

BRIEFINGS



September - December 2025

HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM WHERE INSPIRATION TAKES FLIGHT

WINGS TO ORBIT AMERICA'S SPACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

by Jon Welte

Progress in flight has always been driven by ceaseless efforts to fly faster, farther and higher. From the sands of Kitty Hawk to the racing pylons of Cleveland and across the vast expanses of the Pacific, aviation has been a story of ever-increasing performance.

Goddard
and his
1928 Rocket



By the middle of the twentieth century, aviation began to intertwine itself with a new technology – rocket propulsion. First harnessed by the Chinese in the thirteenth century, by the mid-1900s rockets had become a viable form of propulsion. American Dr. Robert Goddard, ridiculed in a 1920 *New York Times* editorial for suggesting that rockets could be used to send a projectile to the Moon, withdrew from the public eye but experimented with ever more impressive liquid-fueled rockets in a program funded in large part by aviator Charles Lindbergh. In the 1940s, the newly-independent Jet Propulsion Laboratory – spun off from the California Institute of Technology and tucked into the canyons of La Canada in part to ensure that rocket explosions would no longer damage university buildings – experimented with solid-fuel rockets, including rocket motors able to be affixed to airplanes for rocket-assisted takeoffs.

Yeager
and the
X-1



Just to the north of the same mountains that sheltered JPL, a unique aviation community formed in California's high desert. Long used



OCT 18 – OCT 26

Turkey Toss!
Nov. 26



CELEBRATE
NOON YEAR'S EVE

@ Hiller Aviation Museum

December 31

10 AM - 1 PM

Bring in the New Year with
your family and enjoy
games, entertainment and
activities for all ages.

as a military training area, the clear skies and remote location of Rogers Dry Lake made it a natural destination for testing and development of many of the world's fastest and highest-flying aircraft. In October 1947 United States Air Force test pilot Chuck Yeager departed from Edwards Air Force Base, some 100 miles north of Los Angeles, and flew faster than the speed of sound for the first time. The aircraft was the Bell X-1, propelled by rocket motors. The exceptional performance of rockets proved ideal for aircraft flying at extreme altitudes and speeds, and over the next two decades



Neil Armstrong and the X-15:

many other remarkable rocket planes flew from Edwards – culminating in the North American X-15, able to fly over 4,500 miles per hour and at altitudes over 50 miles.

The X-15 flew from Edwards throughout

the 1960s, a period in which rockets unencumbered by wings were used to achieve even more impressive goals in space exploration. Variants of the Soviet Union's R-7 rocket launched satellites and cosmonauts at the beginning of the decade, and the even mightier American Saturn V set the first astronauts to the Moon in 1969. The technology used to build the Saturn V rocket was derived from that used by Goddard in his experiments four decades earlier; the mission commander, Neil Armstrong, first flew rockets as an X-15 pilot in 1960. The *New York Times* published a belated correction acknowledging the accuracy of Goddard's work on the eve of the first Moon landing.

Rocket-propelled spacecraft proved capable of flying to space, but at immense cost – of the 6.4 million pounds that comprised Armstrong's Apollo 11 spacecraft and Saturn V

rocket at launch, only a 12,000-pound capsule returned with the astronaut crew. As the urgency of international competition abated the costs of space exploration grew prohibitive, new ways of reaching space were explored.

The swift-flying X-15 flew its last mission in 1968, but the data collected in its high-speed test program suggested that reusable spaceplanes were a viable option for more regular access to space – North American built just three X-15s, but they together completed 199 flights. As the final Moon missions flew in 1972, the program that came to be known as the Space Shuttle was formally launched.

