

## John Mohr Expresses His Gratitude for Hall Induction

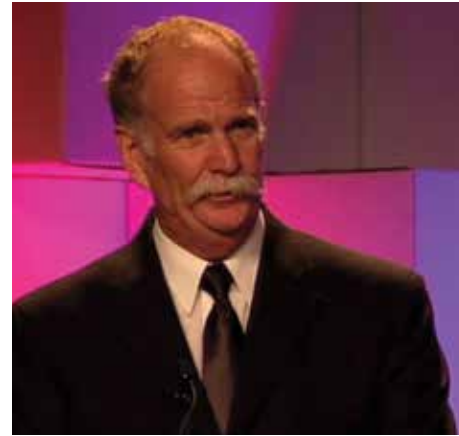
2015 ICAS Foundation Air Show Hall of Fame inductee John Mohr wasn't able to attend the convention's Chairman's Banquet. He was tending to more important business, his wife Lyn's health.

Just before the 2015 ICAS Convention Chairman's Banquet Lyn became ill and was rushed to a Las Vegas hospital. Mohr is happy to report that after extensive testing and visits to multiple medical specialists, Lyn appears to be healthy and has recovered from the symptoms she exhibited in December.

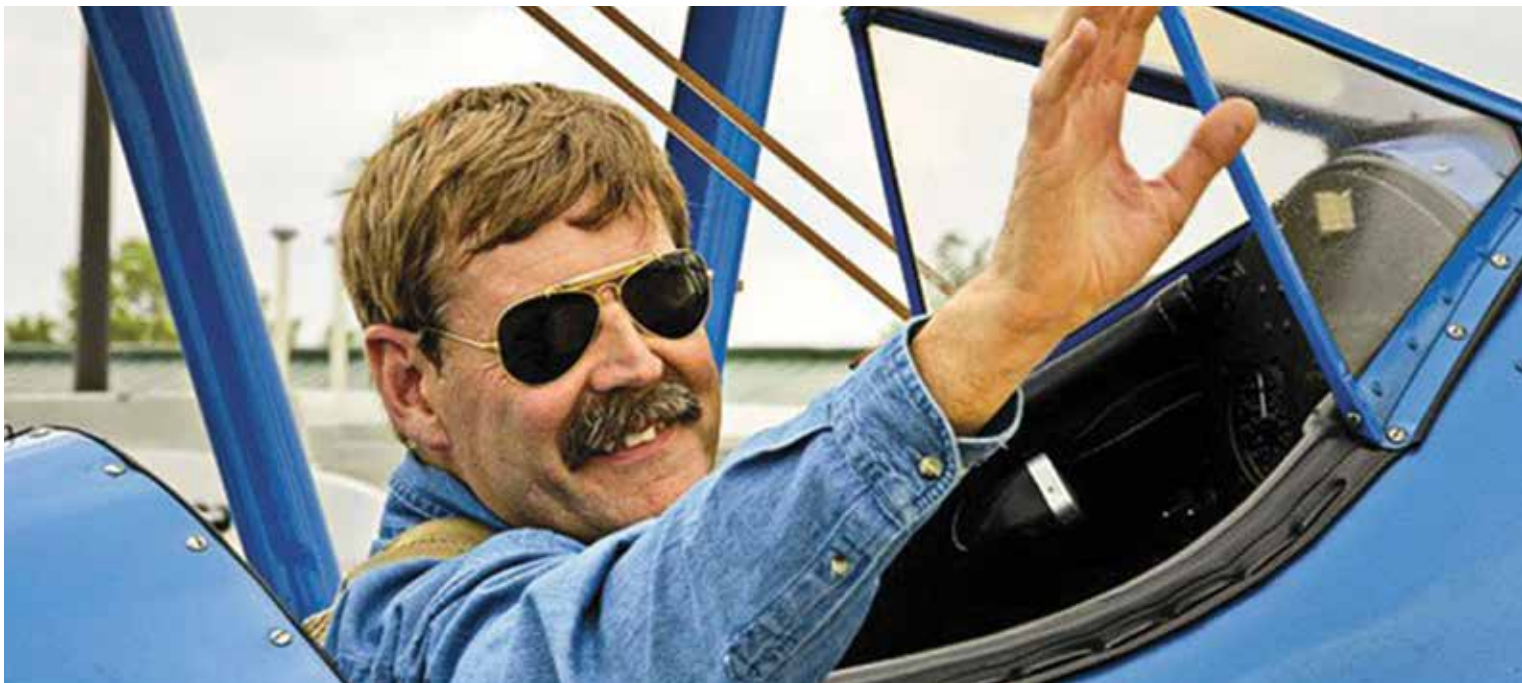
Since he wasn't able to express his appreciation to his friends and colleagues regarding his induction into the Hall of Fame in person, he humbly asked ICAS if he could include a few words in this issue of the magazine. Here are Mohr's words, unedited, in their entirety:

"I want to thank all of ICAS for the honor of induction into the air show Hall of Fame. I was saddened to not be able to attend the banquet that night for the induction ceremony. It was wonderful to see so many of our air show friends the day we arrived and we were so looking forward to the banquet that night. A special thanks to Warren Pietsch for accepting the award on my behalf and to Kent and Marnie Pietsch for staying with us in the emergency room that night. Thanks to Teresa Stokes for the beautiful job she did on the plaque artwork. In closing, I would like to say, once again, what an honor it is to be inducted into the ICAS Foundation Hall of Fame. I am truly humbled by it. Lyn and I have so many wonderful memories of all the years in the air show business and we miss our air show friends and family very much."

Thank You,  
John and Lyn Mohr



*Warren Pietsch represented John Mohr during the Hall of Fame induction, saying, "It's an honor for all of us to know him."*



## U.S. Air Force Return to Convention Signals Long-Term Consistency

The 2015 ICAS Convention saw 235 individuals representing 60 U.S. Air Force (USAF), Air National Guard, and joint base commands, an increase of 167 percent and 87.5 percent over 2014 convention participation, respectively. Over 18 percent of 2015 convention attendees represented USAF units. And, for the first time in four years, ICAS offered the Air Force Open House Workshop which drew 168 attendees.

“Both of our organizations have an inter-connected mission to reach the general public and bring aviation to communities across North America,” said ICAS President John Cudahy. “The high level of military participation at the convention has generated

optimism and excitement in every facet of our business and because of the Air Force’s commitment, our members have an improved ability to plan and execute events that achieve our respective goals.”

To achieve their multi-faceted mission of demonstrating American air power, recruiting, community relations, education, and honoring those who have served or are currently serving takes the U.S. Air Force’s full commitment. With the limitations brought on by sequestration beginning to ease, the air service will now begin to rebuild their relationship with the public and demonstrate the capabilities and level of readiness the American people expect from their armed services.



“The Air Force is pleased to be able to open the aperture in 2016 to provide additional support to air shows in the U.S. and Canada. As the nation’s air service, we recognize the importance of demonstrating our capabilities in communities across North America,” said Jennifer Bentley, Chief, Public Engagement, Air Force Public Affairs. “It is at these air shows that many young children

first dream of being a pilot; we want to continue inspiring that passion while showing taxpayers the importance of the air power the Air Force brings to the table. Despite fiscal challenges the last several years, it is critical we remain connected with the American public and reinforce their trust and confidence in the Air Force and its most important asset -- Airmen.”

## OTTO the Air Show Helicopter Goes to the U.K.

After 15 years as a staple in the air show community and a member of ICAS since 2000, Roger Buis has handed the flight controls of OTTO the Air Show Helicopter over to Brendan O’Brien of Brendan’s Flying Circus in

the United Kingdom. During their time at OTTO’s controls, Roger and his wife Pauline toured the world taking OTTO to new heights by adding a patriotic night show, the first U.S. helicopter-glider tow with Bob Carlton, and an aerial transfer with John

Mohr, featuring wingwalker and stuntman, the late Todd Green. With Roger as the pilot and Pauline the announcer OTTO lit up the skies and entertained air show fans all over the U.S., the United Arab Emirates, Mexico, Canada and Australia.



