



# FAA Production Studio

## Speakers Listing

*Experienced Aviation Speakers Available for your Seminar!*



**Obie Young**

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Specialty  
*Aviation Communications*

**Obie S. Young** was selected **President of the National Aviation Safety Foundation** in January 2011. He is an Airline Transport Pilot with over 16,000 hours accumulated in his 43 years in aviation. He has worked in FAR Part 141 pilot training, FAR Part 135 charter, Corporate Flight Operations and as a FAA Designated Written and Flight Examiner for Private through ATP. He flew in airshows for six years and produced and directed airshows for 19 years. He is a member of several aviation organizations and a lifetime member of EAA and FloridaAirMuseum at Sun 'n Fun.

He worked with the FAA Accident Prevention Program for 15 years in industry. He was the founder and past president of the Mississippi Association of Flight Instructors. He was awarded **FAA National Flight Instructor of the Year for the United States in 1977**. He was awarded the National Association of Flight Instructors Master CFI Award in 1998, 2000, 2003, and 2005. He wrote for several aviation publications and had his own column "Unusual Attitudes." He has made hundreds of presentations throughout the United States and is a Distinguished Toastmaster.

He served with the Flight Standards Division of the FAA from 1990 to 2010 when he retired from the FAA. He is the Director of the FAA Production Studios, a joint effort of the FAA and the National Aviation Safety Foundation. The studios main facilities are in Lakeland, Florida where he has produced and directed hundreds of videos, several of which have been distributed nationally. He is a member of the Florida Motion Picture and Television Association and a life member of Media Communications Association International. His programs are broadcast monthly on the Aviation Training Network, Government Educational Training Network, and the Florida Aviation Network. He is the executive Producer of Managing Safety radio show.



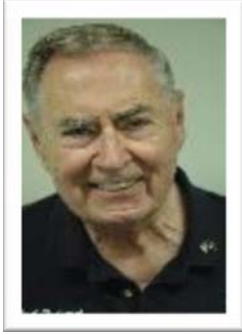
**Michael Gaffney**

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Specialty  
*Advanced (TAA) Cockpit Operations*

**Michael G. Gaffney**, Lead Technical Consultant of Flightlogics Aviation Consulting of Melbourne, Florida, is a 4 time Master Flight Instructor (MCFI) and a two time Master Ground Instructor (MGI). He was named the **2007 National Flight Instructor of the Year by the Federal Aviation Administration** and the General Aviation Awards executive committee. He was also awarded the 2007 NATA Excellence in Aviation Training Award. Gaffney is the Lead FAAST Representative for the SpacecoastFAASTeam. He designs aviation courses specializing in technology integration in the cockpit that meet the requirements for FAA/Industry Training Standards (FITS). Gaffney and Flightlogics Consulting, already nationally recognized for intuitive leadership in general aviation training and glass cockpit aircraft training techniques, has written three books and a series of articles for FAA Aviation News and AOPA Flight Training Magazine pertaining to technically advanced aircraft (TAA). Two of his books were adapted by ASA into the G1000 and the AvidyneEntegra Complete DVD series and are sold all over the world. Most recently, he has been researching advanced avionics integration techniques and NextGen Air Traffic Management (ATM) air to ground persistent networking protocols and onboard software component integration.



*Rock Rockcastle*

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Specialty  
*Pilot Operations*

**Rock Rockcastle** holds an Airline Transport Pilot Certificate in Single and Multi-engine airplanes and a Commercial Pilot Certificate for single engine seaplane. He has over 13,500 total hours plus 9,000 in flight instruction including 6000 hours in simulator instruction. He has been a Chief Flight Instructor for a FAR Part 141 Flight School located at the Glenview Naval Air Station, Glenview, Illinois.

Rock is a **Gold Seal Master Flight Instructor** and his ratings include airplane, instrument and multi-engine as well as advanced and instrument ground instructor ratings. He has participated in the Wings program since its inception and has earned the FAA Phase XX Wings. He has also achieved the Master level in the current Wings program.

