



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Americans Honored with 2015 FAI Awards**

**Washington, DC, September 29, 2015** – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is proud to announce that the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) has awarded Paul Tissandier Diplomas to Randall Greene, Richard Hanson, and Mark Van Tine, and an FAI Group Diploma of Honor to the Aero Club of America, North Carolina Chapter.

The Paul Tissandier Diploma was established by the FAI in 1952 and is named after Mr. Paul Tissandier, Secretary General of FAI from 1919 to 1945. The diploma is awarded to those who have served the cause of Aviation and Sporting Aviation, by their work, initiative, and devotion or in other ways.

Randy Greene is the Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO for Safe Flight Instrument Corporation. He is an Associate Fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and an FAA designated test pilot for FAR Part 23, 25, 27, and 29 aircraft. Mr. Greene currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Corporate Angel Network and is a member of the nominating committee of the board of the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, where is an emeritus director. He is a board member of NAA, the Wings Club of New York, and the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church.

Rich Hanson has made a significant impact on model aviation as the Academy of Model Aeronautics Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs. As a result of Mr. Hanson's efforts, AMA and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) successfully collaborate to ensure that model aviation integrates with the National Airspace System (NAS). His work to protect model aviation and AMA members from over regulation by the FAA is considered to be one of the most significant achievements in AMA's history.

Mark Van Tine is the CEO of Jeppesen and serves as the Vice President of Digital Aviation for The Boeing Company. He is currently the Committee Chair of the Security Issues Committee for the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) and previously served as Chairman. Mr. Van Tine is involved in public aviation education in addition to chairing the Jeppesen Aviation Foundation, which provides support to educational institutions, organizations, and

students in aviation. He also volunteers as a pilot to fly participants in community programs including the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles, CraigFlight, and Challenge Air for Kids.

Established by FAI in 1965, the FAI Group Diploma of Honor recognizes groups of people that have contributed significantly to the progress of Aeronautics and Astronautics during the previous year or years.

The recipient of a 2015 FAI Group Diploma of Honor, The Aero Club of America, North Carolina Chapter, is helping to return gas ballooning to the United States with their 24,000 cubic foot gas balloon. Founded in 2011, the club is comprised of 10 founding members and 10 associate members whose mission is to introduce and educate people to sport of gas ballooning.

The Paul Tissandier Diplomas will be awarded to Mr. Greene, Mr. Hanson, and Mr. Van Tine on a date and location to be determined. The FAI Group Diploma of Honor will be awarded to the Aero Club of America, North Carolina Chapter at NAA's Fall Award Ceremony on December 3, 2015 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. For more information, please visit [www.naa.aero](http://www.naa.aero).

*The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit membership organization devoted to fostering opportunities to participate fully in aviation activities and to promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States. NAA is the caretaker of some of the most important aviation awards in the world, and certifies all world and national aviation records set in the United States. For information, visit [www.naa.aero](http://www.naa.aero).*

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