



March 2024

Section Chair's Corner



Greetings Central Coast of California (C3) Section! My name is Tristan Clouse, and I am your new Section Chairman. Michelle Itzel-Montoya, our previous Chairman, has moved on to a new position and new home in Arizona...I have some big

shoes to fill. We wish Michelle the best of luck and we hope she'll return to visit once in awhile.

I am very excited for this year! Our Section Council has been working hard trying to come up with new ideas for events and better methods of outreach. This newsletter will help us fill you all in on everything going on or coming up within the Section. By the way, we don't have a name for this newsletter yet...we'd love you, our members, to help us with that. If you have an idea for a newsletter name, please submit it via email to myself (Tristan.Clouse@mantech.com) or Matt Tanner (Matthew.Tanner.8@spaceforce.mil) and we'll include your submission for a vote which will go out either ahead of or even within the next issue (~June 2024).

We are always looking for volunteers for some of the bigger events (like the STEM Expo, and the Air Fest), so this will be another way to get the word out. We also have some open positions within our Council if you'd like to volunteer to help the Section that way. Feel free to join one of our meetings or come talk with us at a member social if you would like to learn more.

Remembering Bob Wyckoff



With great sadness, the family shares that Major Robert Appleby Wyckoff passed away in Santa Barbara County, California, the morning of December 2, 2023, at age 83.

Bob would consider us remiss if we did not start this writing with some irony and close it with a sense of pride. The trajectory of his life was changed by a typo. As a graduate from Colgate University with a degree in English Literature, and as the cold war was heating up, he chose to enlist in the United States Air Force. He abbreviated his degree as "Eng," which was misinterpreted as "Engr" by the Air Force, and he was assigned to an engineering position in ballistic missiles. He was dispatched to Malmstrom Air Force Base, MT, to defend our great nation as a combat crew commander, missileer. While at Malmstrom, he earned a Master's degree in Systems Management from USC. He continued his missileer career at Randolph AFB, TX, and Vandenberg AFB, CA. To his credit, Bob was smart enough to learn engineering, engaging enough to become a leader, and loving enough to be the quintessential family man until his last breath.

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After retiring from the Air Force as a Major in 1982, Bob had a second career working for base contractors at Vandenberg. He was especially proud of being a liaison between the contractors and the military, contributing to the space shuttle program, and being an honorary squadron commander for the 532nd strategic missile training squadron. He wrote over 100 poems that blended technical knowledge with emotional insight into the demands of military life. His most well-known poem, "Missileer," was written to become the missileer's "High Flight" and is still used today in training classes at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Bob became an avid private pilot, inspiring his wife, Eileen, and their son, Steve, to become pilots so they could all fly their 1948 Chiquita Bonanza. Bob and Eileen were staunch voices in protecting the Lompoc Airport from encroachment, inspiring their daughter to embark on a career in airport planning.

Through the years, he purposefully remained active in the local communities, both civilian and military. He served as an Airport Commissioner for Lompoc Airport and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Vandenberg Village Community Services District for 20 years. He was named Man of the Year for Lompoc Valley

Chamber of Commerce in 2007. He also served as the Chairman of the Vandenberg chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and was a volunteer and Commander of the Santa Barbara County Aerosquadron.

Dad would say that he did all of these things "For duty, honor, country, family, and a matter of self-pride." And that he did them with Eileen at his side.

Bob was born to Richard Hunt and Alberta Appleby Wyckoff in Newark, NJ, on November 4, 1940. Bob was married to his high school sweetheart, Eileen Hansen Wyckoff, for "sixty one-derful" years. He is survived by Eileen and

their two children, Steven Hansen Wyckoff and Lynne Wyckoff Madera; two grandchildren, Skyler Taina Esther Madera and Sixto Robert Madera; Lynne's husband (Jose) Israel Madera, and Steve's girlfriend Sarah Quady. Bob was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Richard Hunt Wyckoff, Jr.

2023 Event Recap – October Central Coast AirFest

In October 2023, the AIAA Central Coast of CA (C3) Section hosted a booth at the Santa Maria Airport's Central Coast Air Fest, our region's premier air show. Over the two-day event, booth volunteers had the opportunity to chat with fair goers milling about the vendor area between aircraft demonstration flights. The stars of the show this year were the Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet jets which roared overhead of the crowd at low altitude. Our members also enjoyed static displays of WW-II era military craft and the

Air Force's F-35 Lightning II, the



fifth-generation stealth fighter.



This show was a great opportunity to meet people of all ages interested in the aerospace industry and to discuss their passions for science, technology, and aviation history. Many fair attendees were unaware of the career opportunities available on the Central Coast

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and were curious to hear about the AIAA member's jobs at Vandenberg Space Force Base. The C3 section booth volunteers collected dozens of email addresses from Air Fest attendees interested in learning more about what the AIAA can offer to students, especially at the K-12 grade levels.



The Fall season blessed us with perfect sunny weather for the event, and we could not have been happier to meet fellow aerospace fans amidst the backdrop of military aircraft

demonstrations. We hope to see you all in September 2024 for the next event!