## de Havilland DH-115 Vampire Adds Unique New Offering to Air Show Circuit

In an era when variety challenges the tried-and-true, when there are over 300 television channels to surf and the average iPod owner has 7,160 songs, movies and videos in their library, air show organizers are seeking new ways to grab the attention of spectators, and performers are stepping up to provide the variety people want.

Cue Jerry Conley, whose recent purchase of a post-World War II-era de Havilland Vampire created vibrations across the air show community as news of his intentions with the aircraft circulated around the 2015 ICAS Convention.

“We’re going to paint it the original green and gray military scheme with black and yellow invasion stripes, so it’s going to be very interesting to look at,” said Conley. “The [air show] industry needs new stuff. The Vampire is one of the most unique airplanes out there and none currently fly on the North American air show circuit.”

Not only is the Vampire cool looking and fast, he added, but he believes it will help teach our kids some history. “This jet is so unique and has such an interesting history that I think kids will pay attention to it,” Conley said. “I’ll perform all of the maneuvers the aircraft has the ability to handle within my card limits which will hopefully entertain and educate those watching.”



*The de Havilland DH-115 Vampire in its original paint scheme. As of this publication's printing, Conley's plane was in its final stage of restoration and paint and will include black and yellow invasion stripes on the wings and tail.*

He refers to his new act as, “a history show and rock concert.” Continental Air Show Productions will produce the soundtrack and narration, which will take air show spectators on a ride through military history. “The routine will begin with music from the ‘40s when the Vampire was first produced, and take us through each decade and conflict from World War II to the present with period music to honor those who have served and who are currently serving,” added Conley.

After a ten-year run with his Red Star and The Dragon act, Conley thought it was time for a change.

The Vampire, which is in the final phases of restoration and painting in Ogden, will head back to Florida where it was originally purchased to make its air show debut this April at Sun ‘n Fun.



## U.S. Military to Increase 2016 Air Show Participation

After a sequestration-driven hiatus, the return of the military as full ICAS Convention participants was a welcome sight to many. Having the military involved in the air show industry's main event represents significant opportunities for every facet of our business. During the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force forums at the 2015 convention, representatives from both services outlined their plans for increasing 2016 air show support.

### U.S. NAVY

The F/A-18C Hornet and F/A-18E/F Super Hornet tactical demonstration teams from VFA-106 based in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and VFA-122 at Lemoore, California, respectively, will collectively participate in 46 air shows this year, more than double the number of 2015 shows. To maximize the U.S. Navy's visibility and recruiting efforts, the single-ship demo teams intend to only perform at shows where the Blue Angels are not appearing, the exception being VFA-106's home show at NAS Oceana. By the date of this publication's printing, the single-ship demo schedules had not been finalized.

The Leap Frogs will perform at 27 events this year. Their recently released schedule broken down includes: four air shows, ten Navy Weeks (some of which coincide with air shows), and seven sporting events with the remaining six being capabilities demonstrations, graduations, or recruiting tours.

Tailhook Legacy Flights, which pair Navy warbirds with current fighters, will return this season and all restrictions on U.S. Navy static displays have been lifted.

### U.S. AIR FORCE

The Thunderbirds' release of a new two-year scheduling cycle at the ICAS Convention's opening general session created both excitement and relief as that development will allow for extended planning time for air show organizers. The move also signals a purposeful shift in the Air Force's public outreach efforts by committing to air show participation two years in advance.

The Air Combat Command Aerial Events (ACC) single-ship F-22 and F-16 demonstration teams will each support 20 shows this year. As standard protocol, shows will be prioritized based on recruiting opportunities, crowd size, location, and air field suitability and past support.

