

Meet the NOMINEES

AEA MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES:

- **PETER FLANAGAN**
*Pacific Avionics, Bankstown, NSW,
Australia*
- **Kirk Fryar**
*Sarasota Avionics, Venice, Fla.
United States*
- **Soren Jakobsen**
*Dansk Fly Elektronik, Roskilde,
Denmark*
- **Michael Kus**
*Avionics 2000, Melbourne, VIC,
Australia*
- **Rick Ochs**
*Spirit Avionics, Columbus, Ohio
United States*

AEA ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES:

- **DAC International**
- **Flight Display Systems**
- **J.P. Instruments**
- **L-3 Avionics Systems**
- **Satcom Direct**
- **Universal Avionics Systems Corp.**

Each year during the AEA International Convention, two prestigious awards are presented at the AEA Annual Awards Luncheon: the AEA Member of the Year, which honors an individual from an AEA regular member company; and the AEA Associate Member of the Year, which honors a company that is an AEA associate member.

Two nominating committees — made up of AEA member representatives, including the previous year's winners — are formed to prepare a slate of nominees.

For the AEA Member of the Year Award, the nominating committee assembles a list of individuals who have gone above and beyond to promote the general aviation community and, in particular, are actively involved in the affairs of the AEA.

For the AEA Associate Member of the Year Award, the nominating committee assembles a list of associate member companies who are being recognized for their service and support to the general aviation electronics industry, as well as their active involvement in the affairs of the AEA.

Once the slate of nominees is assembled for both awards, the slate is sent to the full AEA membership for a vote — which means the winners of each award truly are being recognized by their peers for

their service and participation in the industry and in the association.

The 2009 AEA Member of the Year was Tom Richmond of Gulfstream Aerospace, Appleton, Wis., and the Associate Member of the Year for 2009 was Aspen Avionics.

The awards nominating committees submitted the following individuals and companies as nominees for the 2010 awards:

2010 AEA Member of the Year Nominees

Peter Flanagan *Pacific Avionics Pty. Ltd., New South Wales, Australia*

Peter Flanagan has nearly 30 years of experience in the avionics industry. He completed an apprenticeship with the Royal Australian Navy and remained with them for 11 years. Upon leaving the Navy, Flanagan worked in the general, corporate and regional airline fields. He has completed his radio, electrical and instrument licenses. Flanagan is the current business development manager for Pacific Avionics in Australia; previously, he was the general manager for seven years.

Flanagan has been an instrumental part of the growth of the AEA



2010 AEA Member of the Year, AEA Associate Member of the Year



South Pacific region. On behalf of the membership, he attends Australia regulatory meetings and participates in CASA regulatory working groups. He has attended every South Pacific meeting since the inception of this AEA region more than 12 years ago, and he attends every AEA International Convention. He is passionate about the AEA and always is willing to do committee work in Australia on behalf of the AEA's mission there. He has been invaluable to Ric Peri, vice president of government and industry affairs for AEA, in providing help and guidance when distance has prevented Peri from participating in CASA activities.

Kirk Fryar
*Sarasota Avionics International,
Venice, Fla.*

Kirk Fryar's involvement in avionics began at the young age of 8, sitting in the co-pilot's seat next to his father. Growing up in Winchester, Tenn., Fryar spent every summer working at the local airport as the airport gofer in exchange for flying time to become a pilot. This interest in aviation led Fryar to attend Colorado Aero Tech and begin a career in avionics. After his training, Fryar opened his first repair station in one small room.



Later, he met Bert Van Kirk, and together they opened the company Sarasota Avionics International, a complete sales and service center with five avionics service centers in the U.S. and one international location. Fryar is co-owner and serves as the vice president. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two children. A majority of Fryar's avionics technicians recently passed the NCATT AET test and received their certifications during the fall 2009 AEA East Meeting in Tampa, Fla.

Soren Jakobsen
*Dansk Fly Elektronik,
Roskilde, Denmark*

Soren Jakobsen is the third generation of Jakobsens to pursue a career in aviation. His involvement in avionics began more than 45 years ago, when he began a four-year apprenticeship at Avia Radio. Following his apprenticeship, Jakobsen served in the Royal Danish Navy. Upon completion of his service to his country, Jakobsen was able to return to Avia Radio where he worked as a technician for seven more years, then became a manager at the Avia division in Roskilde, Denmark.



