



# BRIEFINGS



May–August 2023

## HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM WHERE INSPIRATION TAKES FLIGHT

### IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY! THE HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM TURNS 25!

*by Willie Turner*

**O**n June 5, 1998, the Bay Area welcomed a new museum — an aviation museum! It was 25 years ago that Hiller Aviation Museum first opened its doors with much fanfare. A regular ribbon cutting wasn't going to cut it. The museum wanted to go big with its opening, and we've never looked back. The late Eddie Andreini from Half Moon Bay flipped his airplane upside down and cut a ribbon strewn across the runway. Alan Silver then parachute-jumped from a Hiller Helicopter while carrying an American flag, which was the first flag to fly in front of the museum. He also carried a pair of scissors that he handed to museum founder Stanley Hiller Jr. to officially cut the ribbon and open the doors to the public.

Few people know that the story of the museum actually began long before that aerial ribbon cutting. Mr. Hiller had a private museum in a warehouse in Redwood City called Hancock, named for the street on which it was located. Luckily for all of us, Mr. Hiller was a bit of a pack rat and collected not only his old helicopters that he manufactured over the years but also a number of other historically interesting aircraft. Since the museum was private, only a lucky few ever got to enjoy the little hidden collection in the center of that industrial neighborhood. It had always been Mr. Hiller's intention to open a larger museum accessible to the public, and he searched for many years for the right place. He put together a steering committee that included public officials, venture capital friends, and even Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and San Mateo County Supervisor Mary Griffin.



*Groundbreaking October 1996*



*Museum exterior 1998-2017*



*Executive Director Maj General Jerry Schumacher ret and Stanley Hiller Jr.*



*Current Dazzle paint scheme*



Smithsonian Institution  
Affiliations Program

Several locations were considered, including the San Mateo Event Center and Moffett Field, but none of the locations checked all the boxes until a property became available at the San Carlos Airport. This location was on an airport, in the middle of the Peninsula, and faced the Bayshore Freeway. The decision was made to build the museum there, and the groundbreaking took place in October 1996.

Over the past quarter-century, the museum has grown and changed in dramatic ways. When it first opened, all of the signage was pasted on foam core boards and stuck to a long carpeted wall that took visitors on a chronological path through history. "Video Docents" ran on massive tube TVs using Betamax tapes and DVD players — both of which would wear out after only a few months of daily operation and were constantly being replaced. The museum was brightly lit by giant warehouse lights and had very few interactive exhibits. In contrast, the museum today is illuminated by dramatic blue and white LED spotlights, backlit aircraft are displayed alongside information panels, and trellis structures display our exhibit information. The displays are flat screens running on USB drives and wireless internet. We've added fun interactive simulators, the Fantasy Sky parachute launchers and wind tunnel, the creative blue blocks of the Imagination Playground, and interactive labs facilitated by staff and volunteers at the Flight Sim Zone, Invention lab, and Drone Plex. We have become a leader in displaying the future of aviation with our expanded Unmanned Aircraft and Urban Air Mobility exhibits.

The museum's educational offerings for pre-school through high school have also matched the growth of the museum, inspiring thousands of children annually with many different events and programs. The first summer camp after we first opened hosted 25 kids. Aviation Camp now serves 2,000 children annually. Yellow school buses line up in front of the museum with school groups participating in field trips exploring science and engineering in aviation. We also host monthly BSA and Girl Scout groups for aviation-themed badge and patch programs.

Events have always been a popular attraction at the museum. The world's largest all-helicopter air show, Vertical Challenge, was held from 2000 to 2012,



*Empty Museum Gallery*



*Museum inside 1998-2017*



*Current view of the Gallery*

and the Biggest Little Air Show started in 2014 and continues to this day. In fact, Biggest Little Air Show turns 10 this year! Along with Radio Disney, we hosted the first "Noon" Year's event on December 31, 1999, to celebrate the turn of the century and that event is still going strong. The museum hosts roughly 100 events every year, along with evening facility rentals and has a strong membership of over 3,000 local households.

Hiller Aviation Museum has had four different leaders over its quarter century: Jerry Shoemaker, Bill Kozloveski, Alan Waffle, and our current CEO Jeffery Bass. Jeff has led the museum for the past 16 years and has overseen many of the changes that have made the museum what it is today. We will be welcoming our fifth CEO, Jon Welte, in May as he will be taking over for Jeff, who is retiring.

We look forward to the next 25 years and many more fun and exciting programs and additions to the museum. Thank you for taking flight with us!