He has been an active FAA Aviation Safety Counselor since 1981, initially with the Great Lakes FSDO in DuPage, Illinois and presently with the FAANationalResourceCenter in Lakeland, Florida. In 1989 he was recognized as the FAA National Flight Instructor of the Year. Rock serves as an FAA FAAS Team Lead Representative, formally Aviation Safety Counselor, and has received the Orlando FSDO's "**2010 Aviation Safety Counselor of the Year Award**" and most recently "FAA Southern Region FAAS Team Representative of the Year Award". Along with his counselors duties he also serves on the Production Crew at the FAA Production Studio in Lakeland, Florida, as well as being on the Board of Directors of the Florida Flight Instructor Association.

Since retiring from Chrysler Corporation as Area Manager in the Marine Division and the US Navy where he served as a Chief Petty Officer in the Submarine Service he has been residing on his horse and cattle ranch in Oxford, Florida. For the past eleven years he has been working as a flight instructor for SIMCOM Training Center in Orlando. He presently teaches the Beechcraft Barons, Cessna 300 & 400 series and Piper Navajo series in advanced state of the art simulators.



*Cheryl Hardy*

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Specialty  
*Working with  
Volunteers*

**Cheryl A. Hardy**: is a resident of Deltona, Florida, and has been involved in the FAA's safety program for more than a decade. As the daughter of a naval aviator, she grew up in the hangars of Pennsylvania's Willow Grove Naval Air Station watching the Blue Angels practice their routines.

As a lead representative in the FAA's safety program, the FAAS Team, she spends much of her time promoting the FAA Production Studios and the aviation safety message it delivers through its extensive palate of program offerings. As the Public Relations Representative for the studios she travels throughout the country to large aviation gatherings including AOPA Expo, AirVenture, NBAA and Sun 'n Fun, where she shares the safety program's goals with other interested aviators.

Cheryl is a speaker with specialties in volunteer management. She is also a host of "Managing Safety", an aviation radio talk show that brings interesting and informative interviews with aviation professionals, industry leaders and technology and news updates.

She also serves as a mentor to volunteers joining the FAAS Team while training new crew members to work in various positions within the production studio. She 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 her. She is a member of AOPA, EAA, Women in Aviation and the National Aviation Safety Foundation.

Cheryl has received the **2007 FAA National FAAS Team Representative of the Year Award** and the 2006 FAA Southern Region FAAS Team Representative of the Year Award. She was the 2006 FAAS Team Representative of the Year for the FAA Flight Standards District Office, Orlando and the 2002 Aviation Safety Counselor of the Year for the FAA Flight Standards District Office, Orlando.



*Tom Evans*

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*net*

Specialty

*Pilot Operations  
& Airspace*

**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 thelectern 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, **2009 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.



*Ben Coleman*

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Specialty

*Accident Investigation*

**Ben Coleman** is a former air safety investigator with the **National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and retired air safety inspector with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**, with over 35 years of aviation experience. His dynamic personality is spawned by a love for people and a professional ability to relate with all types and levels of personnel. Having completed over 300 fatal aircraft accident investigations as well as the aftermath, Ben has excelled in meeting the most daunting tasks including interaction with next of kin, post accident. His early years involved acquiring the skills of a certified aircraft mechanic while becoming a textbook airman. He has devoted himself to the never ending search for perfection in his trade. He began learning to fly with his father, Buddy Coleman, in a Piper J-3 Cub project using an old adage, "If it is worth doing, it is worth doing right the first time!". His older brother, Brent, a highly skilled and successful International corporate pilot, also played a role in his development by calling attention to detail and perfection. He has achieved an associate degree and Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) certificate from formal training received at Embry-RiddleAeronauticalUniversity in 1977 in conjunction with a Cooperative Education Program appointment to Lockheed Aircraft Company, Marietta, Georgia. Here he was trained as a C-130 “Hercules” final assembly line supervisor. He moved to the field of general aviation out of a passion for and freedom of light aircraft as opposed to heavy transport aircraft. At the age of 19, Ben did have difficulty convincing Lockheed management that he needed to “take a C-130 around the patch”. After years of A&P line experience, Piper Aircraft Corporation in Vero Beach, Florida employed him. There he was quickly discovered to be a fast learner, devoted employee, excellent pilot and trustworthy technician.



