

The image shows the cover of a magazine titled "JPL UNIVERSE". The background is a dark, star-filled space scene with a bright nebula or galaxy visible in the lower right. The text "JPL" is in a bold, stylized font on the left, and "UNIVERSE" is in a large, clean, sans-serif font across the center. Below "JPL" is the date and issue information.

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**UNIVERSE**

# JPL, Caltech Flying Club observes its 25th anniversary

By Toni Lawson

With 25 years to back up its success, the Flying Club has helped many members realize the dream of earning their wings.

This year the Aero Association of Caltech celebrates its Silver Anniversary of operation.

The Caltech/JPL Flying Club began in 1966 with 20 pilots and one airplane, a Cessna 150. Now the club has grown to include its current membership of 90, and an impressive line-up of six aircraft.

Located at the El Monte Airport, the club has acquired two Cessna 152 trainers, a Cessna 172

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# Flying Club celebrates 25th anniversary

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Skyhawk, a Piper PA28-180 Cherokee, a Piper PA28 R-201 retractable Arrow, and an Aero-spatial TB-10 Tabago, which is one of less than 60 in the country.

The club is currently negotiating the purchase of a seventh aircraft, the sporty Grumann Tiger.

Starting with the primary purpose of promoting interest in general aviation among the Caltech/JPL community, the non-profit club has also worked to provide those interested with an opportunity to fly reliable and fun aircraft at a reasonable rate.

“Through the years the club has helped its members earn their wings, and others who are already pilots find that the club is a good place to keep current or to expand their ratings,” said Sheri Trujillo, club member who earned her wings in January.

The club has become a respected group in the aviation community, hosting Federal Aviation Association-sponsored seminars.



**SAFETY FIRST** — Sheri Trujillo and Kevin Baines check out the Tabago before departure. Flying Club photos by Carol Lachata, JPL Photolab. P-38718B.

These seminars are planned to be offered on a regular basis. The group also has its own Accident Prevention Counselor.

Because safety is a major concern, the club has a maintenance

director for each airplane. This person is responsible for seeing that the airplane is in airworthy condition.

“The club has such competent people who keep the planes so well-maintained that a pilot can fly with a confident feeling.”

“If there are any questions about an aircraft, then it doesn’t go out,” said Robert Nafie, an associate club member.

Recently at an annual SafeCon competition for professional and general aviation pilots, the Caltech Flying Team took on teams from 12 colleges in California and Arizona.

The small four-member team, which the other larger teams took for granted as pushovers,” stunned everyone by collecting two medals and five certificates of achievement, showing the best per capita performance of any team.

The Flying Club is open to all Caltech/JPL employees and their families.

Anyone interested in joining the club can contact Jim Kaufman, ext. 4-0545 or Trujillo, ext. 4-4000.

“On Sunday, Aug. 18, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. the El Monte Airport is hosting an Air Fair and Open House with an estimate of 10,000 attending,” Trujillo said.

“This is a good chance for anyone interested in flying to come on down, be around the airplanes and get excited about flying,” Trujillo added. □



**THE TRAINER** — At left, Jim Kaufman and Robert Nafie pose with a Cessna 152 trainer plane. P-38718A.



**ELITE AIRCRAFT** — The club planes are clockwise, Cessna trainer, Tabago, Arrow, Cherokee and Cessna. P-38719A.

## JPL EXPO

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rockets were my second interest. My first interest was in airplanes and improving their efficiency.”

After graduating from Caltech,

see some kind of problem and have some insight into correcting it. He helped us work out the theory.”

Smith also recalled that von Karman was a “tremendous