Designed to be mostly reusable and far larger than previous capsule-shaped aircraft, the shuttle orbiter was a 100-ton winged spaceplane intended to launch vertically like a rocket, orbit Earth as a crewed spaceship, and land on a runway like the X-15. North American Aviation, having merged with Rockwell-Standard to become Rockwell International, designed and built the shuttles. Final assembly of an eventual six orbiters was completed in California's high desert not far from where the X-1 and X-15 flew to history. In 1977 the first vehicle, *Enterprise*, made its first test flight – launched not by rocket, but by Boeing 747, and sent not to space, but to a test landing on the long dry lakebed at Edwards Air Force Base. A total of five Approach and Landing Tests were made with *Enterprise* in the skies over California before orbital operations began in 1981 with *Columbia*, the first of five orbiters able to fly in space. Shuttle landings eventually moved to a new shuttle landing facility built near the launch site in Florida, but all six shuttles made their first landings in California.



Space Shuttle Atlantis at Edwards AFB:

Between 1981 and 2011 the fleet of five space-rated shuttles launched 135 times. Missions included spacecraft launches, recoveries and repairs – the Hubble Space Telescope was visited, repaired, and upgraded by shuttles five times after its launch by shuttle in 1990. Nine missions were flown to the Russian *Mir* space station in the 1990s, inaugurating a period of cooperation in space among former rivals. And the shuttle was instrumental in the launch, assembly, and resupply of the International Space Station, with nearly forty missions flown to that destination alone.



The space shuttle era drew to a close in July 2011 when *Atlantis* completed its final space mission. Among its crew of four was NASA astronaut Rex Walheim. Walheim, a San Carlos native and graduate of both San Carlos High and UC Berkeley, flew three shuttle missions as part of a 24-year career at NASA. The Hiller Aviation Museum is honored to welcome him back to his hometown for a special presentation on his spaceflight experiences on Tuesday, December 30. Please join us for this unique reflection on the experience of flying aboard the world's most famous winged spacecraft.

Resources

Rocket Man, David Clary, 2004
Hypersonic: The Story of the North American X-15, Dennis Jenkins, 2008
The Space Shuttle, Roland Miller, 2022

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE FALL 2025



Founded by helicopter pioneer, Stanley Hiller Jr., the Hiller Aviation Museum has always had a special focus on the history of vertical

flight. A growing part of our aircraft collection is now devoted to Urban Air Mobility (UAM) aircraft – electrically-powered vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) vehicles able to carry small numbers of passengers across city-sized distances. A development of the same technology that made multi-rotor drones possible, UAMs offer the promise of flying passengers quickly, quietly and cleanly above the city streets below.

This fall the Museum welcomes Eric Allison, Chief Product Officer at Joby Aviation, as the keynote speaker at its Benefit Gala on September 27. Joby is among the foremost innovators furthering the development of UAMs, taking on both technical and regulatory challenges to create a viable flying service. We are delighted to have Eric at our Gala to describe the latest advancements in this fast-moving field.

While each year's Gala serves as a celebration of the world of flight, it is also an opportunity for many of the Museum's friends to gather in support of its mission to preserve Northern California's legacy of flight and inspire its aviation future. Thank you for joining us as together we strive to take the Hiller Aviation Museum beyond the horizon.

Jon Welte, President & CEO
Hiller Aviation Museum



EVENT IS FREE TO ATTEND!

Hops and Props

Saturday, September 6th, 2025
12 PM - 4 PM

What could be better than microbrew beer, live music and cool airplanes under the warm September sky? The Hiller Aviation Museum presents Hops & Props Beer Fest.



Beer

by Devil's Canyon

- Kaleidoscope Sour Ale
- La Canada de Diablo Mexican Lager
- White Ale
- Festbier
- Spare the Air Hazy IPA
- Fluent in Sarcasm Double West Coast IPA
- Full Boar Scotch Ale
- Root Beer Non-Alcoholic

Wine

- Sauvignon Blanc
- Chardonnay
- Rose
- Pinot
- Cabernet Sauvignon

*Beverages are subject to change

Bands

- The Montgomery Coe Band
(12 PM - 4 PM)

Food

- T-Mo Food Truck
- Mister Softee ice cream
- Hot Dogs



HILLER
AVIATION
MUSEUM

More details and tickets | www.Hiller.org

601 Skyway Rd, San Carlos CA

ASTRONAUT REX WALHEIM

**TUESDAY DEC. 30. 11 AM
BLAST OFF WITH A REAL-LIFE ASTRONAUT!**

Get ready for an out-of-this-world experience as Rex Joseph Walheim, retired U.S. Air Force officer, NASA astronaut, and spacewalking legend, returns to his hometown of San Carlos!

