The History & Technology of Flying Wings: How Did We Get To The B-2A Bomber?

Join us for a great Dinner Meeting with our special guest speaker Larry Rinek

Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2015
Time: 6:30pm
Where: Michaels at Shoreline
2960 N. Shoreline
Mountain View, CA

RSVP and more info: aiaa-sf.org
Cost: $15 AIAA Young Professionals
      $25 AIAA Members,
      $35 non-AIAA members
*add $5 to cost if RSVP is after March 20

Flying wings, unusual aircraft which have a blend of wing and fuselage with no vertical airframe structures (like tail fins), have earned a special place in aviation history and aero technology. Noted for their unusual appearance, high airframe efficiency, low drag, and inherently low observability (LO, or stealth), flying wings have an interesting, but rocky, history of development as well as a bright future in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

This presentation will trace the origins of flying wings back to the 1920s, bring the story up to present, and look into the future. Engineers and developers have had to overcome major technical obstacles along the way, including inherently poor stability in yaw, as well as the difficulty of properly manufacturing these aircraft. Larry Rinek will walk through key historical milestones of flying wing aircraft development (in USA—Northrop and Germany—Horten brothers), outlining successful technical solutions. At the conclusion, he will show breathtaking video clips of historical and modern flying wings in action. You will not want to miss this exciting multimedia presentation. On display will be a scale B-2A model for “hangar flying,” as well as key research books and reference materials on flying wings.

Mr. Rinek is a published aviation historian, a guest lecturer in aero engineering for multiple universities across the USA, a former USAF officer, and is presently a Senior Technology Consultant at Frost & Sullivan (in Mt. View, CA). Holding a BS cum laude in engineering plus an MBA in marketing, he is a veteran of the aerospace industry, and an active member of various aero/technical organizations, including: the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics--AIAA, Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE International), American Aviation Historical Society--AAHS, Society for Aviation History--SAH, the Air Force Association--AFA, and the Aircraft Engine Historical Society--AEHS. Besides having private flight training (in a Piper J-3C Cub), plus cockpit time in some USAF aircraft, he is currently an avid pilot of radio-controlled (RC) model aircraft.