*Dennis Whitley*

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Specialty

*Pilot Operations*

**Dennis H. Whitley** is an experienced ATP and CFII with 30 years Private, Corporate, Airline Transport, and Instrument Instructor experience. He has accumulated over 7,000 hours of flight time in various piston, turbine and turbojet aircraft. He is certificated under both the FAA and the CAA, and has flown as aerial photography, aerobatics, chemical application, sky diver, corporate, freight, and commercial passenger pilot 135 and 121 ops during his career.

Dennis has 25 years of experience as an MEL/SEL Instrument instructor, and holds the advanced ground and advanced instrument instructor certificates from the FAA. He serves on the board of the Florida Association of Flight Instructors and is a FAAS Team Lead Representative, Safety Consultant, and airman counselor in the Tampa Bay Area. Dennis and his wife speak at many Aviation Safety Seminars throughout the country.

Dennis is a pioneer in Television Broadcasting with a career consisting of over 35 years of experience. He was instrumental in the design and development of engineering facilities for the 1996 summer Olympic Games in Atlanta Georgia and has written numerous articles for Broadcast Engineering Magazine. Dennis was director of engineering for NBC Atlanta and also served as Chief Engineer for WestStar Television in the Cayman Islands. He currently is the Production Engineer for the FAA Production Studios in Lakeland Florida, and continues to consult for several engineering facilities throughout the U.S.. Dennis was **nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Television Programming Excellence** - Live Special Events, and another Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Television Programming Excellence - Live Television Directing.



*Karen Dunbar*

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Specialty

*Human Factors*

**Dr. Karen Dunbar** is a **retired Clinical Psychologist** and lifelong aviation enthusiast. Her father, a Lockheed flight engineer and mechanic, started taking her to airshows and to the airport on Sundays to watch planes land as soon as she could be pushed in a stroller.

She completed her undergraduate training in Psychology and Chemistry at Emory University and Mercer University. After working in a short-term psychiatric hospital for a year, she attended the University of Louisville, where she completed her master's and doctoral degrees in Clinical Psychology with a specialty in medical psychology.

Dr. Dunbar completed her internship at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville, FL, where she added to her experience in medical psychology and stress related illnesses. During clinical practice in Nashville, Tennessee, she offered general psychological services along with neuropsychological testing and medical psychology consultation to local hospitals and medical practices. She evaluated and treated a number of people for post-traumatic stress disorder during her career, and provided expert witness testimony on stress and other psychological factors in the legal system. She completed the AME training course at the FAA Civil Aeromedical Institute in Oklahoma in 1996.

After retiring from active clinical work and moving to the Cayman Islands, Karen became a college professor of Psychology and Acting Director of Graduate Studies at the International College of the Cayman Islands. In her free time, she became involved in the Virtual Air Traffic Control Simulation (VATSIM), rising to the position of Events Director for the virtual United States area.

Following the devastation visited on the Cayman Islands by Hurricane Ivan, Dr. Dunbar designed, implemented and evaluated a community based country-wide disaster-related stress treatment program, personally training over 300 community members in peer counseling skills. This program was vetted through the World Health Organization and was offered under the oversight of the Ministry of Health, Aviation and Works in the Cayman Islands.



