



2015 ICAS CONVENTION: BY THE NUMBERS

1,295 Registered delegates as of December 10 (*16% increase over 2014*)

292 Exhibitors on the Exhibit Hall floor (*space sold out by October 17*)

35 Sponsors

4,396 Room nights reserved within the ICAS block (*21% increase over 2014*)



The 2015 air show season saw dozens of news headlines in hometowns across the U.S. and Canada stating that local air show attendance had increased or reached record levels. It seems that the success of the season directly translated to a higher level of energy and optimism at the 2015 convention.

“Anecdotal from the conversations I had with members and judging from the numbers we’re seeing on the post-convention delegate survey, a lot of business was conducted at the convention,” said ICAS President, John Cudahy. “There was a palpable level of energy both on

the exhibit hall floor and in the education sessions and the comments we’re receiving overwhelmingly back that up.”

Almost 63 percent of people who filled out evaluations said there was more business done on the exhibit hall floor during this year's ICAS Convention than at previous ICAS conventions.

“We believe that bodes well for a very exciting and profitable 2016 season for our members,” added Cudahy. “With a change of scenery and a successful year, we fully anticipate the 2016 convention at the Paris Las Vegas to put us at or above pre-sequestration levels.”

THE MILITARY RETURNS

339 Registered Military Delegates as of December 10 (*26% of all delegates*)

104.2% Increase in Military attendance over 2014

94 Military entities represented

168 Air Force Open House Workshop attendees

After a sequestration-driven hiatus, the return of the military as full ICAS Convention participants was a welcome sight to many. As the numbers in the table above show, having the military involved in the air show industry's main event represents significant opportunities for every facet of our business.

"With air shows being so inherently patriotic, it's strange when the military is unable to participate," said John Cudahy. "More than just ticket sales and attracting more spectators, our industry as well as the general public want to meet and interact with the men and women who serve. We're very excited to have the military back, without restriction, so we can continue to serve each other's mission."

Whether it's a civilian show obtaining a demonstration team or static display, or support service providers and performers adding a military open house onto their schedule, the entire industry and spectators win when the military can participate.

THUNDERBIRDS MOVE TO TWO-YEAR SCHEDULING CYCLE

As is tradition, the U.S. and Canadian military jet demonstration teams announced their schedules immediately following the Opening General Session and keynote speaker. At this year's convention, however, there was a small twist with huge implications as the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds introduced a two-year schedule.

"The decision by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds to move to a two-year scheduling cycle was greeted enthusiastically by ICAS Convention delegates," said ICAS President John Cudahy. "With both the Blue Angels and Thunderbirds now announcing their performance schedule more than 16 months in advance, we will see dramatic improvements in the ability of air shows to plan, solicit sponsors and avoid difficult scheduling conflicts with other local events. It truly is one of the biggest developments in our business in many years."

[U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Schedule](#)

[U.S. Navy Blue Angels Schedule](#)

[Royal Canadian Air Force Snowbirds Schedule](#)

DAN MCLAREN RECEIVES 2015 ICAS SWORD OF EXCELLENCE



ICAS presented its highest honor, the Sword of Excellence, to Dan McLaren on the 2015 convention's final night in front of nearly 1,000 air show industry professionals attending the Chairman's Banquet.

McLaren, owner of Mach 1 Productions, an air show and special event sound and communications company, has for nearly 30 years contributed to presenting the air show industry to the U.S. and Canadian public. He pioneered the Canadian Air Show Association (CASA), which opened the borders and played a significant role in helping simplify a system that allows performers and support services professionals from the U.S. and Canada to work in both countries.

Throughout McLaren's career he has taken on leadership roles; first at the regional level with the North West Council of Air Shows (NWCAS) and at the North East Council of Air Shows (NECAS) where he served as chairman. He served on the ICAS board as the Canadian representative for a decade ultimately sitting as chairman during one of the industry's most challenging times which included high-profile performer fatalities and the beginning of U.S. military sequestration. As a member and chairman of the ICAS Ethics Committee he guaranteed that association membership had a venue to air their grievances and keep and maintain the industry's business principles and professionalism.

