.

Carolyn cultivated a lifelong passion for gardening, which led her to become an active leader in the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club and a dedicated member of the Palo Alto Junior League. A woman of intellect and poise, she attended the Anna Head School for Girls in Berkeley, where she formed friendships that endured for a lifetime. She later pursued her studies at the University of California, Berkeley, where fate intertwined her path with that of Stanley Van Winkle Hiller, Jr., a visionary helicopter pioneer and the love of her life. Introduced by a shared piano teacher, their connection blossomed into a beautiful partnership,

and on May 25, 1946, they were married in the warmth of her cherished childhood home in the Sacramento Valley.

A woman ahead of her time, Carolyn developed an early passion for aviation. In 1942, she piloted a crop duster on her family's ranch, dropping sand into the rice fields to disperse geese. After meeting Stanley, she became one of the first women in the United States to fly a helicopter in 1946. Her support and adventurous spirit played an integral role in her husband's groundbreaking advancements in helicopter innovation.

Above all else, Carolyn found her greatest joy in family. She is survived by her beloved sons, Jeffrey Hamilton Hiller and his wife Mary, and Stephen Stanley Hiller and his wife Charlene. She was the adored grandmother of seven granddaughters and their spouses: Maryann Hiller, Kristen Hiller, Constance Churchman, Samantha Trojanowski, Christina Hiller Myronowicz, Brooke Hiller, and Carolyn Kiper. Carolyn's love extended to her 18 great-grandchildren, all of whom were honored to celebrate her 100th birthday in the warmth of her Atherton home—a milestone that reflected a century of love, adventure, and family.

The Hiller family's legacy in aviation is rare and extraordinary, a passion that Carolyn and Stanley encouraged across generations. Jeff and

Steve proudly carry on the tradition as third-generation pilots, while Christina, Brooke, and Maryann represent the fourth generation to take to the skies. Now, Christina and Cameron's son, Max Myronowicz, has embarked on his own journey, recently completing his first solo flight—placing him among the very few fifth-generation pilots in the country. This remarkable lineage is a testament to Carolyn's enduring spirit and the love of flight she helped foster in her family.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Stanley Hiller, Jr., but her legacy lives on in the lives she touched and the world she helped shape. Together, Carolyn and Stanley's contributions to aviation and education continue to be honored through institutions like the Hiller Aviation Museum, founded in 1998, which preserves the rich history of helicopter advancements and the pioneering spirit that defined their lives.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Hiller Aviation Museum, ensuring that Carolyn and Stanley's passion for aviation innovation and education continues to inspire future generations of pilots and explorers.

Though she has taken her final flight, Carolyn's love, wisdom, and warmth will forever soar in our hearts.

Summer 2025

Aviation Camp

Explore the science of flight with hands-on experiments, flight simulation, and real aircraft!

Week long day camps investigate aviation, space flight, physics, engineering, and so much more!



Now enrolling ages 5 - 12!

601 Skyway Road, San Carlos
hiller.org (650) 654 - 0200
HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM





EUROWEST

The 27th EuroWest MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Theme for 2025:
Swiss Private and Museum Railways

HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM
601 Skyway Rd., San Carlos, CA 94070

Saturday, July 12th, 2025, 10:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday, July 13th, 2025, 10:00am to 4:00pm

- Fun Challenges for Young and Old!
- Operating European Model Train Layouts
- Manufacturer Displays
- Lectures and Presentations
- Sales Tables
- Children's Activities
- Raffle

ADMISSION PRICE INCLUDES ADMISSION TO THE HILLER MUSEUM
Please see <http://www.hiller.org> for current admission prices

For show and vendor information please contact
Dave Cowl: eurowest@ete.org or visit <http://www.ete.org>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

SUN, MAY 4 * 11 AM – 12 PM
Glider Discovery

SUN, MAY 11, 10 AM – 12 PM
Kids' Carnival

SAT, MAY 17 * 10 AM – 1 PM
Open Cockpit

SUN, MAY 18 * 11 AM – 12 PM
Water Rockets Rally

SUN, MAY 25 * 11 AM – 12:00 PM
Straw Rockets

JUNE

SUN, JUNE 1 * 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Glider Discovery