Though the Air Force hasn't completely lifted their static display restrictions, they are increasing the limit for civilian air shows this season to four aircraft per show. However, individual squadrons are responsible for creating a budget allotment to have their aircraft participate. Co-located Air National Guard and Reserve Units can tow aircraft over to the display area and not count against the four aircraft limit. In 2016, there will be no limitations on U.S. Air Force static display aircraft at military air shows, including military shows in Canada.

The U.S. Air Force Wings of Blue parachute team currently has eight air shows on their 2016 schedule.

## 2015 ICAS CONVENTION MILITARY PARTICIPATION

**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

The popular USAF Heritage Flight program will return in 2016 with many of the familiar warbirds and pilots from years past. The number of Heritage Flights may increase as well, though details are still to come. Adding buzz to the program's return is the addition of the F-35 Lightning II (JSF) in select flights. The ACC F-22 and F-16 demonstration schedule and a preliminary Heritage Flight support schedule could be available as early as February 16.

The USAF heavy bombers are all now operated under the Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) Aerial Events. GSC will be accepting requests for flyover support, and filling them as unit schedules and budget allow. The command will consider the event type, event size, geographic location and whether the event is a good venue to promote the Air Force mission. It's also important to note that after submitting Form 2535, send a request email directly to the bomb wings and the AFGSC Aerial Events headquarters as soon as possible. They recommend at least 60 days' notice so unit schedulers can determine if the event is supportable.

## Have You Met Kevin Walsh



Technically, he's been a part of the air show business since 1974 when his father was an air show event

organizer. But officially, Kevin Walsh has conducted his own business in the industry for nearly 25 years as the Owner of Wingman Events, executive director of the Yankee Air Museum and event director for Thunder Over Michigan, which will carry the theme "HelloTown USA," this year.

"We're going to turn people's

ideas about air shows on their head," Walsh said as an impish grin took over his face. "Top rotors and afterburners only, this year. There will be aircraft in Ypsilanti that won't be seen flying anywhere else in the U.S. in 2016. It's going to challenge the notion of what an air show traditionally is."

Because he doesn't have enough to do already, Walsh recently added ICAS Board Chairman to his resume` after taking the reins from outgoing chairman, Ralph Royce, at the 2015 convention.

"Our business is experiencing a lot of change right now," said Walsh. "And from a board

member's perspective, I want to ensure the stability of the organization by looking at the big picture, thinking and planning strategically, and by continuing to enable our ICAS headquarters staff as they work on the members' behalf."

Walsh sees the aggressive execution of ICAS's Five-Year Strategic Plan as one of the most important items on his to-do list. "We've already made a great deal of progress," he said. "Each of the four main parts of the plan has seen movement and has reached milestones. Now is probably a good time to take a look at some of our goals and see if any adjustments might be in order as

we push forward."

Walsh does not anticipate any significant changes to the long-term goals or objectives of ICAS during his tenure as board chairman and sees the air show industry heading in a very positive direction already as professionalization is on the rise. "The more professionalized our industry gets, the better, I believe," said Walsh. "The more we can present our product to the public in a highly professional manner, the more we will see our opportunities expand by bringing corporate sponsorships, new and unique offerings for spectators, and events that are even more safe than they are now."

## "That's All Brother" Preparing for Life after D-Day

The transport aircraft that led the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, more than 70 years ago was discovered in an aircraft boneyard in Wisconsin last year. The airplane was slated to be cut apart and remanufactured as a modern turbo-prop; however, the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) launched a Kickstarter funding campaign on June 4, 2015, to save the plane from being scrapped for parts. Within 48 hours, the CAF obtained their goal of \$75,000 in donations to acquire the plane from Basler Turbo Conversions. Then,

in the fall, the restoration program began.

This 'heavy engineering' phase of the work will include treatment of extensive airframe corrosion, and is expected to last at least through the summer of 2016. "That's All Brother" will be a signature part of the CAF's collection of 162 historic aircraft, its national education programs and plans for a new museum attraction in Dallas. The airplane will be on public display at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh this July 23 through 31 and the CAF



also plans to fly the aircraft to Europe in the summer of 2019 to participate in the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

The organization has set a fundraising goal of \$300,000 this year and contributions are welcome at [www.thatsallbrother.org](http://www.thatsallbrother.org).

