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NASA SPACELINK TEAM TO RECEIVE BREWER TROPHY AWARD FROM NAA

Arlington, VA--For the first time in 21 years the Brewer Award for aerospace education will be given to a team instead of an individual when the National Aeronautic Association honors the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Spacelink Team.

The award is in recognition of NASA's Spacelink contributions to the educational community for pioneering quick and easy electronic access to NASA information and educational materials.

In February 1988, before the worldwide web existed, Spacelink became NASA's first electronic Bulletin Board Service (BBS). By the end of the year, more than 13,000 user sessions had been recorded. When the World Wide Web era began, NASA Spacelink started service as one of the early pioneers of worldwide web communication. In its 12-year history, NASA Spacelink has had more than 7.5 million visitors to its site, delivering in excess of 192.8 million items of information.

"The flow of information goes far beyond the number of web site contacts," said Don Koranda, president of NAA. "Teachers who tap the information in turn pass it on in their classes to unknown numbers of students." Koranda will present the award at the Brewer Award luncheon being held on March 15 during the National Congress on Aviation and Space Education in Minneapolis.

NASA Spacelink provides one of the most exhaustive and comprehensive search engines within NASA. Its search capability spans approximately 240,000 indexed web pages, covering virtually the entire Agency.. The team that operates Spacelink updates material every day, assuring that researchers, teachers, and students receive current information.

Frank G. Brewer established the annual award in 1943 in honor of his two sons and other youths put into the air by World War II. NAA has administered the trophy since it was founded. Individuals, groups, or organizations may be nominated and a committee selects the recipient based on significant contributions of enduring value to aerospace education in the United States.

Most awards have gone to individuals. The most recent time an organization won was 1980 when NAA presented it to the Florida Institute of Technology and Dr. Jerome P. Keuper, founder and president of FIT. In 1952, the award recognized another group, the Civil Air Patrol.

NAA is the National Aero Club of the United States. The association traces its roots to 1905 when the Aero Club of America was founded.

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Note to Editors: Additional information about the Brewer Trophy, including previous winners, can be found on the NAA Web Site: www.naa-usa.org