SUN, JUNE 8 * 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM
Star Lab

SAT, JUNE 14 * 10 AM-1 PM
Biggest Little Air Show

SUN, JUNE 15 * 10 AM – 12 PM
Kids' Carnival

WED, JUNE 18 * 11 AM – 12 PM
Water Rocket Rally

SUN, JUNE 22 * 10 AM – 12 PM
Bubble Bonanza

WED, JUNE 25 * 11AM & 1 PM
Happy Birds

SUN, JUNE 29 * 3 PM – 4:30 PM
Flight Sim Rally

JULY

WED, JULY 2 * 10 AM – 1 PM
Open Cockpit

FRI, JULY 4 * 11 AM – 12 PM
Water Rocket Rally

SUN, JULY 6 * 10 AM – 12 PM
Kids' Carnival

WED, JULY 9 * 11 AM & 1 PM
Happy Birds

JULY 12 & 13 * 10AM-4PM
European Model Train Expo

WED, JULY 16 * 10AM - 12PM
Kids' Air Faire

SAT, JULY 19 * 11 AM
Happy Birds

SUN, JULY 20 * 10 AM – 12 PM
Bubble Bonanza

WED, JULY 23 * 11 AM & 1 PM
Happy Birds

SUN, JULY 27 * 11 AM – 12 PM
Water Rocket Rally

WED, JULY 30 * 10 AM – 12 PM
Bubble Bonanza

AUGUST

SUN, AUG 3 * 3 PM – 4:30 PM
Flight Sim Rally

WED, AUG 6 * 11 AM & 1 PM
Happy Birds

SAT, AUG 9 * 10AM – 2PM
Planes, Train and Cool Cars

SUN, AUG 10 * 10 AM – 12 PM
Bubble Bonanza

WED, AUG 13 * 11 AM – 12 PM
Water Rocket Rally

SUN, AUG 17 * 10:30 AM & 11:30 AM
Star Lab

SAT, AUG 23 * 11AM
Paper Airplane Guy

SUN, AUG 24 * 11 AM – 12 PM
Water Rocket Rally

SAT, AUG 30 * 10 AM – 12 PM
Kids' Carnival

SUN, AUG 31 * 11 AM – 12 PM
Bubble Bonanza

DRONE PLEX • SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 11 AM – 3 PM

INVENTION LAB • SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 11 AM – 3 PM

FLIGHT SIM ZONE • SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 11 AM – 2 PM

BSA AND GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMS OFFERED EACH MONTH



THE PAPER AIRPLANE GUY! SATURDAY AUGUST 23 • 11AM

Everyone loves paper airplanes. We turn into test pilots just by folding sheets of paper. We make them to see how fast they will go or how far they will fly, we even try to do aerobatics with them.

One of the top paper airplane makers in the country and former world record holder John Collins will join us for an expert demonstration of the wonder, delight and aeronautic capabilities of handmade paper gliders. John is a master paper airplane builder. John has written several books on building and flying paper airplanes that will be available for him to personalize just for you.

NEW EXHIBITS

SPRING 2025

NOW OPEN

AIR RACING



Featuring a spectacular scale replica of the P-51D racer *Plum Crazy*. Explore the history of both the Golden Age and the National Championship Air Races.

AIR ROCKETS



The countdown has begun! Aspiring rocketeers place their rocket on the pad, pump up the pressure, and launch the rocket skywards!

OPENING MAY 2025

HURRICANE SIMULATOR

Investigate the science of hurricanes and the aircraft used to track them, then enter the simulator chamber to experience a one-minute blast of hurricane-force air! Additional fee required.



OPENING JUNE 2025

EXPLORATION AIRPLANE

Now boarding for an imagination destination! The Hiller Aviation Museum's newest "aircraft" features a flight deck, passenger cabin, cargo bay and more with climb-aboard access and interactive lights, sounds and features.



PAN AM

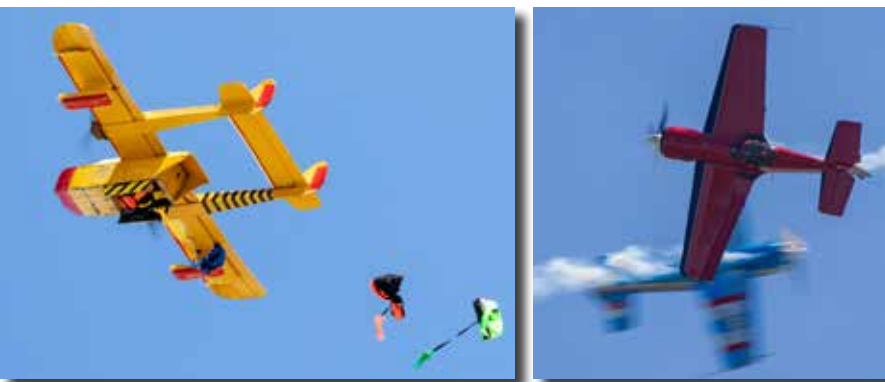


From classic flying boats to cutting-edge jetliners, Pan American World Airways provided an exceptional experience for the traveling public. Visit the Tower of the Sun and see how Pan Am spanned the world.

