



Parachute Industry Association

Michael Beck
Awards Chair

6499 S. Kings Ranch Road #6-12 • Gold Canyon, AZ 85118 • USA • 480-982-6125 • Email: awardschair@pia.com

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The Parachute Industry Association is pleased to announce that Ed Vickery has been selected as the 2024 recipient of the Don Beck Memorial Award. The highest award presented by the PIA is to recognize achievements that have withstood the test of time. Mr. Vickery, while employed at Pioneer Parachute, worked with NASA to develop the varied uses of the Para-Sail to train astronauts. This would lead to his design of the Para-Commander which would revolutionize the parachute world throughout the mid to late 1960's and into the 1970's.

Following this, Mr. Vickery went on to work with Dom Jalbert's Parafoil kite doing design work and test jumping to develop a gliding, steerable ram-air parachute. Being one of the first to document jumps on the new design. He developed anhedral arc suspension line rigging, cell shape improvements and the cross porting still used on ram-air canopies today. Not to be satisfied with things of this world Mr. Vickery would become the program manager for the parachute on NASA's Pathfinder project that would land a space vehicle on Mars.

Congratulations to Mr. Vickery. We look forward to presenting his award at the 2025 International Parachute Symposium in Daytona Beach, Florida.

For further information you can contact;

Michael Beck

PIA Awards Chair

c/o D.J. Associates, Inc.

8411 South Zero Street

Fort Smith, AR 72903

Telephone; 479-452-3987