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AEA Names 2009 Member, Associate Member of the Year *Tom Richmond, Aspen Avionics honored at Annual Awards Luncheon*

DALLAS, TEXAS, April 3, 2009 — Thomas Richmond of Gulfstream Aerospace was named the 2009 AEA Member of the Year, and Aspen Avionics received the 2009 AEA Associate Member of the Year honor today during the 52nd annual AEA International Convention & Trade Show in Dallas, Texas. Tom Richmond and representatives from Aspen Avionics accepted their awards this afternoon at the AEA Annual Awards Luncheon, featuring guest speaker Dick Vermeil, Super Bowl-winning NFL head coach.

Two nominating committees — made up of AEA member representatives, including the previous year's winners — were created to prepare a slate of nominees for the annual awards. Once the slate of nominees was assembled for both awards, it was 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.

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

2009 AEA Member of the Year: Thomas Richmond

Tom Richmond is a technical specialist for Gulfstream Aerospace in Appleton, Wis. He graduated second in his class in 1977, from Blackhawk Technical College, and soon joined K-C Aviation in Appleton, as an install technician.

Eventually, Richmond became a bench technician, specializing in radar. He worked for well-known industry leader Dutch Arver. In 1984, Richmond became avionics shop lead and helped develop a shuttle service for Kimberly Clark, which later became Midwest Express Airlines.

In 1989, Arver took Richmond and his wife, Sandy, to their first AEA convention in New Orleans, La. It was an amazing time for Richmond, and he was hooked. He also attended the AEA board of directors meeting with Arver, which began his involvement with the AEA.

When Arver retired, Richmond was promoted to supervisor of the avionics and electrical shops. He continued his involvement with the AEA, taking his family along to every AEA convention. Richmond later became a member of the AEA board of directors.

In 1998, K-C Aviation was sold to Gulfstream and began completing G-IV aircraft.

Richmond and his team completed an aircraft for actor Tom Cruise, and Richmond said it was exciting to work with Cruise and his chief pilot supporting their requests to change or repair avionics problems. Cruise was so impressed with Richmond's avionics talents, he personally flew Richmond to Sydney, Australia, where Cruise was filming "Mission Impossible." He wanted Richmond to make a software and volume change in the cabin audio system. — the repair took a total of one hour, but it was quite an adventure down under for Richmond.

In August 2000, Richmond decided to move to the certification group at Gulfstream. For the next six years, he wrote STCs and associated paperwork, as well as performed cabin sound surveys. Also in 2000, Sandy obtained a job with Gulfstream in the accounting department, and she is now a purchasing agent for the company.



Thomas Richmond

In 2001, Richmond was elected as an international officer for the AEA, and became the secretary of the board of directors. After nearly 30 years as an AEA board member, Richmond's term expires during this 2009 convention. During his involvement with the AEA, he co-chaired a Part 65 rewrite subcommittee, made trips to Washington, D.C., for the "Hit the Hill" campaign in the early 1990s, and was an advocate for development of the AEA website.

In his spare time, Richmond is a Cub Scout den leader and pack treasurer for his grandson's pack. He enjoys remodeling, video production, camping, hunting, and spending time with his children and three grandchildren.

2009 AEA Associate Member of the Year: Aspen Avionics

Founded in 2004, by aviation enthusiasts Peter Lyons and Jeff Bethel, this year's AEA Associate Member of the Year, is headquartered in Albuquerque, N.M. The company's mission — to bring the most advanced technology and capability from the commercial and business aviation markets into general aviation cockpits — has been realized in its five short years of existence.

The company's first product, certified in November 2005, is the AT300 hazard awareness display, a combined terrain awareness display and vertical speed indicator. The creation of the AT300 led to recognition by *Aero News Network* as one of the Top 10 Products in 2005, and it paved the way for this young company to grow and create even more exciting products.

Aspen's flagship product line is the Evolution flight display system, one of the most innovative — and affordable — glass cockpit systems ever designed for certified general aviation aircraft. The acclaimed Evolution EFD1000 Pro primary flight display and the EFD1000 multi-function display give pilots everything they need in a full-featured glass cockpit for GA aircraft — at an affordable price.



Today, Aspen Avionics is led by industry veteran John Uczekaj, with a team of top talent — including familiar names to the AEA membership, such as Mark Ferrari, Doug Cayne, Brad Hayden, Scott Smith, Robert Blaha and Pete DeFanti, as well as Aspen's recently appointed board member, Phil Boyer, past president of AOPA.

Aspen Avionics continues to make news and recently received *Flying* magazine's prestigious Editors' Choice Award, cited specifically "for bringing the glass to the masses." Last year, *Aero News Network* named Aspen's EFD1000 one of its Aero-Products of the Year, and the company was among the top 100 elite companies in 2008 to receive a Red Herring North America winning nod.

Amid all the awards, recognitions and accolades, the company's mission has never swayed. As its co-founder, Peter Lyons, said back in 2006, during an interview with *Avionics News* magazine, "We are passionate about the general aviation community and about serving the needs of this community."

The 2009 AEA Member of the Year nominees were:

- Jim Karpowitz, Skycom Avionics, Waukesha, Wis.
- Rich Ochs, Spirit Avionics, Columbus, Ohio
- Tom Richmond, Gulfstream Aerospace, Appleton, Wis.
- Manuel Rizo, RizoJet Avionics International, Hondo, Texas
- Tod Wulff, Aerodynamics, Waterford, Mich.

The 2009 AEA Associate Member of the Year nominees were:

- Alto Aviation
- Aspen Avionics
- Flight Display Systems
- Matrix Aviation
- Rockwell Collins
- Universal Avionics Systems Corp.