# President's Perspective



**I**t is great to see the museum bouncing back after several years of pressure caused by the COVID pandemic. Our weekend attendance is now at full, pre-pandemic levels and the number of visitors

joining the museum as new Members is at the highest level it's ever been, with well over 3,000 family households this year. In the meantime, our Aviation Camp program is currently on track for another record-breaking summer in terms of enrollments.

STEM-based education programs are among the museum's strongest offerings. For the past 15 years, the mastermind of this success has been our Vice President of Education and Public Programs, Jon Welte. Shortly after my arrival at the museum in 2007, Jon was one of my first new hires. Since then, he has been an integral part of the museum's behind-the-scenes team of professionals, helping to grow the Hiller Aviation Museum into a premier Bay Area destination. I am highly pleased that as I here announce my plans to retire in the coming weeks, Jon Welte is poised to take the helm as the new President & CEO.

With unanimous and enthusiastic support from the staff and the Board of Directors, Jon Welte will take the reins as President and CEO of Hiller Aviation Museum effective May 16, 2023. I know he will do an excellent job as I pass the torch to him, because after working with Jon for a decade and a half I have supreme confidence in his skills, his management abilities, and his passion for aviation and science, all necessary ingredients for a great museum director.

When you see Jon Welte during one of your museum visits, please say hello to him and congratulate him on his new role. For my part, I depart my post with feelings of pride and gratitude to my dear staff and colleagues, the Board, and all of the museum visitors who have made my tenure as the President & CEO of Hiller Aviation Museum the absolute highlight of my professional career.

*Jeffery Bass, President & CEO  
Hiller Aviation Museum*

# THANK YOU

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VOLUNTEERS,  
PARTICIPANTS,  
& OUR SPONSORS!**

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2023 AIRPORT RUNWAY RUN  
A SUCCESS!**



## NAVIGATOR SPONSORS



**Mark Jon Bluth**

## EXPLORER SPONSORS



For a complete list of sponsors, visit [www.hiller.org/run](http://www.hiller.org/run)

# PLANES, TRAINS AND COOL CARS!



Cool Cars - Model Trains - Unique Aircraft  
Saturday August 12, 2023  
10 AM - 2 PM



Hiller  
Aviation  
Museum



San Carlos Airport  
[www.hiller.org](http://www.hiller.org)

Event Included with Museum Admission

# OCEANICA BALLET Presents



# HORIZONS At Hiller Aviation Museum

**August 19-20** 12:30pm & 2:30pm  
with purchase of museum admission  
Tickets at [hiller.org/tickets](http://hiller.org/tickets)

Hiller Aviation Museum  
601 Skyway Rd.  
San Carlos, CA 94070

For more information about Oceanica Ballet,  
visit [oceanicaballet.org](http://oceanicaballet.org)



# EUROWEST

**EUROWEST 2023**

## The 25<sup>th</sup> EuroWest MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Theme for 2023:  
**Art and Advertising  
on European Railways**

### HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM

601 Skyway Rd., San Carlos, CA 94070

Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 10:00am to 5:00pm  
Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 10:00am to 4:00pm