BIGGEST LITTLE *Air Show* AT SAN CARLOS AIRPORT!

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 • 10AM – 1PM
FLIGHT DEMONSTRATIONS • 10:30AM – NOON!

**Big things come in small packages in an amazing
aerial display at the Hiller Aviation Museum!**



This year's show will see the return of the Sukhoi West Demo Team aerobatic performance along with demonstrations of exceptional radio-controlled models.

San Carlos Airport will close to regular traffic from 10:30 am to noon to allow realistic model aircraft to roll down the runway and into the sky to take their part in a unique aerial extravaganza including aerobatic planes, helicopters, drones, quadrotors, and more!!

Performers are scheduled to include:

Sukhoi West Demo Team

US Coast Guard SAR Demo

The RC Flyers model aircraft demonstrations

Aerobatic gyroscopic routines

3D aerobatic helicopters

DRONES

Quads

Model Rockets

Jets and other RC aircraft

**Performances subject to change*

PEAXY / TOTAL DATA ACCESS
FOR INDUSTRY



Beautifully detailed radio control model aircraft will be on display and perform demonstrations at the Museum from 10:30 AM to 1 PM. With air show demonstrations from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Drone demonstrations from 12-3 PM in the Drone Plex.

Special admission tickets required – Museum Members can purchase discounted tickets! Capacity is limited and advanced tickets are required. For more info visit www.hiller.org

EDUCATION AND FAMILY EVENTS

AVIATION CAMP 2025 • SUMMER PROGRAMS GRADES K-7

Limited space remains available for Aviation Camp 2025, the Hiller Aviation Museum's week-long exploration of flight for children ages 5-12. Each week long program investigates the science and engineering of aerospace with hands-on experiments, flight simulation, real aircraft, and much more! Visit www.hiller.org to view availability, join a waiting list, or enroll today!



SPECIAL FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS AT THE HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM

BUBBLE BONANZA

**SUNDAYS: JUNE 22, JULY 20,
AUGUST 10 & 31 • 10 AM – 12 PM**
WEDNESDAY: JULY 30

Float into the air with a fantastical exploration of bubbles! Explore the many different shapes, sizes, and colors of bubbles in a fun-filled bubble adventure.



KIDS' AIR FAIRE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16 • 10 AM – 12 PM

Join the excitement as local public safety organizations descend on the Hiller Aviation Museum with a remarkable collection of aircraft, cars, trucks, and other vehicles. Check out the interior of working airplanes, helicopters and emergency vehicles, participate in fun activities, take home cool giveaways and so much more in a special day dedicated to our youngest aviators.



FLIGHT SIMULATOR RALLY

SUNDAYS: JUNE 29 & AUGUST 3
20-MINUTE SESSIONS
FROM 3 PM - 4:30 PM

Flight with the best of the best! Each Flight Simulator Rally features a special challenge in flight – completing an instrument approach, landing on a short island runway, even attempting a space shuttle landing! Pilots receive a pre-flight briefing and then take the controls in a unique flight simulation mission.



KIDS' CARNIVAL

SUNDAYS: JUNE 15 & JULY 6
SATURDAY: AUGUST 30 • 10 AM – 12 PM

Explore open airplane cockpits, hand-paint a Cessna Cardinal airplane, help to assemble or take apart a Penguin training aircraft, build and fly a glider or experiment with wind tunnels in a monthly morning of family-themed fun!



GLIDER DISCOVERY DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 1 • 11 AM - 12 PM

Learn how an airplane works, then build and fly a model glider! Participants identify key parts of the museum's Penguin airplane, then help to remove and re-attach the wings and control system. Pilots then construct a simple balsa glider and send it skyward in an amazing festival of flight.



STARLAB SKY SHOW

SUNDAYS: JUNE 8, AUGUST 17
20 MINUTE SESSIONS AT:
10:30 AM, 11:30 AM

Enter the amazing dome of a Starlab planetarium and see the glittering stars of the night sky projected overhead. Discover the brightest constellations visible each night and the stars used by pilots, sailors and others to navigate across vast and featureless oceans.