9th Annual "The American Rocketry Challenge" (TARC) Central Coast of California National Qualifier

As part of Space Launch Delta (SLD) 30 STEM outreach, the 9th Annual The American Rocketry Challenge (TARC) Central Coast of California National Qualifier was held on Saturday, 9 March, at Cabrillo High School athletic fields. The dry-run launch event was held the previous Saturday, 2 March. Student teams had to design, build and launch a model rocket to achieve an 820-foot altitude, separate both stage body and payload fairing separately with both parachuting to the ground, and recover their egg "astronaut" payload (without breaking) within a 43 – 46 second range. Participating schools were La Purisima Conception Catholic School (four teams), and the Goleta Civil Air Patrol Squadron. A total of 17 students participated on one of five teams to try to qualify as one of the top 100 teams for the TARC Nationals in May at Great Meadow in Plains, Virginia, about 50 miles west of Washington D.C. Our local National

Association of Rocketry (NAR) representative, Bob Roggendorf, officiated and recorded their results which will be submitted for the National competition. Team mentors from multiple groups at VSFB volunteered time to aid the students and their teachers. See the live video from the La Purisima onboard camera [here](#).



AIAA Section Awards Results



Each year the AIAA C3 Section competes with other Sections for AIAA Section Awards. Despite our small size, our Section wins a lot of awards! AIAA C3 was the recipient of the following awards for 2023-2024:

- Outstanding Section – First Place
- Public Policy, Michelle Itzel-Montoya – Second Place
- Membership, Michelle Itzel-Montoya – Third Place
- Communications, Matthew Tanner – First Place (Tie)
- STEM K-12, Tom Stevens – First Place
- Section-Student Branch Partnership, Eva McLaughlin – Third Place

Thank you so much to all of our amazing C3 Section volunteers that work so hard to make this possible! Congratulations to all!

29 March Virtual Science Trivia!



Join us for an exhilarating evening of intellect and camaraderie at our upcoming Science Trivia event, hosted by our very own Miguel Trujillo! Whether you're a science aficionado or just looking for a fun way to connect with fellow AIAA members, this event promises to offer something for everyone. Set in the virtual realm of Zoom, we invite you to challenge your knowledge and maybe learn a thing or two.

Mark your calendars for **Friday, March 29th at 5 PM**, and keep an eye out for the Zoom link, which will be sent out about a week before the event. Let's make this Science Trivia night a memorable one, showcasing the spirit and intellect of our Central Coast of California Section. See you there!

Contact Miguel at miguel.trujillo.2@spaceforce.mil (or miguel_trujillo@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

2024 AIAA Space Systems Technical Committee Middle School Student Essay Contest



Each year the Space Systems Technical Committee (SSTC) releases a theme for 7th and 8th grade students to explore and write about, with an aim to spark increased interest in space/STEM. Participating sections hold a local contest for students in the area and submit one winning essay from each grade to the National contest. SSTC evaluates the entries at the National level and awards prizes to the top 3 places in both grades.

This year's topic relates to the effects of space observation on any chosen industry. Please refer to the PDF flyer included with this newsletter for the full essay topic and other key information.

The C3 Section contest deadline is April 30th. Additionally, our AIAA C3 Section will be awarding \$50 each to the winning 7th and 8th graders selected locally. The Section will send local winning entries to the National contest by their May 13th deadline. Teachers will be notified if their students have won at the National level in June 2024.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Tom Stevens, K-12 STEM Education Committee Chair (tkstevens1@comcast.net) or 805-266-6664 (cell).



STEM EXPO - May 2024



The 38th Annual STEM Exposition will be held Friday, 3 May and Saturday 4 May 2024, at Lompoc High School Gymnasium. We accept 3rd grade through high school participants. We allow scientific method or engineering design projects. We will be awarding a \$500 scholarship to the best project of the Expo and cash awards and plaques for specific disciplines totaling over \$1,500.

We organize the event as a "turn-key" operation so teachers only need to ensure their students sign up, work on their project and presentation and have their parents get them to the event at their date/time of choosing and AIAA will host all other aspects of the event.

Event information can be found at CCSTEMExpo.org and in the event flyer included with this newsletter. Parents/students must sign-up online by **12 Apr 2024**.

Cal Poly Student Branch Update

The Cal Poly AIAA C3 Section Student Branch is currently recruiting officers for the 2024-2025 board. We are open to all majors since we are also looking for coordinators and project managers to help plan and organize the AIAA Region VI Student Conference in 2026. A flyer is included with this newsletter.

Additionally, our Student Branch will be participating in a speaker event hosted by Design-Build-Fly. Industry professional Mr. Robert Barger, who is currently a Guidance, Navigation and Control Engineer at Northrop Grumman will be presenting. There is no flyer for this event, however the details are as follows:

Friday, March 15, Building 172-322 (Cal Poly), 11am-12pm.

AIAA C3 is online and we want to hear from you!

