



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FAA Production Studios
FAA National Resource Center
4425 Sun 'n Fun Drive • Lakeland, Florida 33811
Lakeland Linder Regional Airport Sun 'n Fun Complex
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FAA 2009 Southern Region General Aviation Award Winners Announced

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2009 GENERAL AVIATION AWARD WINNERS NAMED

FAA PRODUCTION STUDIOS LAKELAND, FLORIDA - In each of the past 46 years, the General Aviation Awards program and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have recognized a small group of aviation professionals in the fields of flight instruction, aviation maintenance, avionics and safety for their contributions to aviation safety and education.

This awards program is a cooperative effort between the FAA and a dozen industry sponsors. The selection process begins with local FAA Safety Team managers at Flight Standards District Offices (FSDO) and then moves on to the eight Regional FAA offices. Panels of aviation professionals from within those four fields then select national winners from the pool of regional winners.

Recipients of this year's North Florida FSDO awards are Thomas Monroe Evans of Tampa, Florida, Certificated Flight Instructor (CFI) of the Year; Elena Mary Klasing of Casselberry, Florida, Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) of the Year; and Hugh Edward Hardy, Jr. of Deltona, Florida, FAA Safety Team Representative of the Year.

Recipient of this year's Southern Region award is Harry Narvaez-Munet of Vega Alta, Puerto Rico, FAA Safety Team Representative of the Year.

FAA Southern Region Administrator Doug Murphy will present the awards in April at the Tuesday evenings "President's Dinner" at Sun 'n Fun, Lakeland, Florida.

These most deserving individuals truly emulate the spirit of aviation and dedication to making our skies safer for all of us that enjoy the incredible gift of flight.

2009 FAA SAFETY TEAM REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR - NORTH FLORIDA FSDO: **Hugh Hardy, Jr.** is a resident of Deltona, Florida, and has been involved in the FAA's safety program for almost a decade. His interest in aviation was fostered in the early 80's when he lived near a local airport in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and began flying with a local flying club on the field.

Later he moved to Florida and completed his private pilot certificate and instrument rating at Delta Connection Academy, Sanford, Florida.

Hugh began taking advantage of the many safety seminars offered throughout their area. Before long, he was mentored into the FAA's safety program as an aviation safety counselor. Early on, he volunteered at the FAA Production Studios and National Resource Center at the Lakeland-Linder Regional Airport (LAL). He trained and learned the many facets of the studio and worked his way up to Technical Director. He also serves as a studio Production Crew Member and Staff Leader.

As a Lead Representative in the FAA's new safety program, the FAASteam, Hardy spends much of his time promoting the production studio and its aviation safety message. Traveling throughout the country to large aviation gatherings including AOPA Expo, AirVenture, NBAA and Sun 'n Fun he films industry events, interviews and programs for the studios productions and shares the safety program's goals with other interested aviators. As a computer technician he is responsible for producing the studio's website and troubleshooting and building computer systems. Working with National FAASteam Production Manager Obie Young, he helps to provide guidance for developing safety programs nationwide.

With over 35 years in the construction industry Hugh has headed up his own construction business in Florida for over 20 years as well as his own computer business.

He now serves as a mentor to volunteers joining the FAASteam while training new crew members to work in various positions within the production studio. He also develops new strategies to foster growth of the production studio's efforts. Youth activities such as EAA's Young Eagles and the Boy Scout's aviation orientation program are also a priority for him. He is a 30 Year member of AOPA, EAA member and ASC of the Year for FSDO-15 in 2002.

Hardy (hardy@clf.rr.com) represented the Orlando FSDO in the FAA's Southern Region.

(Attached photo: 2009 FAA Safety Team Representative of the Year –North Florida FSDO Hugh Hardy of Deltona, FL)

2009 CFI OF THE YEAR – NORTH FLORIDA FSDO: **Master CFI Thomas Monroe Evans**, a resident of Tampa, Florida, has been flying for 42 years. Tom's love of aviation began at the age of 6. He was born in Jacksonville, Florida and moved to Tampa at the age of 12. During college Tom had the opportunity to start flying lessons at \$14.00 an hour wet in a PA 140 at Peter O' Knight (TPF) in Tampa. From that first lesson he was hooked.

Tom had what he calls a "slight interruption of his flying activities" during his military obligations and finding the love of his life with his wife Linda now a 36 year union.

When Tom resumed his flying activities he felt it was important to be safe and as current as possible so he attended local FAA Safety programs in '90 and '91 in Tampa. Little did he know that he would be creating and directing such meetings within a few months as one night as on evening the counselor scheduled did not show up... at that point his toastmaster instincts kicked in and he sauntered to the



lectern and stepped up to the task. He has been doing so for the past 17 years and continues to do so only missing 3 meetings during that time.

He serves the FAA Production Studios as Host to the yearly "Stall Spin Seminar", is a studio Production Crew Member and Staff Member and Host of the FAA Production Studio talk show "Plane Time". Tom is host and chair for "Wings Weekend" is a member of the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority Networking Team, Host to the "Technically Advanced Aircraft Seminar" and appears for numerous speaking engagements in the Tampa area.

His ratings include Commercial, ASEL-I, AMEL-I, AGI, IGI and MCFI. He currently instructs 30-40 hours a month and has flown and checked out 43 different aircraft. In his years of instructing he has had only one student fail the Practical Test.

Tom earned his BS from the University of Tampa with a Major in Economics and Minors in Business, History and Psychology.

