



CELEBRATING THE BEST IN THE INDUSTRY

By Ian J. Twombly

A GOOD FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR AND FLIGHT SCHOOL have a significant impact on a student pilot's ability to finish flight training. Honoring those great flight training providers—and helping connect them with other schools in an effort to increase the quality of flight training across the country—is the focus of the AOPA *Flight Training Excellence Awards*.

In 2013 AOPA asked you, as student pilots, to rate your flight training experience in the *Flight Training Excellence Poll*. You answered the call to the tune of more than 3,300 poll completions spread over 508 flight schools and 956 flight instructors. Every question focused on a specific aspect of learning to fly that is statistically proven to create a positive flight training experience. The answers you gave were at times wonderful and inspiring, and occasionally cringe-worthy and disappointing. In the end, three clear categories of winners emerged.

Best Flight School and Instructor: The winner of the Best Flight School and Instructor categories each scored the highest in their respective areas. And as each had dozens of poll completions, the result was averaged over a large sample size. That made it clear the winners provide an exemplary product.



FLIGHT SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Above All Aviation (SBA)
 Advanced Helicopter Concepts Inc. (FDK)
 Aero Atlanta Flight Center (RYY)
 Aero-Tech Inc. (LEX)
 AIA Flight center (CNO)
 Air Associates of Missouri (SUS)
 Airborne Systems (FXE)
 Airwolf (GMU)
 All American Aviation Services (FAY)
 American Flyers Atlanta, GA (PDK)
 Andover Flight Academy (12N)
 Angel City Flyers (LGB)
 Arizona Aviation Flight Services (FFZ)
 Aspen Flying Club (APA)
 Blue Line Aviation LLC (RDU)
 Blue Skies Flying Services (3CK)
 Brazos Valley Flight Services (CLL)
 Brett Aviation (MTN)
 Cardinal Air (HBI)
 Century Air (CDW)
 Chandler Air Service (CHD)
 Chesapeake Sport Pilot (W29)
 CP Aviation (SZP)
 Dean International Inc. (TMB)
 Destinations Executive Flight Center (RVS)
 Diamond Flight Center (U77)
 Dream Flight School (DMW)
 Eagle Aircraft (VPZ)
 Eagle Flyers Inc./Montgomery Aviation (TYQ)
 East Coast Aeroclub (BED)
 East Hill Flying Club (ITH)
 Executive Flyers (SAC)
 First Landings Aviation (Xo4)
 FL Aviation Center (TLH)
 Fleming Aviation (GAI)
 Flight Training Professionals (ORL)
 Frederick Flight Center (FDK)
 GIFT Academy (Fo5)
 Glass Cockpit Aviation (BOI)
 Hampton Ground School (7B3)
 Heritage Aviation (SEG)
 Horizon Flight Center (CPK)
 Hortman Aviation Services Inc. (PNE)
 Houston Flight Training (EYQ)
 Hub City Aviation (LBB)
 Inflight Pilot Training (FCM)
 Lanier Flight School (GVL)
 Louisville Aviation (LOU)
 Lunken Flight Training Center (LUK)
 Maui Aviators (PHOG)
 Montgomery Aviation (TYQ)
 New Horizons Aviation (RDG)
 Ocean Helicopters Inc. (F45)
 Oklahoma Aviation (PWA)

Orlandi Flight Center (1N7)
 Peak Aviation Center (COS)
 Premier Flight Academy (BKL)
 Rainier Flight Service (RNT)
 Redbird Skyport (HYI)
 Regal Air (PAE)
 Seminole Lakes (6FL0)
 Sheble Aviation (Azo)
 Skill Aviation (UGN)
 Skybound Aviation (PDK)
 Skyline Columbus (CSG)
 Slipstream Aviation (RBD)
 Southern Maine Aviation (SFM)
 Spencer Aviation (DLZ)
 Sterling Flight Training (CRG)
 Sunrise Aviation (SNA)
 Sunstate Aviation (ISM)
 Superior Flying Services (SUW)
 Superior Flight School Inc. (RYY)
 Tailwheels Etc. (LAL)
 Takeflight Professional (FXE)
 Texas Taildraggers (AXH)
 The Worcester Regional Flight Academy (ORH)
 TNT Air (N47)
 United Flight Systems (DWH)
 University of Dubuque (DBQ)
 University of North Dakota Aerospace (GFK)
 University of Oklahoma (OUN)
 Utah Valley University Aviation (PVU)
 Ventura Flight Training (FRG)
 Waco Flying Service (ACT)
 Wayman Flight Training (OPF)
 Wings of Carolina Flying Club (TTA)

FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR HONOR ROLL

William Allen (ORH)
 Joel Anderson (HEF)
 Marc Ashton (O69)
 Sue Ballew (PAO)
 Michal Bangert (W29)
 Franklin Burbank (Xo4)
 Kevin Carmody (HEF)
 Ken Colston (RYY)
 Kevin Cox (RDU)
 Damian DelGaizo (12N)
 Andrew Dilworth (RHV)
 Dan Dyer (SQL)
 John Ekhoﬀ (HYI)
 Brian Eliot (SQL)
 John Fadok (oA7)
 Art Fritzon (HEF)

Kenneth Fukayama (PRC)
 Jon Fussle (ASW)
 Paul Georgelas (JYO)
 Andy Geosits (SQL)
 David Hall (CSG)
 Rich Harowitz (WBW)
 Hal Harris (PWA)
 Dana Holladay (CRG)
 Dave Hooper (3CK)
 Tom Horton (5K6)
 Mitch Inmann (UTS)
 Bob Kintner (RYY)
 Darryl Knoop (RVS)
 Carson Lee (SFB)
 Adam Lockamy (SPA)
 Mark Makee (LNN)
 Danny Malcarne (SBA)
 Gary McBurney (APV)
 Barry Morris (SAC)
 Aaron Norris (JYO)
 Janine Nunes (BZN)
 John Nutt (BED)
 Geoffery Orlandi (N17)
 Kyle Pack (Xo4)
 John Panton (COS)
 James Payne (AHN)
 Bill Peterson (SBA)
 Lynn Postel (BKV)
 Taylor Price (HEF)
 Sophie Repolt (MSL)
 William Rose (7B3)
 Jason Schappert (X35)
 Mary Schott (HYI)
 Bill Schwabenton (HBI)
 Michael Schwahn (BZN)
 Mike Schwartz (JYO)
 Ted Scott (RYY)
 Todd Shellnutt (CSG)
 Robert Shepanek (JYO)
 Asher Sherburner (RAL)
 Bryce Siegel (CVO)
 Paul Smythe (LOU)
 David St. George (ITH)
 Kurt Stiefel (DBQ)
 Mike Thomas (ITH)
 Adam Valencic (Xo4)
 Jack Vandeventer (TYQ)
 John VanPasschen (EYQ)
 Steve Walker (F95)
 Ryan Wangerin (DAW)
 Fred Webster (BFL)
 David Werntz (EMT)
 Charles Wright (BED)