



# The Quest for Mach One: A First-Person Account of Breaking the Sound Barrier

*Chuck Yeager, Bob Cardenas, Bob Hoover, Jack Russell, James Young*

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On October 14, 1947, flying the Bell X-1 rocket plane, Chuck Yeager burst through the mythical sound barrier at mach 1.0, to become the first man to fly faster than the speed of sound. Yeager's epic flight was the culmination of hours of work and flying time by a group of dedicated aviation pioneers, and it marked the beginning of flight testing as we know it. Who were these men? What were the aeronautical hurdles they cleared to usher in the space age and manned space flight? In the quest for Mach One, members of the Mach One team come together to chronicle the entire X-1 programme. They are Chuck Yeager, test pilot; Bob Cardenas, mother ship pilot; Bob Hoover, backup and chase pilot; and Jack Russell, Yeager's X-1 crew chief. Theirs is a saga of camaraderie, technical brilliance and heroism.

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