Jakobsen had a strong desire to establish his own business and, in 1986, he opened Dansk Fly Elektronik. In 1987, he bought a hangar at

Roskilde Airport where Dansk Fly Elektronik is headquartered. Jakobsen holds a private pilot license and owns a Piper PA28-140. Jakobsen supports the AEA through attendance at the AEA Europe meetings.

Michael Kus
*Avionics 2000 Pty. Ltd.,
Melbourne, Australia*

Michael Kus is the founder and director of Avionics 2000, Pty. Ltd. in Australia. Since its conception 22 years ago, he has expanded his business by 2,000 percent. Prior to starting Avionics 2000, Kus served six years with the Victoria Police Air Wing. He became a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer (LAME) in 1986, while serving with the police and is credited for orchestrating the avionics plan for its air ambulance service. His passion for aviation was launched in 1976, when he joined the Royal Australian Navy. He received avionics technician apprenticeship training with the RAN Fleet Air Arm and trained as an electrical fitter. While concurrently serving his country, Kus received honors from the Department of Technical and Further Education, NSW, for completion of its electronics and communications course.



Kus was elected to the AEA board

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of directors in 2007. He attends all AEA South Pacific regional meetings, participates in various CASA working groups on behalf of the AEA membership, and attends the AEA International Convention & Trade Show. When Kus isn't working, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Kimberly, and their 2-year-old twins.

Rick Ochs

Spirit Avionics, Columbus, Ohio

Rick Ochs founded and manages Spirit Avionics Ltd., an FAA-certified avionics repair station in Columbus, Ohio. Ochs previously had an extensive career in the United States Navy and private avionics industry. With more than 25 years experience, Ochs has become a well-known representative and leader within the avionics community. He is dedicated to establishing avionics technicians' national certification and academic accreditation standards to enhance professional development.

Ochs presently serves on the AEA board of directors and is a member of the AEA Program and Member Services Committee. He also is involved in other industry organizations, such as NBAA, NCATT, EAA and Youth Aviation Adventure. Ochs serves on several advisory boards and has received many FAA and FCC certifications and awards. He is passionate about youth aviation careers and has invested a large amount of time and energy highlighting the positive potential of aviation careers.



2010 AEA Associate Member of the Year Nominees

The following AEA member companies are nominees for the 2010 Associate Member of the Year award:

DAC International

Organized in 1980 by Terry Armstrong and Michael Crouch, DAC International, a Greenwich AeroGroup Co. located in Austin, Texas, offers avionics and test equipment solutions for corporate and general aviation, airlines, special missions and military aircraft operators, modification centers and manufacturers worldwide. With many years of experience



working as regional marketing directors of a Fortune 500 aerospace company, Armstrong and Crouch recognized the business opportunities of representing small, U.S.-based avionics manufacturers to worldwide markets.

The DAC concept was to identify a group of companies that produced quality products but could not justify an in-house international marketing arm. DAC's extensive knowledge of worldwide buyers and sellers, combined with a broad base of manufacturers, became an excellent resource when working with the airlines, aircraft OEMs, executive aviation dealerships and brokerage companies. As DAC's success grew, the company was approached by major equipment manufacturers for exclusive sales contracts.

DAC works with quality avionics manufacturers and often is viewed more as an extension of the manufacturer's

sales team than an outside distributor. DAC now has in-house capability for avionics design, system integration design and manufacturing. DAC International has been an active AEA member since 1983, and its staff regularly attends the AEA International Convention & Trade Show and all regional meetings in the U.S., Canada, Europe and the South Pacific.

Flight Display Systems

Flight Display Systems was founded in 1999, in Alpharetta, Ga., by David Gray. After two years of research and development, the company launched its low-cost moving map system. The company now offers more than 70 different FAA PMA-authorized products, including high-definition LCD monitors, articulating mounts, Blu-ray and DVD players, and other audio/video cabin entertainment products.

Additionally, Flight Display Systems has developed innovative product solutions being utilized in military and special operations applications for front-line deployment around the world. In 2009,



Flight Display Systems was recognized as the No. 1 customer service and support company for cabin entertainment by the *Aviation International News* annual reader's poll. Flight Display Systems maintains a small business perspective and prides itself on being nimble, responsive to customer needs and continually investing in research and development. Another unique aspect of the company is a large in-stock inventory and 24-hour turn-time on all in-shop repairs. Flight Display Systems can ship most products the next day.

Recently, the company has grown