**Amy Laboda**  
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 Specialty  
*Pilot Operations*

**Amy Laboda** was an Aviation Safety Counselor for more than 5 years. She now works with the FAA Safety Team, FAASTeam as a Lead Representative in Southern Florida. She is an active CFI and typically does FAA Wings Safety Seminars in SW Florida and around the U.S. She is also a professional writer and editor and teaches safety through her columns with Kitplanes Magazine and Aviation for Women. Amy works with the FAA Production Studios and is a host at numerous remote shoots. She is a regular host on Managing Safety Radio show and is currently the **Managing Editor for the Women in Aviation magazine**.



**Ernie Strange**  
 Specialty  
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*Pilot Operations*  
*Landings*

**Ernest J. Strange, Jr.** (ATP, CFI, COMM, Flt Engineer) :Has been involved in aviation since he was a small child. He soloed in 1973 and since that time he has held positions as a First Officer, Check Airman, Captain, Chief Pilot, Chief Flight Instructor, Safety Officer, Aviation Safety Counselor, and an Adjunct Professor in aviation. He is currently serving as an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner, President of Aviation Training Consultants, Inc. and has been involved in Aviation Safety throughout his career. He was one of the original members of the Production crew, producing safety material for the FAA Safety Team National Resource Center and FAA Production Studios. He is currently **Chairman of the board of theof the National Aviation Safety Foundation** and served as the President of the Foundation until 2011.



**Vicki Sherman**  
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 Specialty  
*Pilot Operations*

**Vicki Lynn Sherman:** holds ratings for ATP, CFII, Ground Instructor (Advance and Instrument); Glider Instructor, flown as a charter pilot; is an Aviation Safety Counselor with the FAA Accident Prevention Program; has been active in the FAA Speakers Bureau since 1991, is serving on the Board of Directors of the National Aviation Safety Foundation. Vicki is an **International Past President of The Ninety-Nines, Inc.** and a Trustee of The Ninety-Nines Endowment Fund, is an honoree of the Forest of Friendship. She is a member of the National Board of Directors for the Silver Wing Fraternity, member of the Board of Visitors of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She was President of the Great Southern Air Race Association, Inc., and recently participated in the 2004 Air Race Classic. She has been active in Civil Air Patrol as squadron commander and check pilot, is recipient of the Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager Aerospace Education Achievement Award. Vicki works with the FAA Production Studios and is a regular host on Rooftop and numerous remote shoots. She is a regular host on Managing Safety Radio show.

Vicki is President/Owner of Aero Supplies & Express, Inc. and is President of Vicki Sherman Realty, Inc., both located in Daytona Beach, Florida.



*Walt Schamel*  
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*Specialty  
Pilot Operations*

**Walt Schamel, the 2003 National Aviation Safety Counselor of the Year.** His involvement in aviation began with his first flight in 1956 as a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadet. Within ten years of that first flight, he was working as manager of the US Army Flying Club at Fort Ord, California. In that position, he immediately recognized a need for aviation safety counseling and began offering monthly flight education and safety meetings to club members. Thus, he became an "aviation safety counselor" before that FAA designation even existed. Since then, he has served as an FAA Aviation Safety Counselor (ASC) or Safety Program Manager in nine different FSDOs nationwide.

The Civil Air Patrol has long been a part of Walt's life. After his days as a CAP cadet in the mid-fifties, he moved up through the ranks. From 1994 to 1997, he served as the CAP's Oklahoma Wing commander. He is also credited with the development of CAP's check pilot standardization program.

His commitment to safety education continued throughout his 25-year FAA career as an aviation safety inspector. In that capacity, he has worked at FSDOs in Tampa, Orlando and Fairbanks. He also did a 15-year stint with the FAA's Pilot Examiner Standardization Team in Oklahoma City where he conducted worldwide examiner training seminars.

Since retiring in 2001, Mr. Schamel has worked as training manager for Airline Transport Professionals at Craig Airport (CRG) in Jacksonville, Florida. A certificated flight instructor (CFI) for more than three decades, he is one of approximately 400 aviation educators worldwide who holds a **Master CFI** designation.