Rex Walheim has flown on three Space Shuttle missions—STS-110, STS-122, and the historic final flight of the Shuttle program, STS-135. With over 566 hours in space and 36+ hours of spacewalks, Rex has seen Earth from a perspective few ever will.

A proud graduate of San Carlos High School, Rex went on to earn degrees from UC Berkeley and the University of Houston, launching a career that would take him to the stars.



Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear firsthand stories of space exploration, teamwork aboard the Shuttle, and what it's like to float among the stars. Perfect for space enthusiasts, students, and dreamers of all ages!

Mark your calendars—this is one mission you'll want to be part of!

EDUCATION PROGRAMS FALL/WINTER 2025

AVIATION CAMP

FALL/WINTER AVIATION CAMP

HOLIDAY CAMP PROGRAMS

Launch an adventure in aviation over the fall and winter holidays at Aviation Camp! Build and fly model aircraft, take on realistic flight simulations, explore museum aircraft and more while exploring a unique subject in flight. One to five-day programs available select holiday periods Sept. 1 – Jan. 5. Several different topics available! Visit www.hiller.org for details or to enroll today.

EXTREME FLIGHT

DEC 29-30



FLIGHT SIMULATOR ACES

OCT 13, NOV 28, DEC. 19, JAN 5



GOT BOTS?

NOV 24-26, DEC 22-23



STEM EXPLORERS

SEPT 29-OCT 3, JAN 1-2



WINGS & FLYING THINGS

NOV 10, DEC 18, DEC 26



SUNDAY FAMILY EVENTS

FALL/WINTER 2025

Join the fun this fall for a series of special outdoor family events! Held on select Sundays, each features hands-on activities just for kids ages 5+. Visit www.hiller.org for more information on each event.

AIR POWER ADVENTURE ASSEMBLY

NOV 19, DEC 7, DEC 26 11 AM



FLIGHT SIMULATOR RALLY

NOV 16, DEC. 21 3 PM-4:30 PM



GLIDER DISCOVERY DAY

SEPT 21, NOV 2, NOV 30 11 AM



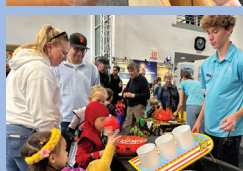
HELICOPTER ADVENTURE

SEPT 28, DEC 28 11 AM



HALLOWEEN KIDS' CARNIVAL

OCT 18 & 19, 10 AM-12 PM



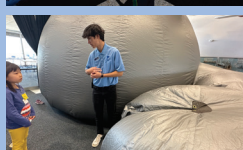
PAINT-A-PLANE

SEPT 14, OCT 18, OCT 19 10 AM-12 PM



STARLAB

SEPT 20, NOV 22, DEC 20 1:30 PM-3 PM



STARLIGHT NIGHTS

NOV 28, DEC 26 5 PM-7 PM



STRAW ROCKET WORKSHOP

OCT 12, NOV 23, DEC 14 11 AM



WATER ROCKET RALLY

SEPT 7, OCT 5 11 AM



HOLIDAY FUN WEEK

DEC 26-31

Celebrate the holidays with a special event in flight! Daily events December 26-31 provide special experiences in aviation for kids and adults alike! Each event starts at 11 AM unless noted and is included with museum admission.

