



NACA Reunion XI

*Hosted by
NACA Ames Employees*

*San Jose, California
September 30, October 1, 2, 2005*



DEDICATION

This Album is dedicated to those brilliant, capable and tenacious engineers, technicians and administrative personnel who created, nurtured, expanded and matured the NACA into an organization which enabled the United States to attain world leadership in aeronautics and which provided the foundation for NASA to conduct successful programs to land men on the moon, scientific experiments on Mars, and to conduct other pioneering exploration of the solar system and beyond.

An Album of Memories
Eleventh National Reunion
Of former employees of the
National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics



**First Subsonic Controlled Powered Flight
Of a Heavier-Than-Air Craft
Kitty Hawk, NC**

**Orville Wright
December 17, 1903**

**San Jose, California
September 30 and October 1,2, 2005**

Table of Contents

<i>Preface</i>	5
<i>Ames Director's Statement</i>	6
<i>Program</i>	7
<i>Activities at Hotel</i>	9
• <i>Courtyard Leisure</i>	10
• <i>Hospitality Room</i>	12
• <i>Friday Buffet Dinner</i>	14
• <i>Banquet</i>	17
• <i>Sunday Brunch</i>	21
<i>Tours</i>	23
• <i>Ames</i>	24
• <i>Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards</i>	27
• <i>San Francisco</i>	30
• <i>Hiller Aviation Museum</i>	32
• <i>Computer History Museum</i>	34
<i>Attendee Photos</i>	37
• <i>Ames</i>	38
• <i>Headquarters</i>	54
• <i>High Speed Flight Station</i>	58
• <i>Langley</i>	62
• <i>Lewis</i>	70
<i>Attendee List</i>	78
<i>Concluding Information</i>	85

PREFACE

This album provides a permanent record of the Eleventh Reunion of former employees of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA). Sprinkled among descriptions of activities and photographs for this event are historic notes and photos from the pages of aviation history.

Despite the passage of 47 years since the 1958 transition of the NACA to NASA, 314 people from 18 states and the District of Columbia registered to attend, renew acquaintances, and reminisce about the “good old days”. The NACA cohesiveness and spirit is alive and well. As an added bonus, this reunion also marked the 90th anniversary of the founding of the NACA.

The first of these reunions was organized by a team from Headquarters led by one of our attendees, Jo Dibella, who was secretary to the last Director of the NACA. This first reunion was held in Asheville, North Carolina in October of 1976. The second, hosted by the Langley Research Center, was 6-years later and held at Williamsburg, Virginia in 1982. These events have been held every 2- to- 3 years since then, with responsibility rotating among appropriate NASA Centers.

The NACA was proposed by President Wilson and was created with Congressional legislation on March 3, 1915 in visionary recognition of the future importance of aviation to this country’s military and commercial well being, and in recognition that US aviation development was lagging European efforts. The committee’s purpose was to “supervise and direct the scientific study of the problems of flight with a view to their practical solution”. Two years later the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory was established in Virginia.

With international tensions over the pending start of World War II, recommendations were made to establish a second laboratory on the opposite side of the country at Moffett Field (then operated by the Army) in Sunnyvale, California and a 1939 request for funds was approved on August 9. A group at Langley began to develop plans for the new Moffett Field Laboratory. By the summer of 1940 about 23 persons completed their transfer from Langley to become the first permanent on-site staff. The facility’s name was changed to Ames Aeronautical Laboratory in 1944.

Still further geographical dispersion was deemed advisable and in 1940 Congress authorized the construction of the Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory near Cleveland, Ohio. This facility was dedicated in 1943 and it became the Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory in 1948, named after George Lewis, former NACA director of aeronautical research.

Finally, a Langley flight research and flight test outpost at Muroc, California, became a permanent facility known as the NACA Muroc Flight Test Unit in 1946. It became the NACA High Speed Flight Research Station in 1949 and in 1954 it gained its independence from Langley.

Together, these laboratories spawned the technical giants and gifted support personnel upon whose shoulders NASA was built.

CENTER DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Only twelve short years separated the first powered flight of the Wright Brothers in 1903 and the establishment of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) in 1915. Together with Albert Einstein's postulation of the general theory of relativity, 1915 was a remarkable year for science and engineering. NACA became an unqualified success with its four research laboratories of which Ames, established in 1939, was the second. The four laboratories (Langley, Ames, Lewis and High-Speed Flight Station) were instrumental in making the United States the unqualified leader in aeronautical research. The sometimes turbulent but always productive and creative history of the Committee established the strong foundation upon which NASA was formed in 1958.

We at Ames are proud to have been a part of this remarkable legacy and are honored to host NACA Reunion XI. As in the past we are experiencing some challenging times but will, I believe, emerge stronger and more focused on NASA's Mission than ever before.

From all indications, the NACA Alumni who attended this gathering enjoyed meeting old friends, reminiscing about the past, and all are looking forward to future successes. I thank all of you for allowing Ames to be your host.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Subhand". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a plain white background.