



ICAS Foundation Air Show Hall of Fame Class of 2016

Rich and Diana (Dee) Gibson

Rich and Dee Gibson didn't begin their air show careers by blowing things up. Rich skydived into a show in Pennsylvania in 1963, and Dee did the same thing at a Joplin, Missouri air show in 1975. But, during their respective tours in the military, they had gained experience with explosive. In 1981, after a great deal of planning, they set off a few explosions to simulate bombing runs during an air show in Rockford, Illinois. Word of the Gibson's added entertainment product quickly spread and brought requests to do the same at other shows.



Dee and Rich Gibson entertained millions during a 34 year pyrotechnic career.

Rich and Dee's innovative and creative use of pyrotechnics led to the first strafing run simulations, walking bomb runs, cluster bombs, their famous wall of fire, and night show fireworks.

Rich's Incredible Pyro established two official and three unofficial Guinness World Records for the longest walls of fire. In addition, the husband and wife team created pyrotechnic effects for the film industry, and worked at over 350 show sites in eight countries with air show legends including Tommy Jones, Jimmy Franklin, Bobby Younkin, and Jim LeRoy.

Rich and Dee drafted the first ICAS Pyro Safety Manual, revising it through the years. Rich also chaired the Pyrotechnics Safety Committee for five years and shared his expertise with numerous shows and performers during his 34 years as a leader in the pyrotechnics industry. Even in retirement, he continues to assist and provide information to performers and air show staff.

Rich's Incredible Pyro brought another dimension into the mix with the sounds, smells, and heat from his explosions turning a typical air show into a thrilling theatrical experience.

Greg Poe

Greg Poe's first airplane ride at the age of 16 cemented his desire to aim for the sky. He earned his pilot's license three years later. In 1974, he started flying at small, local air shows and entering aerobatic competitions. By 1992, he was a full time air show pilot flying a Pitts Special at air shows throughout the United States and Canada.

As a production test pilot for Aviat Aviation for the Pitts and Husky aircraft, Greg was instrumental in creating factory videos in which he flew, filmed, edited and marketed himself with the goal of ensuring the safety of pilots new to the company's aircraft. His "Wring it Out" series in the Pitts would prove to make a significant impact on future aerobatic and air show pilots.

He served as an Aerobatic Competency Evaluator (ACE) before becoming chairman of ICAS's ACE committee in 2006. Poe was also a member of the EAA, AOPA and IAG during a flight career that spanned 40 years, over 10,000 hours as a pilot in over 100 different aircraft.



Greg Poe was a pilot, entertainer and someone who gave back to the community.

He elevated the public's awareness of aerobatics and air shows by appearing in programs such as Ripley's Believe It Or Not, and Modern Marvels and "Stan Lee's Superhumans" on the History Channel, while also having appeared on CBS, ESPN, Fox Sports, and The Discovery Channel. In June 2011, he finished shooting "Air Racers 3D". He was one of the first unlimited aerobatic performers shot in 3D and played in IMAX.

In the latter stages of his air show career, Poe created and ran his "Elevate Your Life" program as a tool for using air shows and aerobatics to motivate and inspire American's youth. A legacy of Poe's belief in the power that air shows have to change lives, "Elevate Your Life" brings together children, parents, and educators together in dozens of communities every year.

Poe always said he wanted to be remembered as "a pilot, an entertainer and someone who gave back to the community." Few would dispute the conclusion that he was the perfect ambassador for the air show industry.

Larry Strain

Larry Strain joined the air show industry after a successful career in television and radio and after his retirement as the Managing Director of American Airline's Flight Department. Over more than 30 years, Larry has done whatever it takes to support the air show industry and help it grow with a professionalism that has ensured respect and admiration from his peers.



Larry Strain has spent over 30 years helping the air show industry expand and improve.

Larry brought to the industry much-needed business insight and a professional demeanor that has helped to create an atmosphere of competence and steadiness. As a planner and organizer, he has proven that he is a leader of people, working diligently to help in the development of many air shows that continue to thrive. Larry excelled in using his knowledge and expertise to guide many enthusiastic groups in making their shows a viable and exciting entertainment experience.

In addition to a very successful career as one of the air show community's top announcers, Strain has also mentored and coached the narrators of many civilian and military performers and teams.

For nearly 20 years, Larry acted as an Air Shows 101 and Air Shows 201 instructor at the ICAS Convention. While filling a one-year gap on the ICAS board of directors, Strain was instrumental in revising the ICAS Ethics Bylaws.

Asked to fill in a one-year gap on the ICAS Board of Directors he jumped right in with the same work ethic and reliability for which he was already known. Larry was instrumental in revising the still-in-use ICAS Ethics Bylaws. It wasn't a popular role to take on, but he did it anyway because it benefited the industry.

Besides being a narrator, an air boss, a warbird pilot, and an air show organizer, Larry has improved the air show industry and its relationship with other entities. As both a director and chairman of EAA's Warbirds of America, he helped to develop and manage closer relationships between the North American warbird community and the civilian air shows that showcase these beautiful airplanes.

Larry's tireless efforts for the past three decades supporting our industry as a whole, mentoring the individuals who continue to work, and guiding the shows that keep our industry alive demonstrates the professionalism and expertise that are the foundations upon which the air show industry is built.

For more information, or to submit a nomination, go to www.icasfoundation.org/hof