Take a minute to find us on Engage at <https://engage.aiaa.org/central-coast-california/home>

We want to hear from our members! Tell us what you think. Do you have a question you need answered? Do you need a guest speaker and/or volunteers for your event? Use these tools to ask your fellow section members for their help!

UPCOMING: We are looking into activating our Instagram Account for additional outreach opportunities. We will also be needing a Social Media Manager who would like to take our social presence to a higher level. Young professionals are welcome to apply!

2024 - 2025 C3 Section Council Members

Chair	Tristan Clouse
Vice Chair	Vacant
Secretary	Matt Tanner
Treasurer	Miguel Trujillo
Programs	Vacant
Education	? Honors
& Awards	? Communications
	? STEM
K-12	Tom Stevens
Public Policy	? Career
& Workforce Development	
Tristan Clouse	
Young Professional	?

Vacant Positions



The Executive Council currently has multiple vacancies. If you are interested in joining the leadership team, please contact Section Chair Tristan Clouse.

Help Us Name our Newsletter!!!



As Tristan said, we don't have a name for this newsletter yet...we'd love you, our members, to help us with that. If you have an idea for a newsletter name, please submit it via email to myself (Tristan.Clouse@mantech.com) or Matt Tanner (Matthew.Tanner.8@spaceforce.mil) and we'll include your submission for a vote which will go out either ahead of or even within the next issue (~June 2024).



Theme: Explore the profound effects of space observation on a particular industry of your choice. Investigate how advancements in satellite technology have revolutionized this industry's practices, strategies, and overall impact. Consider the differences in data resolution (spatial, temporal, spectral) obtained on the ground, from an airplane or space. Discuss how space observation has either complemented or replaced the other observation methods of the chosen industry.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS (AIAA)
& THE AIAA SPACE SYSTEMS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (SSTC)

INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

2024 SSTC STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

REQUIREMENTS:

- Typewritten essay, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, in 1,000 words or less

- Include student name, teacher name, grade, and school name printed at the top of the essay

- Submit the essay to your local section (tkstevens1@comcast.net), with the student **and** teacher's: name, phone, e-mail, and mailing address for notification and awards in the body of the email

DEADLINE:

The essay submission deadline to local AIAA section officers is April 30, 2024. Submission of local section winning essays to the national contest is May 13, 2024. National winners and their teachers will be notified in June 2024.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Originality of ideas presented (30%)
2. Soundness of logic used to develop ideas (30%)
3. Realism of ideas presented (20%)
4. Quality of composition & clarity of expression (20%)

LOCAL PRIZES:

Winning 7th Grader will be awarded \$50 and sent to national.
Winning 8th Grader will be awarded \$50, and sent to national.

NATIONAL PRIZES:

1st place will be awarded \$125,
2nd place will be awarded \$75, and
3rd place will be awarded \$50.

Winners are publicly announced in the September 2024 issue of Aerospace America magazine.

ELIGIBILITY:

Any seventh or eighth grader (or equivalent).

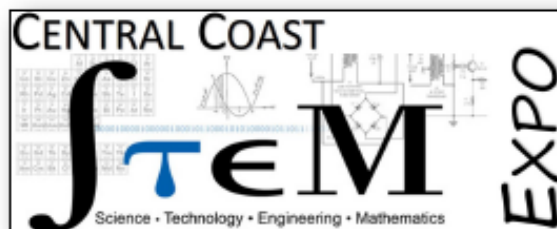
QUESTIONS:

Tom Stevens, K-12 STEM Chair, Central Coast of CA Section
tkstevens1@comcast.net

¹ Image Credit: National Science Foundation (National Ecological Observatory Network) and Cervert (Illustrative image of an Earth observation satellite from the Sentinel-2 mission)
https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?org=NSF&cntn_id=121207&preview=false
<https://cervert.earth/news/remote-sensing-of-planet-earth-part-1-introduction-to-satellite-imagery>

Invitation to 2024

39th Anniversary



What: Scientific Inquiry and Engineering Demonstration Competition
Grades: 3rd - High School Senior

When: Friday & Saturday, May 3 & 4

Location: Lompoc High School Gymnasium

Four easy steps to register and prepare your students:

Go to www.ccstemexpo.org to register

Teachers! Why your students should participate:

- Full service event provided from participant entry to awards reception
- Volunteer judges provided from Vandenberg SFB to grade projects
- Over \$700 in plaque and cash awarded to top performers
- \$500 Scholarship provided to overall top project at Expo!

More information at www.CCSTEMExpo.org

Central Coast STEM Expo is sponsored by



Lompoc Unified School District



BECOME AN OFFICER! WE ARE RECRUITING

Multiple Positions Available

Join the CalPoly Chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) for the 2024-2025 year! Get the opportunity to meet industry professionals and make meaningful connections. Whether you're an aspiring engineer or simply passionate about aerospace, AIAA offers roles that promote growth and learning for all.

**Enroll for
Elections Now!**

Send your queries to:

cp.aiaa.main@gmail.com