HAPPY BIRDS

WEDNESDAYS: 11 AM & 1 PM
JUNE 25, JULY 9 & 23, AUGUST 6
SATURDAY AT 11 AM ONLY: JULY 19

Take a flight on the feathered side! Meet the hilarious team of feathered fliers as the Happy Birds take wing once more at the Hiller Aviation Museum. This unforgettable flock of parrots, macaws and cockatoos demonstrates remarkable natural behaviors and amazing trained tricks and antics.



WATER ROCKET RALLY

WEDNESDAYS: JUNE 18 & AUGUST 13
FRIDAY: JULY 4
SUNDAYS: JULY 27 & AUGUST 24
11 AM - 12 PM

Have a blast exploring the world of rocket propulsion! Check out a JPL-designed research rocket, learn about the science of rocketry, and create a high flying water rocket. Bring a clean, recycled soda bottle from home or purchase one at the Gift Shop on the day of the event.





THE
AIRPORT RUNWAY
RUN
2K | 5K | 10K

We Thank Our Sponsors

NAVIGATOR

Mark Jon Bluth



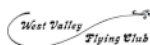
EXPLORER



ADVENTURER



SPECIAL THANKS



Hank Scherf



PLANES, TRAINS AND COOL CARS!



Cool Cars - Model Trains - Unique Aircraft
Saturday August 9, 2025
10 AM - 2 PM



Hiller
Aviation
Museum

San Carlos Airport
www.hiller.org

Event Included with Museum Admission

HILLER AVIATION MUSUEM PRESENTS

BEYOND THE HORIZON 21ST ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Keynote Speaker

Eric Allison of Joby Aviation

• Tickets, Sponsorships, Donations • www.hiller.org/gala •



HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM

601 Skyway Road, San Carlos, California 94070 www.hiller.org

www.hiller.org

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INSPIRATION TAKES FLIGHT AT HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM!

LEVELS AND BENEFITS

As a member of the Hiller Aviation Museum you'll enjoy free unlimited admission for one year, a store discount, and invitations to members-only events!



	SENIOR (65+) 1 named member	INDIVIDUAL 1 named member	FAMILY 2 adults (1 must be the named member) & up to 4 children under 18	PIONEER 3 adults (1 must be the named member) & up to 4 children under 18	PILOT 3 adults (1 must be the named member) & up to 4 children under 18	BARNSTORMER 4 adults (1 must be the named member) & up to 4 children under 18
Signature Events (Non Year's and Biggest Little Air Shows)	50% Admission Discount			Complimentary Admission		
Digital membership card	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Members-only events	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-time guest pass	2	2	2	4	4	6
15% discount in gift shop everyday	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Free flights in Flight Sim Zone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Subscription to Museum's newsletter, Briefings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discount for Aviation Camp	—	—	✓	✓	✓	✓

Be prepared to show photo ID of named member

Guest Passes are "one-time use" only

Children 4 and under are admitted free

Membership card may be downloaded on the eMembership Card App within one week of purchase. More info: hiller.org/digital-membership

Visit hiller.org/membership-faq for membership tax deductibility and employer match amounts.

3/06

HILLER MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

ONE YEAR		
SENIOR (65+)	INDIVIDUAL	FAMILY
☐ \$69	☐ \$85	☐ \$139
PIONEER	PILOT	BARNSTORMER
☐ \$189	☐ \$259	☐ \$500

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Membership # _____ Optional for Renewal

Primary Adult Member

Optional Second Adult Member (For Family Membership and up)

Optional Third Adult Member (For Pioneer Membership and up)

Optional Fourth Adult Member (For Barnstormer Memberships)

Address

City State ZIP Code

Phone

Email Address

Optional: This is a Gift Membership from

I would like to make an additional fully tax-deductible one-time gift of \$ _____ to the Museum to support educational programs.

Total Amount: \$ _____

☐ Check here if you wish to be anonymous in museum publications.

Card type: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Cardholder Name

Card Number

Expiration Date

CVV/CSC

Make checks payable to: **Hiller Aviation Museum**

Thank you for your support.

Please make checks payable to
Hiller Aviation Museum
601 Skyway Rd, San Carlos, CA 94070



MEMBERS ONLY
EVENT

SUMMER 2025

DETAILS
COMING SOON!