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

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

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MAY

**SUN, MAY 7 • 11 AM**  
Helicopter Adventure

**SUN, MAY 14, 10 AM – 12 PM**  
Kids' Carnival

**SUN, MAY 21 • 11 AM**  
Water Rockets Rally

**SUN, MAY 28 • 11 AM**  
Glider Discovery

## JUNE:

**SUN, JUNE 11 • 11 AM**  
Helicopter Adventure

**WED, JUNE 14 • 11AM**  
Happy Birds

**SAT, JUNE 17 • 10 AM-1 PM**  
Biggest Little Air Show

**SUN, JUNE 18 • 11 AM**  
Glider Discovery

**WED, JUNE 21 • 11 AM**  
Water Rocket Rally

**SUN, JUNE 25 • 10 AM – 12 PM**  
Kids' Carnival

**WED, JUNE 28 • 11 AM & 1 PM**  
Perfect Paper Airplanes

## JULY:

**WED, JULY 2 • 11 AM**  
Water Rocket Rally

**SAT, JULY 5 • 11 AM**  
Happy Birds

**SAT, JULY 8 • 11 AM**  
Perfect Paper Airplanes

**SUN, JULY 9 • 11 AM**  
Helicopter Adventure

**WED, JULY 12 • 11 AM**  
Glider Discovery

**JULY 15 & 16 • 10AM-4PM**  
European Model Train Expo

**WED, JULY 19 • 10AM-12PM**  
Kids' Air Faire

**SAT, JULY 22 • 11 AM**  
Happy Birds

**SUN, JULY 23 • 2:30 PM- 4PM**  
Flight Sim Rally

**WED, JULY 26 • 11 AM**  
Water Rocket Rally

**SUN, JULY 30 • 10 AM – 12 PM**  
Kids' Carnival

## AUGUST:

**WED, AUG 2 • 10 AM – 12 PM**  
Bubblemania

**SUN, AUG 6 • 10AM-12PM**  
Members Only Aviation Party  
(Museum is open to the public)

**SUN, AUG 6 • 2:30 PM – 4 PM**  
Flight Sim Rally

**WED, AUG 9 • 11 AM**  
Happy Birds

**SAT, AUG 12 • 10AM – 2PM**  
Planes, Train and Cool Cars

**SUN, AUG 13 • 11AM**  
Water Rocket Rally

**SUN, AUG 16 • 11AM & 1PM**  
Perfect Paper Airplanes

**SAT/SUN AUG 19/20 • 12:30 PM & 2:30 PM**  
Oceanic Ballet

**WED, AUG 23 • 11AM**  
Helicopter Adventure

**SUN, AUG 27 • 10AM – 12PM**  
Kids' Carnival

**DRONE PLEX • SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 11AM-3PM**

**INVENTION LAB • SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 11AM-3PM**

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

## AVIATION CAMP 2023

### SUMMER PROGRAMS GRADES K-7

Limited space remains available for Aviation Camp 2023. Aviation Camp introduces kids entering Grades K-7 to aerospace with hands-on experiments, flight simulation, real aircraft and much more. Nine different topics are available.

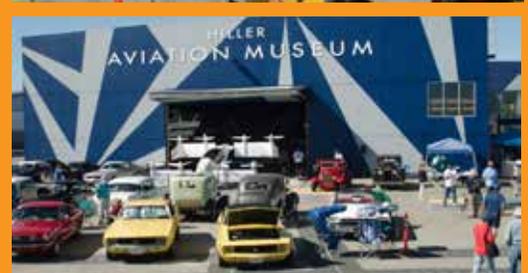
Visit [www.hiller.org](http://www.hiller.org) for more information.



## KIDS' AIR FAIR WEDNESDAY, JULY 19



## PLANES, TRAINS AND COOL CARS • AUGUST 12



# BIGGEST LITTLE *Air Show* AT SAN CARLOS AIRPORT!

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

Event included with Museum admission – no charge to Museum Members! Capacity is limited and advanced tickets are required. For more info visit [www.hiller.org](http://www.hiller.org)

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023 • 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 celebrate the 25th anniversary of the museum by matching a thrilling aerobatic performance by airshow pilot Vicky Benzing in her 1940 Boeing Stearman airplane and the Sukhoi West Demo Team 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 jet and propeller-powered model aircraft to roll down the runway and into the sky to take their part in a unique aerial extravaganza including aerobatic helicopters, drones, quadrotors, and more!!

## **Performers are scheduled to include:**

- **Airshow pilot Vicky Benzing in her 1940 Boeing Stearman airplane**
- **Sukhoi West Demo Team**
- **The RC Flyers model aircraft demonstrations**
- **Aerobatic gyroscopic routines**
- **3D aerobatic helicopters**
- **DRONES**
- **Quads**
- **Jets and other RC aircraft**

# EDUCATION PROGRAMS SUMMER 2023

## AVIATION CAMP 2023 · SUMMER PROGRAMS GRADES K-7

Limited space is available for Aviation Camp 2023, 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](http://www.hiller.org) to view availability, join a waiting list or enroll today!



## FAMILY EVENTS · SPECIAL FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS AT THE HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM

### FLIGHT SIMULATOR RALLY

**SUNDAYS, JULY 23 AND AUGUST 6**  
**20-MINUTE SESSIONS 2:30 PM – 4:00 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.



**SUNDAYS, MAY 7, JUNE 11, JULY 9, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23 • 11 AM**

Investigate the world of vertical flight and find out about the amazing history of helicopters! Observe the control system of a Scorpion helicopter, then take a turn at the controls to try them out firsthand. Construct an easy-to-build paper helicopter and test it in a unique vertical wind tunnel and more in a whirlly-twirly helicopter adventure!



### KIDS' AIR FAIRE

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 • 11 AM – 2 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.