He has also been named an honorary member of the Canadian Forces Snowbirds jet demonstration team and the Canadian Forces SkyHawks parachute team.

SKIP STEWART TAKES HOME THE 2015 ART SCHOLL MEMORIAL SHOWMANSHIP AWARD



Skip Stewart earned the air show industry's prestigious Art Scholl Memorial Showmanship Award by taking his aggressive style of low-level, hard-core aerobatic flying to air show spectators throughout the U.S. and Canada, the Middle East, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America over the past 15 years.

From his custom-built "Prometheus" biplane to the time he spends with fans and spectators after every performance, Stewart focuses on providing audiences with world-class entertainment. In the air, he has combined

outstanding stick-and-rudder skills with the creativity of an artist to develop his own, unique brand of air show flying.

Always looking for another way to capture the attention and imagination of the audience, Stewart has also teamed up with other performers to fly ensemble acts that have helped to redefine air show showmanship.

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION'S 914TH AIR WING BECOMES 27TH RECIPIENT OF DICK SCHRAM MEMORIAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS AWARD



Since it was first presented in 1988, 20 different bases have received the Dick Schram Memorial Community Relations Award. This year, a new base was added to the list of past recipients of this prestigious award.

The Thunder of Niagara Air Show focused the personnel and resources of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station on three goals: improving community relations, highlighting the bravery and commitment of the men and women serving their country, and encouraging young men and women to consider

a career in the military.

Thanks to a comprehensive strategy developed early and implemented seamlessly, the show met all of its objectives. Seamless coordination between base personnel and local, state and national government agencies helped to provide an incident-free event that provided world-class entertainment traffic management to tens of thousands of residents in the Niagara and Buffalo, New York, area, including hosting nearly 15,000 visitors to a Friday Sneak Preview which featured live music.

Named in honor of Commander Dick Schram, a former Blue Angel and naval aviator who served as the Department of Defense liaison to ICAS, it is presented to a military base that works with and within its community to organize and conduct an air show/open house.

U.S. AIR FORCE FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES PRESENTED WITH THIRD ANNUAL ICAS WINGMAN AWARD



ICAS presented its Wingman Award at Wednesday evening's Chairman's Banquet to a group that has provided support to our industry on an important issue at a critical and sensitive time. For the leadership role that it has played in developing and implementing a new and potentially lifesaving air show emergency response protocol on U.S. Air Force bases, the Wingman Award was presented to the U.S. Air Force Fire Emergency Services (AFFES). Air Force Fire Chief Jim Podolske was on hand and accepted the award on behalf of the U.S. Air Force.

After details related to the fatal accident at Travis Air Force Base in May 2014 of air show performer and ICAS member Eddie Andreini, it became clear that a delayed response from crash/fire/rescue vehicles was very likely a contributing factor in his untimely death. Within a few days of the accident, the safety leadership of ICAS had reached out to senior leadership within AFFES.

Since ICAS's initial request, the AFFES has helped us develop and implement a new air show emergency response protocol that makes it a priority to respond faster to an air show emergency on a U.S. Air Force installation. Within days, the Air Force and ICAS had cooperated to write a new protocol that requires firetrucks to be planeside, applying foam within 60 seconds of an accident. The protocol also laid out specific steps to take to meet that 60 second requirement.

The new protocol was reviewed internally within a couple of weeks and implemented on all U.S. Air Force bases by September of last year and that protocol has become the starting point for similar requirements still being developed within the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps and the FAA.

The Air Force is also proposing that this new air show emergency response protocol be adopted by all NATO signatories. And, based on the pioneering work it has already done, representatives from Air Force Fire Emergency Services are participating in the development of a similar voluntary air show emergency response standard within the National Fire Protection Association.

FEDERAL AGENCIES, NON-PROFIT SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS AND TWO VIRGINIA AIRPORTS RECEIVE ICAS SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



In recognition of the work done by a number of governmental agencies and non-profit organizations to help execute the Arsenal of Democracy flyover in Washington, D.C., on May 8, 2015, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, the ICAS Board of Directors presented its ICAS Special Achievement Award to the Federal Aviation Administration, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Secret Service, National Park Service, Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Manassas Regional Airport, Culpeper Regional Airport, and Mike Ginter.