His honors include Master Flight Instructor, Distinguished Toastmaster, AOPA Safety Award for Aviation Safety Counselor, FAA Safety Counselor of the Year, President of the Florida Association of Flight Instructors and Flight Instructor of the year for Tampa.

Being in the public eye has awarded Tom the opportunity to spread the safety message to his peers and to mentor many into the program and foster the growth of the aviation industry.

Evans (worldwideoptical@worldnet.att.net) represented the North Florida FSDO in the FAA's Southern Region.

(Attached photo: 2009 Certificated Flight Instructor of the Year – North Florida FSDO MCFI Thomas Evans, Tampa, FL)

2009 AMT OF THE YEAR NORTH FLORIDA FSDO: **Elena Mary Klasing** of Casselberry, Florida began her career in aviation in 1981 as a Records Analyst and Apprentice Mechanic at National Florida Airlines in Daytona Beach. Working in the industry as a Maintenance Controller, QA Auditor, Records Manager, Preflight AMT and A & P Mechanic Klasing is currently the co-owner of Aircraft Maintenance Training Institute, Inc. and AMTI Aircraft Maintenance Management developers of internet-based, model-specific familiarization training courses for aircraft maintenance technicians.

Along with her day-to-day work in the industry she also helps organize and host ACE Maintenance Camp for youth and is involved with PAMA, NBAA and ISASI as well as a Crew Member of the FAA Production Studios. Klasing is a FAAS Team Representative and moderates the Cessna Citation Forum (an open forum for Citation pilots and tech's to discuss maintenance issues).

Elena is currently working on her Masters in Aviation Safety and holds a BA in Psychology from Stetson University. She holds an A & P Certificate and completed Accident/Incident Investigation Intro and Accident Investigation from a Maintenance Perspective at Embry Riddle and holds her I.A. (Inspection Authorization).

She has also authored numerous manuals for 14 CFR 135 & 145 operations and is the ACE (Aviation Careers Education) Maintenance Academy Program Co-Director.

Klasing (eklasing@amtinst.com) represented the North Florida FSDO in the FAA's Southern Region.

(Attached photo: 2009 Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year-North Florida FSDO Elena Klasing, Casselberry, FL)



2009 FAA SAFETY TEAM REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR – SOUTHERN REGION: Harry Narvaez-Munet of Vega

Alta, Puerto Rico began his career in aviation in 1969 with the United States Air Force as a pilot and in airport management responsible for managing operational and administrative systems and the establishment and enforcement of policy and procedures. His duties included Weather Analysis, Radio Procedures, Teletype Communications, Physical Facilities, Airport Operations, Airport Security, and Flight Planning.

In 1992 Narvaez became the Chief of Operations at Luis Munoz Marin International Airport being responsible for overall operational administration of landside and airside operations to include 32 domestic/international passenger gates, freight air carriers and 4 fixed base operators and air cargo operations.



Currently Harry serves as an Aviation Safety Officer for the Puerto Rico Ports Authority (PRPA) where he is responsible for supervising all operational aviation safety issues for all certified airports and non-certified airports under the jurisdiction of the PRPA. He supervises the purchase, supply, transportation, storage, delivery and handling of aviation fuels for all PRPA airports.

Accomplishments include the development of an integrated aviation safety program for five certified and 1 non-certified airport. He has written Airport Certification Manuals and Emergency Plans for five FAA certified airports and the modern version (2008) of the PRPA Airport Rules and Regulations and established an integrated Airports Maintenance Control Center to respond to maintenance needs of all airports under jurisdiction.

Harry conducts Airport Safety Meetings at six airports providing a forum to disseminate important safety information and offer an opportunity for airport users and operators for feedback to airport management.

Narvaez is a FAAS Team Lead Representative and holds a Master of Arts Degree in Business Administration/Management from Webster College in Saint Louis, Missouri and a Bachelor of Business Administration/Accounting from the University of Puerto Rico. He is also a member of the American Association of Airport Executives.

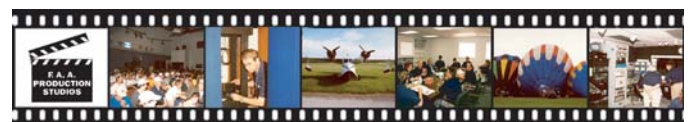
Narvaez (hnarvaez@prpa.gobierno.pr) represented the South Florida FSDO and the FAA's Southern Region.

(Attached photo: 2009 Southern Region FAAS Team Representative of the Year Harry Narvaez-Munet, Vega Alta, PR)

The General Aviation Awards program executive committee includes the Aircraft Electronics Ass'n (**AEA**), the Federal Aviation Administration (**FAA**) and the National Ass'n of Flight Instructors (**NAFI**). Additional support and sponsorship are provided by Women in Aviation International (**WAI**), the Professional Aviation Maintenance Ass'n (**PAMA**), the National Business Aviation Ass'n (**NBAA**), the National Ass'n of State Aviation Officials (**NASAO**), the National Air Transportation Ass'n (**NATA**), the Helicopter Ass'n International (**HAI**), the General Aviation Manufacturers Ass'n (**GAMA**), the Experimental Aircraft Ass'n (**EAA**), the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Ass'n (**AOPA**) and the Aeronautical Repair Station Ass'n (**ARSA**).

Information about the General Aviation Awards Program as well as applications for next year's awards is available on the websites of all sponsoring organizations.

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FAA National Resource Center**

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