## ICAS Foundation News

BY: NANCY LOWE, CHAIRMAN, ICAS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### A NOTE OF THANKS

The ICAS Foundation Board of Directors and volunteers recognize all those who donated and participated in the ICAS Foundation's fundraising efforts at the 2015 ICAS Convention. If you purchased a 50/50 raffle ticket, bought an item from the Buy 'n Fly, made a cash donation, or had the winning bid for a silent auction item, your contribution made a difference. ICAS members helped to raise a total of \$9,312.00 to help the ICAS Foundation continue to support you through the ICAS Foundation's Family Fund, Scholarships, Archives Program, Educational Programming, and Air Show Hall of Fame.

Member generosity to support the ICAS Foundation is crucial to its ability to fund its many programs, and the support goes beyond the cash donations and purchases. The ICAS Foundation Board of Directors extends their gratitude to all of the generous 2015 silent auction donors for their in-kind donations:

Brent Blue MD of Aeromedix.com

Fred Edwards from the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation

Bill Gordon

Jerry Kerby of the Black Diamond Jet Team

LaVone Kay from the CAF Redtail Squadron

Christina Olds

Norm Laudermilch from the Culpeper Air Fest Foundation

Lillian Lyons of Drivenpunk Fused Glass

Kyle Franklin and Franklin's Flying Circus

John Cudahy and ICAS

Jacque Warda of Jacque B Airshows

Kent Pietsch and the Jelly Belly Candy Co

John Bowman

Wanda Martin and the Ladies for Liberty

Patty Wagstaff of Patty Wagstaff Aviation Synergy

Kayla Segerstrom of RotorWashMedia

Neal Darnell and Shockwave

Joe Radosky of Signature Flight Support

Allen Silver of Silver Parachute Sales and Service

Captain R. Scott McMillan and United Airlines

LM Sawyer of Wild Blue Rodeo

Without all of the wonderful volunteers willing to show up, set up, and be present throughout the ICAS Convention, the ICAS Foundation would not be able to conduct such a fundraiser and provide the benefits it allows. The helping hands that made it possible deserve a thank you for their willingness to give their time and energy during a long week in Las Vegas. The volunteers at the 2015 ICAS Foundation booth included:

Alison Zawada

Barb Long

Bill Lowe

Danny Clisham

Gene and Jackie Ruka

Janine Henderson

Jeff and Sandy Parnau

Joanne Nortley

John and Kip Bowman

Jonathan Harris

Mike Biehn

Rose McComb

Thank you all for a successful 2015 and a successful 2015 ICAS Convention for your ICAS Foundation!



## SHOW ME THE MONEY!

The ICAS Foundation Board of Directors and the Fundraising Committee are already hard at work making plans for not only fundraising efforts at the 2016 ICAS Convention, but for fundraising throughout the entire year and beyond. It will take the help of many ICAS members to reach the goals set forth for the ICAS Foundation this year by both the ICAS Foundation Board of Directors and the ICAS Board of Directors. The two boards will be working together to ensure that the foundation continues to be a contributing partner with a thriving fundraising drive that adds to the overall

success of our air show industry and our ICAS members' experiences. The many facets of the air show industry the ICAS Foundation promotes are crucial to the continued growth of our industry, and the foundation can only be as strong as the support it receives from the ICAS members and community.

If you have ideas you would like to share with the ICAS Foundation Fundraising Committee or want to assist in any way, please don't hesitate to contact Lunar Sawyer at Wild Blue Rodeo, LLC — [lunar@wildblerodeo.com](mailto:lunar@wildblerodeo.com)

Together, let's grow our ICAS Foundation, ICAS, and the air show industry!

*ICAS Foundation Board Chairperson Nancy Lowe receives a check for \$5,000 from the Intel Oregon International Air Show before the 2015 ICAS Convention Pinnacle Awards Luncheon.*