Even in retirement, Walt's support of the FAA's safety program continues unabated. He is active in the WINGS program while volunteering hundreds of hours each year as a member of the FAA Production Crew at the FAASTeam NRC in Lakeland, Florida, home of Sun 'n Fun. He also actively recruits and trains new volunteers in the Orlando area.



*Skip Seila*  
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*Specialty  
Propellers*

**Skip Seila** is an A&P, I.A. and SEL with over 50 years in aviation. Most of those years are in aviation maintenance management. Having the opportunity to manage a propeller shop for about 8 years, the experience showed a definite need for educating the aviation public and the propeller presentation was born. The PowerPoint presentation is composed of cut-a-ways of the propellers most generally used in General Aviation today. The presentation is then tailored to the audience it is being presented to from cut-a-ways to proper care and feeding and to dynamic balancing. It is all covered so that all owner/operators will benefit greatly." He is a recipient of the prestigious **Charles Taylor Aviation award**.



**Rich Tillery**  
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 Specialty  
**Helicopters**

**Rich Tillery** is a dual rated flight instructor in airplanes and helicopters with experience working as Chief Flight Instructor Part 141. **Retired Army Safety Officer and attack helicopter pilot.** Currently working for a nationwide flight school as Chief Pilot providing standardization training to all new hire flight instructors. He works with the FAA Production Crew. He has been a host on the popular show Plane Time and is a regular host on the Managing Safety Radio Program.



**Kathleen O'Brien**  
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 Specialty  
**Safety Management Systems**

**Kathleen O'Brien** is currently the **FAA Team Program Manager, Area 4, in the Western Pacific Region.** The following is a list of some of her duties.

- Analyze accident and incident data and use that information to develop my work program so that it aligns with the mission of the FAA, the Flight Plan and Regional Emphasis items
- In cooperation with my area FAA Team Managers and Regional Management, develop local safety initiatives that respond to the specific needs of the area's pilot communities
- Participate on the Western Pacific Region's Safety Management Systems (SMS) core group by assisting industry partners in developing their SMS programs
- Encourage and support airmen to use FAA Safety.gov to its fullest extent
- Mentor the FAA Team Representatives so they are empowered to bring safety principles and practices into the pilot community through meetings, counseling and one-on-one relationships
- Recognize outstanding contributions to aviation through the safety awards programs
- Cooperate with internal and external working groups on safety issues.

Kathleen works with the FAA Production Studios and has served as the host during Sun 'n Fun. She is also a regular host on the Managing Safety Radio Show. When she is not working, her happiest times are flying with her husband flying their Husky A1A.



**Bob Dunton**  
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**Helicopter Operations**

**Bob Dunton** is currently the **FAA Team Program Manager, Area 2, in the Southern Region.** Bob is an Airline Transport Pilot with rating in B-727, B737, DC-9, and MD-80. He is also a Turbo Jet Flight Engineer. Bob holds a Commercial Pilot and Flight Instructor with Airplane and Helicopter Ratings. Bob has extensive experience with several airlines including but not limited to Caribbean Sun Airlines, Southeast Airlines, and Capital Cargo International Airlines. Some of Bob's helicopter experience includes Action Jet Helicopters in Las Vegas, NV, Sirocco Aviation, in Linden, NJ, Connecticut Air Service in Danbury, CT and Highlife Helicopters, Inc in Spanaway, WA.. Bob has amassed about 14,000 hours total time with almost 5,000 in Helicopters.

Bob is in charge of the General Aviation Awards Program for the Southern Region and works directly with several aviation organizations and the annual Sun 'n Fun Fly-In in Lakeland, Florida. Bob is the Lead FPM working directly with Lead FAA Team Representatives.