Putting nearly five dozen vintage military aircraft into the most sensitive airspace in the world had been judged by some to be nearly impossible. Without the cooperation and focused attention of a wide range of government employees and non-profit executives, this historic flyover would not have taken place. But an all-star team led by J.J. Johnston from the FAA's National Tactical Security Operation and ICAS member Mike Ginter made it happen. And, for their successful effort, the ICAS Board presented these individuals and organizations with one of the air show industry's most prestigious awards.

ICAS FOUNDATION AIR SHOW HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES RECOGNIZED

Aerobatic pilot John Mohr, air show announcer M.A. "Sonny" Everett, and the Red Baron Squadron were officially inducted into the ICAS Foundation Air Show Hall of Fame at the convention's Chairman's Banquet bringing the total number of Hall of Fame air show pioneers to 59.

"We had an unprecedented number of nominees this year, which made the selection process that much more challenging, and we are honored to present our latest inductees," said Air Show Hall of Fame Chairman, Steve Oliver. "These honorees have our deepest respect for all they have contributed to the air show industry, for the example they set for others, and the inspiration they have given future generations."

The ICAS Foundation created the Air Show Hall of Fame in 1995 as part of its mission to honor and recognize those who have had a significant impact on the North American air show industry.



PLANNING ALREADY UNDERWAY FOR 2016 ICAS CONVENTION AT PARIS HOTEL IN LAS VEGAS



After a short breather following the 2015 convention, the ICAS staff has already begun planning for the 2016 ICAS Convention which will take place at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel from Monday, December 5, through Thursday, December 8, 2016.

“There are a couple of things we’d like people to keep in mind regarding the 2016 convention,” said ICAS President John Cudahy. “First, after two years at the Rio, we’re going back to Paris Las Vegas right on the famous Las Vegas Strip. And next, we’re going back to a Monday to Thursday schedule, which will be a change from the most recent convention.”

2016 ICAS Convention delegates will enter through the Arc de Triomphe, star-gaze from atop the 530-foot-tall replica of the Eiffel Tower, and stroll past the Louvre in this luxurious convention setting that offers over 60,000-square-feet of exhibit space and 140,000-square-feet of elegant meeting space.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES TAKING PLACE IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

South West Council of Air Shows (SWCAS) | swcas.org

Conference Date: February 19-21, 2016, San Diego Wyndham Bayside Hotel, San Diego, CA

North East Council of Air Shows (NECAS) | necas.org

Conference Date: January 29-30, 2016, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, Niagara Falls, NY

NorthWest Council of Air Shows (NWCAS) | www.nwcas.org

Conference Date: February 26-27, 2016, Westin Wall Vancouver Airport Hotel, Richmond, BC

2015 CONVENTION EDUCATION SESSION MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON ICAS WEBSITE

Are you all recovered from the convention and the holiday season? Do you need a refresher on some of the things you learned at last month's event? 2015 ICAS Convention education session materials are available here: <http://www.airshows.aero/Docs/165> for your year-round reference.

“Convention delegates seemed very pleased with the educational content we offered this year. In fact, almost half of this year’s attendees said education sessions at this year’s ICAS Convention were better than those at previous ICAS Conventions according to our post-convention survey,” said Matt Warnock, ICAS Communications Director. “As an organization, we believe it’s important to have these educational tools accessible at all times as a reference or practical guidance so members can achieve their business goals.”

Education session handouts from the past six ICAS Conventions are available under the Convention menu on the ICAS website. You'll need to be an active member and logged in to the website to access the page.

ONE MORE THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 CONVENTION SPONSORS

Each year, our ICAS Convention sponsors help to make the air show community's largest annual event bigger and better. We couldn't do it without their support. Sincere thanks and appreciation to:

- Breitling
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- The Alabama Boys by Greg Koontz Airshows
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- Herb Gillen Advertising

Sponsorship opportunities for the 2016 ICAS Convention are available. For information on how your organization can be involved and support *your* air show trade association and increase your visibility during the most concentrated gathering of air show professionals in the world, contact ICAS Headquarters at 703-779-8510.



International Council of Air Shows

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