

AIAA San Francisco Section Presents
“The X-15 Rocket Plane
Flying the First Wings into Space”

Wednesday 21 May 2014, 7:30 pm
presentation by Michelle Evans
President — Mach 25 Media



Michaels at Shoreline
2960 Shoreline Blvd.
Mountain View, CA 94043
650-962-1014
Cocktails 6:00 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm
Presentation 7:30 pm

With the Soviet Union’s launch of the first Sputnik satellite in 1957, the Cold War soared to new heights as Americans feared losing the race into space. **“The X-15 Rocket Plane”** tells the enthralling yet little-known story of the hypersonic X-15, the winged rocket ship that met this challenge and opened the way into human-controlled spaceflight.

Ms. Evans’ presentation will focus on this remarkable research aircraft that held the world’s altitude record for 41 years, and still has no equal to match or better its speed of more than 4,000 mph. Beyond the X-15 are the stories of the 12 men who guided it into space, and all the people who kept the rocket plane flying for nearly a decade. This is the story that has never been told of the vehicle that was the true precursor to the Space Shuttle by being the first piloted and winged vehicle to exit Earth’s atmosphere, and make a controlled reentry to a landing on hard-packed dry desert lakebeds.

In her research, Ms. Evans interviewed nearly 70 people, including 9 of the 12 pilots, such as Neil Armstrong, Scott Crossfield, and Robert White, with family representatives for the remaining pilots. Others she spoke with include managers, flight planners, and the guys in the trenches who made the X-15 ready to fly its next research mission at high altitude and high Mach. Out of that has come the definitive book on the X-15.

Q&A will follow the talk.

Note that a limited number of books will be available at the event. It is recommended to purchase books through Amazon ahead of time to guarantee a book for signing that evening.