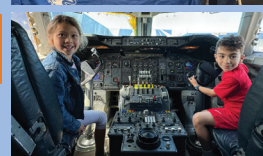
AIR POWER ADVENTURE ASSEMBLY

FRI, DEC 26 11 AM



OPEN COCKPIT

SAT, DEC 27 10 AM-12 PM



HELICOPTER ADVENTURE

SUN, DEC 28 11 AM



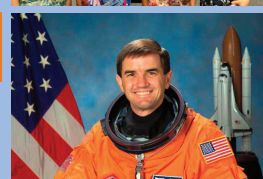
HAPPY BIRDS

MON, DEC 29 11 AM



ASTRONAUT TALK

TUES, DEC 30 11 AM



NOON YEAR'S EVE PARTY



WEDS, DEC 31, 10 AM-1 PM

Join the countdown to twelve noon on the last day of the year in a kid-friendly New Year's Eve spectacular! Dance and music routines, hands-on activities, and special presentations prepare the way for the dramatic countdown and noon-time balloon drop. Advance tickets are required!

VISIT
WWW.HILLER.ORG
FOR MORE
INFORMATION.

HALLOWEEN EVENTS

HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HANGAR

OCT 18-26,
10 AM-5 PM

Share a family-friendly fright as the Hiller Aviation Museum transforms into the Halloween Haunted Hangar in a special annual tradition! Enjoy creepy creations, dreadful decorations, and spirited Halloween fun.



HALLOWEEN PAINT-A-PLANE

SAT/SUN,
OCT 18/19,
10 AM – 12 PM

Paint the museum's Cessna Cardinal in ghastly Halloween colors, launch a Ghosticopter in a wind tunnel, assemble a Halloween craft and more at the Haunted Hangar.



HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL AND PUMPKIN DROP

SAT/SUN, OCT 25/26
10 AM – 12 PM
(PUMPKIN DROP AT NOON)

Join the fun as our high-flying witch prepares her doomed pumpkins for their final flights! With Halloween games, special prizes, and helicopter-borne pumpkin drops as the clock tolls 12 noon.



STARLIGHT NIGHTS

FR, NOV 28, DEC 26, 5 PM-7 PM



Fall and winter evenings come alive at the Hiller Aviation Museum's Starlight Nights! The museum and gift shop remain open until 7 PM, with Starlab sky shows available inside and, weather permitting, telescopic observations of the Moon and planets of our solar system available outside. Experience San Carlos Airport at night and explore the heavens above with these special evening adventures.

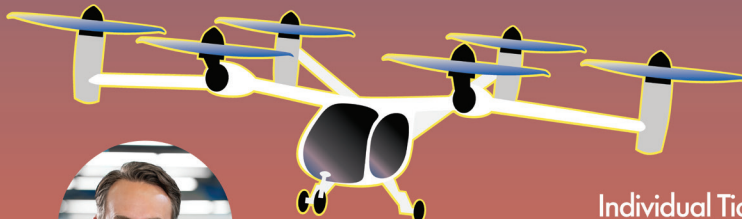
HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM PRESENTS

Beyond the Horizon

21ST ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA

Saturday, September 27, 2025

5pm • Cocktails 6:30pm • Dinner & Auction



Keynote by: Eric Allison

Chief Product Officer at Joby Aviation

Individual Ticket
\$300

Table of 10 Sponsorships
\$15,000 • \$10,000 • \$5,000 • \$3,500

Benefiting the Museum's Aviation and STEM Education programs!



HILLER
AVIATION
MUSEUM

Questions?

CONTACT Audie Amirkiai, VP of Development
650-654-0200 ext. 203 • audie@hiller.org

Scan to RSVP

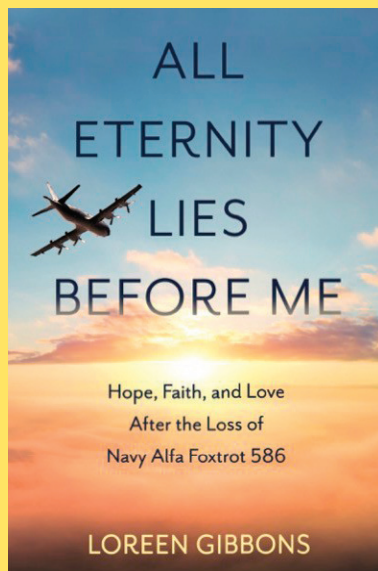


Tickets, Sponsorships, Donations • www.hiller.org/gala

ALL ETERNITY LIES BEFORE ME

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8, 11 AM
PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGNING, BY LOREEN GIBBONS

