



# Reflections of a Paleoaerodynamicist

An Early 21st Century Perspective on Airplane Design – Past, Present and Future

Dr. John H. McMasters  
Technical Fellow, The Boeing Company

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Portland State University  
Fourth Avenue Building, Room 150  
1900 SW Fourth Avenue  
Portland, OR 97207

The central purpose of this presentation is to examine the co-evolution of aeronautical technology development and airplane design practice in a broad historical context as a basis for speculation on possible future trends. A related purpose of this presentation is to discuss some of the “people issues” involved in the creation of the Boeing technical workforce of the future. The presentation is a work in progress and represents the author’s personal view rather than any official position of The Boeing Company.

## About the Speaker

Dr. McMasters joined Boeing in 1976 as a research aerodynamicist, and is currently a Program Manager on the staff of the Ed Wells Partnership, a joint program between Boeing and the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace charged with enhancing the excellence of the SPEEA represented technical workforce. He also has served since 1990 as an Adjunct Professor in the Dept. of Aeronautics & Astronautics at the University of Washington in Seattle. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the Univ. of Colorado at Boulder and a Ph.D. from Purdue, all in Aeronautical Engineering. His professional and avocational interests run together over a broad range of topics including: low-speed/high lift aerodynamics, airplane design, the biomechanics of flight, paleontology, and engineering education. He has authored over 100 publications and technical papers in all these topic areas. His design for a solar-powered sailplane was placed on permanent display in the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center in 2004.

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