*Javier Calderin*

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Specialty

*Safety Operations*

**Javier Calderin** is currently an FPM - **FAASTeam (FAA Safety Team) Program Manager in the Southern Region**, based out of the Orlando (Central & North FL. Area). Prior to that he was a GA Principal Avionics Inspector and then he decided to expand his horizons and get into the safety side of the house, “educational awareness”, with great satisfaction. He has a Bachelor’s Degree in Management and an Airframe & Powerplant Certificate.

Javier, at the age of 20 joined the United States Marine Corps! This is where he actually started his aviation career, May of 1987. He was in HMX-1 (Helicopter Marine Squadron One), also known as the Presidential Helicopter Squadron. He was one of a few trusted (Top Secret Clearance) Avionics/Electricians that worked on the fleet’s aircraft and traveled around the world, throughout the United States, to include Camp David (Presidential retreat).

Once he left the active duty Marine Corps he worked a few years for DOD (Dept. of Defense) as a civilian Avionics Technician on various aircraft. Through those years he earned his A&P and quickly took an additional part time job as an A&P Mechanic.

He was Lead and then a “working” Supervisor at Raytheon Aircraft Services. He then moved to the Central Florida Area and came on board with the FAA. Throughout his aviation career he worked on both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft both in the military and in industry.

He is a passionate individual, with a passion for Aviation and Aviation Safety but most of all for his family! He’s been married to his beautiful and wonderful wife of over 17 years and has 2 great kids, one boy and one girl. Javier is also currently an Advisory Committee member for the daVinci Aerospace Academy at his son’s high school, which involves mentoring, creating exciting and relevant field trips, guest speakers, and programs for the daVinci students.

As a FAASTeam Program Manager, Javier has worked towards improving communications and data between the FAASTeam, FAASafety.gov, industry and all of the FAASTeam Representatives which are the key valuable component of the TEAM. He’s involved with and assists with various educational awareness projects, to include the promotion of the General Aviation Awards program, the AMT (Aviation Maintenance Technician) Awards Program, the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award and the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. He’s currently the Lead FPM on the Southern Region Aerial Application Project and supports the Amateur Built / Light Sport Project, while assisting various other projects as needed by our TEAM.



**Mark Laughridge**  
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 Specialty  
*Flight Instructor  
 Workshops*

**Mark Laughridge** is currently the **FAA Team Program Manager, Area 2, in the Southern Region**. Mark is a Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic with Inspector Authorization. He is the holder of a Commercial Pilots Certificate with Airplane Single and Multi-Engine Ratings. Mark is the Lead FPM working directly with the Southern Region and National Programs for the Flight Instructor Workshops.



**Diego Alfonso**  
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 Specialty  
*Spin Prevention &  
 Survival*

**Diego M. Alfonso, Sr.** currently is an Aviation Safety Inspector for the North Florida Flight Standards District Office in Orlando, Florida. He attended the Professional School of Business, Union, New Jersey, and began working as an Airline Pilot for PBA. Diego then moved to Orlando, Florida in 1983 and became the Chief Pilot for a FAR 135 Operation. Diego then moved into Corporate Aviation flying turboprop aircraft. In 1990 Diego dedicated his life to aviation and aviation safety and was appointed an Aviation Safety Counselor with the Orlando Flight Standards District Office. Because of his experience, and willingness to serve Diego was appointed a Designated Pilot Examiner. Diego now has 20,000 hours and 11,000 hours of flight instruction given. Diego was elected as the President of the Florida Flight Instructor Association. He has been a “mover and a shaker,” a team player, a leader, and tremendous positive influence and active supporter of our district’s Aviation Safety Program.

Diego was selected from approximately 4,000 Flight Instructors within the Orlando FSDO area as the **1999 Flight Instructor of The Year**. Through his personal dedication he produces outstanding safe pilots. Diego holds an ATP certificate, a Gold Seal Flight Instructor with Instrument and Multiengine ratings. He holds an Advance and Instrument Ground Instructor.

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