

JOHN KLATT WINS AIR SHOW INDUSTRY'S TOP SHOWMANSHIP AWARD

LAS VEGAS – Dec. 11, 2014: The International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) at its 47th annual convention awarded Air National Guard Lt. Col. John Klatt the air show industry's top award for showmanship tonight in Las Vegas in front of nearly 1,000 air show industry professionals attending the event's Chairman's Banquet.

Klatt, owner of Owatonna, Minn.-based John Klatt Airshows, earned the 29th Art Scholl Memorial Showmanship Award, which recognizes his commitment to the ideals of air show entertainment. Through his use of flight simulators, multiple aircraft, jet truck integration and interaction, and integrated pyrotechnics, Klatt has challenged himself and his team to move beyond the air show entertainment status quo. Best known for his performances in his signature Air National Guard MX-S aircraft, this year he introduced a new act by fastening a General Electric CJ-610 jet engine to the bottom of a reproduction 1929 Waco biplane. Nicknamed "Screamin' Sasquatch," the modified aircraft can perform maneuvers no other aircraft in the world can.

"For nearly 15 years John has developed an ideal combination of piloting skills, entertainment instincts, and a businessman's ability to put those talents to effective use for spectators and his corporate sponsors," said John Cudahy, president of ICAS. "For air show fans, he is one of the most recognized and popular performers and he continually finds new ways to enhance the quality of his act. We are very proud to recognize John for his contributions to the air show industry."

According to his air show colleagues, Klatt's flying is just a part of his entertainment package. There may not be a solo performer in the country who gives more media rides in the days prior to an air show. Klatt is also very interactive with spectators following his performance, signing autographs and posing for "selfies."

Each year, the International Council of Air Shows presents the Art Scholl Memorial Showmanship Award to the air show act or performer which best exemplifies the qualities of showmanship demonstrated by Art Scholl. Scholl was killed while filming a flying sequence off the coast of California on September 16, 1985. A long-time and active ICAS member, he was a renowned aerobatic pilot and consummate air show performer. He flew his Penzoil Chipmunk aircraft before an estimated audience of 80 million people over 20 years and appeared in more than 200 motion picture films, documentaries and television commercials.



John Klatt (center) was presented with the Art Scholl Memorial Showmanship Award Dec. 11, 2014. He is joined on stage by past winners and his wife, Deb (second in from right).