### PERFECT PAPER PLANES

**WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 28 AND AUGUST 16, 11 AM & 1 PM**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 8, 11 AM ONLY**

Meet champion paper plane maker John Collins as he shares his remarkable talent for building and flying paper planes of all shapes and sizes. Build a paper plane and watch unique designs take flight.



### KIDS' CARNIVAL

**SUNDAYS, MAY 14, JUNE 25, JULY 30,**  
**AUGUST 27 • 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

**SUNDAYS, MAY 28 AND JUNE 18, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 • 11 AM**

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.



### BUBBLEMANIA

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2 • 10 AM – 12 PM**

Float into the air with a fantastical exploration of bubbles! Join a certified bubble-ologist from Bubblemania to explore the many different shapes, sizes and colors of bubbles in a fun-filled bubble adventure.



### WATER ROCKET RALLY

**WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 21 AND JULY 26, SUNDAYS, MAY 21, JULY 2, AUGUST 13 • 11 AM**

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.



### HAPPY BIRDS

**WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 14, JULY 5, AUGUST 9,**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 22 • 11 AM**

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.



### HELICOPTER ADVENTURE

PRESENTS



# The **BIGGEST** *Little* **AIR SHOW**

HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM + JUNE 17, 2023

HILLER MUSEUM



ANNIVERSARY

**Featuring**  
**VICKY BENZING**  
performing aerobatics  
in a 1940 Boeing Stearman

Radio-Controlled Planes  
Helicopters  
Multirotors, and more!

**Special Guests**  
Sukhio West Demo Team





# HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM

601 Skyway Road, San Carlos, California 94070 [www.hiller.org](http://www.hiller.org)

[www.hiller.org](http://www.hiller.org)

Non - Profit  
Organization  
US POSTAGE PAID  
San Carlos, CA  
PERMIT No. 96



## Join Now!

### Senior (age 65+) \$55

One adult plus 2 one-time use guest passes

### Individual \$70

One adult plus 2 one-time use guest passes

### Family \$105

2 adults and up to 4 children (17 & under) plus discounts on Aviation Camp

### Pioneer \$140

Family Membership benefits plus one additional card for an adult, ideal for caregivers (up to 3 adults per visit), & 2 one-time use guest passes

### Pilot \$275

Family Membership benefits with a total of 3 guest passes + 8 FMX Flight Simulator passes and 50% off additional FMX tickets.

### Barnstormer \$550 Adventurer \$1,000

Pilot Membership benefits with a total of 4 guest passes + 10% off Museum Rental and Birthday Parties.

### Explorer \$2,500 Navigator \$5,000

Pilot Membership benefits with a total of 8 guest passes + 15% off Museum Rental and Birthday Parties.

### Aviator \$10,000

Pilot Membership benefits with a total of 12 guest passes + 25% off Museum Rental and Birthday Parties and a Hiller Aviation Museum jacket.

## Annual Membership Application

Or join online at [www.hiller.org/member](http://www.hiller.org/member)

### I want to be a member of Hiller Aviation Museum in the following category:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65+) \$55 | <input type="checkbox"/> Barnstormer \$550  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$70   | <input type="checkbox"/> Adventurer \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$105      | <input type="checkbox"/> Explorer \$2,500   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer \$140     | <input type="checkbox"/> Navigator \$5,000  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot \$275       | <input type="checkbox"/> Aviator \$10,000   |

New Member    Annual Renewal

Primary Adult Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Adult Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Family Memberships and up)*

Third Adult Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Pioneer Memberships only)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a gift membership from: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  VISA    MC    AMEX

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CSC: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

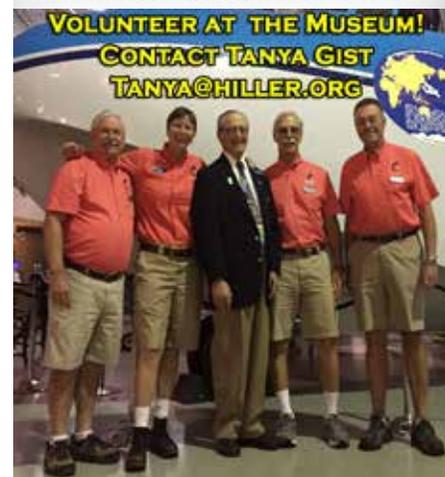
Thank you for your support.

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



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[www.hiller.org/donate-vehicle](http://www.hiller.org/donate-vehicle)



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VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP  
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