All Eternity Lies Before Me is a suspense filled, real-life drama that reads like an action movie. The author, Loreen Gibbons, interweaves a dual narrative account about her memories as a Navy pilot's wife with a tale of what happened to her husband's crew after the ditching of the crippled plane in the frigid, stormy North Pacific waters off the coast of the Soviet Union in 1978. A propeller malfunction causing four engine fires which burned dangerously close to a wing fuel tank forced the ditching, and left the crew in life rafts for twelve hours before being rescued by Russian fishermen and taken to the Soviet Union. Loreen would not know the fate of her husband for three days. This story is more than a tale of military heroism; it is also a story of faith, hope, love, and resilience with a deeply spiritual core.



HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM



Saturday Oct 18th through Sunday Oct 26th, Daily 10am-5pm

HAUNTED HANGAR

PAINT-A-PLANE

SAT-SUN
OCT 18/19
10 AM-12 PM

- SPECIAL ACTIVITIES JUST FOR KIDS
- COCKPIT EXPLORATION
- GLIDER AND HELICOPTER CONSTRUCTION AND MORE
- PAINT THE MUSEUM'S PAINT-A-PLANE ORANGE AND BLACK
- FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

HELICOPTER PUMPKIN DROP

SAT-SUN
OCT 25/26

OCT 25 EVENT 10AM-12PM (DROP AT 12PM)
OCT 26 EVENT 10AM-12PM (DROP AT 12PM)

- PUMPKIN DROP
- CREEPY GAMES AND PRIZES
- MEET THE WITCH AND SIGN HER SPECIAL HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN
- GREAT PUMPKIN SAFARI HUNT

GET TICKETS @ HILLER.ORG

HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM 601 SKYWAY RD SAN CARLOS, CA 94070

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025 · 10AM-1PM

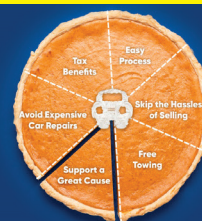
FREE SHREDDING & E-WASTE EVENT



Shred: 3 banker boxes per person, Shred service will close when truck is full (come early)

eWaste: computers, laptops, monitors, mice, keyboards, cables, tape and zip drives, printers, phones, DVD players, radios, stereos, VCRs, video game consoles, fax machines, scanners, televisions

Not acceptable: household appliances



No matter your reason, donating your vehicle is as easy as pie.

www.hiller.org/vehicle

1-855-550-4483



AVIATION MUSEUM EXOTIC CAR SHOW



When: September 20th
12pm - 3pm



Where: San Carlos
Hiller Aviation Museum



Aero Fuel



HILLER
AVIATION
MUSEUM

Ana
Car Crew Fam

Crow Motorsports
LUMEXA
CREATIVE MEDIA

Halloween Costumes

Be an Aviator,
pioneer
airline pilot
fighter pilot
or astronaut



Suit up in
the Gift Shop!

Special Holiday Shopping

NOV 28 THROUGH NOV 30

**MUSEUM MEMBERS
RECEIVE A 25% DISCOUNT
IN THE GIFT SHOP**

Become a Museum Member
and take advantage of this
great holiday offer!

