



FLIGHT TRAINING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2015

» *By Ian J. Twombly*

PICKING A FLIGHT SCHOOL AND INSTRUCTOR are two of the most important choices we will ever make in aviation. Learn to fly with a good support system and the experience can be joyful and life-changing. Choosing poorly can mean never becoming a pilot.

With that in mind we asked students around the country what they thought of their flight training experience. What follows are the best flight training providers in the country, as measured by their students. Flight schools of every size, type, and location are featured, as are all types of flight instructors, from independent professionals who teach on the weekend to chief instructors at highly respected and busy schools. These are the winners of AOPA's fourth annual *Flight Training Excellence Awards*.

Awards are given in two major categories: flight schools and flight instructors. Students were asked to rate their training provider on a number of different factors, including topics such as use of a syllabus and perception of value. The questions were based directly on AOPA's research into the ideal flight training experience, which revealed dozens of factors that create a good training program.

The results were tallied and winners were divided into three levels: Honor Roll, Outstanding School or Instructor, and Best Flight School and Flight Instructor in the country. Winners in the Best category scored the highest, Outstanding winners were in the top 20 percent, and Honor Roll schools and instructors scored in the top 30 percent.

In short, these training providers give their students the best chance for success.

On the following pages you'll find a breakdown of the poll results, including what schools and instructors are collectively doing really well and not so great; profiles of the Best Flight School and Best Flight Instructor; and, finally, a full list of winners.

Congratulations to all the schools and instructors, and be on the lookout for the 2016 poll to be released midyear.

2015

AOPA'S FLIGHT TRAINING



AeroVenture Institute
Southbridge Municipal Airport (3Bo)
Southbridge, Massachusetts



Todd Shellnutt
Dekalb-Peachtree Airport (PDK)
Atlanta, Georgia



President's Choice Award
For continued outstanding performance
Paragon Flight
Page Field (FMY)
Fort Myers, Florida



Andover Flight Academy
Aeroflex-Andover Airport (12N)
Andover, New Jersey

Blue Skies Flying Services and Pilot Shop
Lake in the Hills Airport (3CK)
Lake in the Hills, Illinois

Chesapeake Sport Pilot
Bay Bridge Airport (W29)
Stevensville, Maryland

Holladay Aviation
Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport (CRG)
Jacksonville, Florida

JetEXE Aviation
Sacramento Executive Airport (SAC)
Sacramento, California

Orlandi Flight Center
Blairstown Airport (1N7)
Blairstown, New Jersey

Superior Flight School Inc.
Cobb County Airport-McCollum Field (RYY)
Atlanta, Georgia

Valley Aviation Inc.
Wilkes-Barre Wyoming Valley Airport (WBW)
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Western Air Flight Academy
Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (BJC)
Denver, Colorado

Wings of Carolina Flying Club
Raleigh Executive Jetport (TTA)
Sanford, North Carolina



Jim Ader
Waukegan Regional Airport (UGN)
Waukegan, Illinois

William Allen
Southbridge Municipal Airport (3Bo)
Southbridge, Massachusetts

Raymond De Haan
Leesburg Executive Airport (JYO)
Leesburg, Virginia

Jim Fellers
Lake in the Hills Airport (3CK)
Lake in the Hills, Illinois

Kayla Harder
Page Field (FMY)
Fort Myers, Florida

Jeff Lipton
Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (BJC)
Denver, Colorado

Jay Nabors
Raleigh Executive Jetport (TTA)
Sanford, North Carolina

Geoffrey Orlandi
Blairstown Airport (1N7)
Blairstown, New Jersey

Jason Schappert
Marion County Airport (X35)
Dunnellon, Florida

Spencer Watson
Manassas Regional Airport (HEF)
Manassas, Virginia