



# FAA Production Studio News

December 2003

## Production Studio Crew Holiday Awards Luncheon

By Cheryl DeFilippo & Hugh Hardy  
*FAA Production Studio Staff*



he Holiday Season is upon us once again and the FAA Production Studio Crew celebrated on December 6th with the "Annual Holiday Awards Luncheon." The day was filled with great presentations and surprises for the crew.

We started the morning with a presentation by Dean McGinnes in celebration of the "100th Anniversary of Flight." Dean gave us a tribute to the Wright Brothers in costume. It was a wonderful presentation that was extremely well done.

Mr. John Noone from the Orlando FSDO was on hand for a very special award presentation. As you know, our very own, Walt Schamel was presented the "Aviation Safety Counselor of the Year Award" for our District in September. Mr. Noone presented Walt with the "Regional Aviation Safety Counselor of the Year Award" and if that was not enough..... We are extremely proud to announce that Walt has also received the "National Aviation Safety Counselor of the Year Award." Walt's untiring dedication to aviation safety is evident in his continued service to all of us who enjoy the wonderful gift of leaving the bounds of earth. Thank you Walt for the contributions you give that we all reap the benefits from. No one is more deserving of this honor!

The morning moved on and we were proud to honor three of our production crew members with the "Volunteer of the Month" award. Congratulations to Robert Feely, September; Eyal Breiter, October; and Mike Mascia, November. We thank you for your continued dedication to the FAA Production Studios and the Safety Program.

Many of the crew had the opportunity to share some of their special aviation memories via prerecorded video and live on the studio stage. Some great stories were shared and remembered.

Then the real fun began! Diego Alfonso and Ernie Strange hosted our annual festivities. We had a great meal provided by Tony's Airside and Mr. and Mrs. Claus flew in for a special visit to the crew.



The Production Studio Crew volunteers are the “cream of the crop.” The dedication and level of professionalism continues to work to higher and higher levels. With that in mind Diego and Ernie honored some of our incredible crew.

**Crystal Flight Awards** were presented to: Adair Henderson, Norma Jeerings and Melody Coleman. The Crystal Airplane is awarded for “Outstanding Performance and Unending Support “ to the studio.

**Above and Beyond Prop Awards** were presented to: Chris Tosti, Dave Roberts, Malachi Hoskins, Richard Kossman, Rock Rockcastle, and Terri Kurtz. These crew members received the coveted Prop award for support “Above and Beyond the Standard” to the Production Studios.

Special thanks went to our three leaders: Bill Hoenstine, Ben Coleman and Obie Young. They were honored with a framed print of the Wright Brothers first flight. We thank you for your leadership and working to make the Production Studios a valuable asset to the Safety Program.

Diego and Ernie handed out a terrific amount of gifts and door prizes. Many thanks to: Simcon, Air Orlando, Ben and Mel Coleman, King Schools, Cheryl and Hugh Hardy, the Florida Aviation Safety Foundation, and Sporty’s Pilot Shop for some great contributions. Also, thanks to Carl Ashcraft and Obie II for the great D.J. set up for the event.

What a great turnout we had for the luncheon! We would like to take a moment to thank Lourdes & Diego Alfonso, Terri Kurtz, Ernie & Maureen Strange, and Ben & Mel Coleman for their help in making this awards luncheon such a great success. The awards luncheon crew works all year long to make this event happen and we hope you all had a great time and enjoyed the camaraderie and fellowship.

The Production Studios has made some incredible strides forward over the last few years. It is only with the participation and dedication of the production crew volunteers that this has happened. We hope that each of you are as proud to be part of the crew as much as we are proud to have you on board!

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**...and “Safe Skies.”