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

SAT, SEPT 6 • 12PM–4PM
Hops & Props

SUN, SEPT 7 • 11AM
Water Rockets

SUN, SEPT 14 • 10AM – 12PM
Paint-A-Plane

SAT, SEPT 20 • 12PM – 3PM
Exotic Car Show

SAT, SEPT 20 • 1:30PM & 2:30PM
Starlab

SUN, SEPT 21 • 11 AM
Glider Discovery

SUN, SEPT 28 • 11AM
Helicopter Adventure

OCTOBER

SAT OCT 5 • 11AM
Water Rocket Rally

SUN, OCT 12 • 11AM
Straw Rockets

OCT 18 – OCT 26 • 10AM – 5PM
Halloween Haunted Hangar

SAT/SUN, OCT 18/19 • 10AM – 12PM
Kids' Halloween Paint-A-Plane

SAT/SUN, OCT 25/26 • 10AM – 12PM
Halloween Helicopter Pumpkin Drop

NOVEMBER

SUN, NOV 2 • 11AM
Glider Discovery

SAT, NOV 8 • 11AM
All Eternity Lies Before Me—
Presentation

SUN, NOV 9 • 11AM
Air Power Adventure

SAT, NOV 15 • 10AM – 1PM
E-Waste recycling drop off

SUN, NOV 16 • 3:00PM – 4:30PM
Flight Sim Rally

SAT, NOV 22 • 1:30PM & 2:30PM
Starlab

SUN, NOV 23 • 11AM
Straw Rockets

WED, NOV 26 • 11AM
Turkey Toss

THURS, NOV 27 • CLOSED ALL DAY

FRI, NOV 28 • 5PM – 7PM
Starlight Nights

SUN, NOV 30 • 11AM
Glider Discovery

DECEMBER

SAT, DEC 6 • 9:30AM – 12PM
Santa by Helicopter

SUN, DEC 7 • 11AM
Air Power Adventure

SUN, DEC 14 • 11AM
Straw Rockets

SAT, DEC 20 • 1:30PM & 2:30PM
Starlab

SUN, DEC 21 • 3:00PM – 4:30PM
Flight Sim Rally

THUR, DEC 25 • CLOSED ALL DAY

FRI, DEC 26 • 11AM
Air Power Adventure

FRI, DEC 26 • 5PM – 7PM
Starlight Nights

SAT, DEC 27 • 10AM – 1PM
Open Cockpit

SUN, DEC 28 • 11AM
Helicopter Adventure

MON, DEC 29 • 11AM
Happy Birds

TUE, DEC 30 • 11 AM
Astronaut Rex Walheim

WED, DEC 31 • 10AM – 1PM
Noon Years Party

FLIGHT SIM ZONE AND FMX FLIGHT SIM WEEKENDS 11AM – 3PM

INVENTION LAB • WEEKENDS 11AM – 3PM

DRONE PLEX • WEEKENDS 11AM – 3PM

HELICOPTER TURKEY TOSS

WED NOV. 26, 2025, 11 AM



Celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with a family-friendly re-enactment of a classic television event! In 1978, WKRP in Cincinnati first aired its timeless "Turkeys Away" episode. In 2024 the Hiller Aviation Museum commemorates this fictional holiday catastrophe with a "Turkey Toss" of its own.

The museum is known for many helicopter-borne events throughout the year. At Thanksgiving the museum will drop turkeys not the actual birds, but soft foam turkey toys! Small, squeezable take-home turkeys will rain from the sky — reminding all of the immortal words of WKRP General Manager Arthur Carlson, "As God is my witness, I thought turkeys could fly!"

SANTA CLAUS ARRIVES BY HELICOPTER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 10:30 AM
RAIN OR SHINE.
DOORS OPEN AT 9:30.

Join the West Bay Community Band and sing Christmas carols while the kids line up to tell Santa their Christmas gift list. No Museum admission fee required for this event!





HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM

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

Non – Profit
Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
San Carlos, CA
PERMIT No. 396

HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

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

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	SENIOR (65+)	INDIVIDUAL	FAMILY	PIONEER	PILOT	BARNSTORMER
Annual Fee	\$69	\$85	\$139	\$189	\$259	\$500
Number of Adults*	1	1	2	3	3	4

**One named member must be present. Children under 3 receive free admission.*



SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE & VIEW BENEFITS:

