



## **Catherine Cavagnaro and Ron Timmermans Announced as 2022 Inductees for the Flight Instructor Hall of Fame**

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The Flight Instructor Hall of Fame today announced the 2022 class of inductees, Catherine Cavagnaro and Ron Timmermans. Each of these extraordinary aviators model the highest standards of professionalism and dedication in the flight training industry. Thanks to the generosity of the American Bonanza Society (ABS), the induction ceremony will take place at their 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Dinner held during this year's EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh.

Administered by the National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI), inductees into the Flight Instructor Hall of Fame represent individuals who have made significant contributions to aviation education and flight instruction while reflecting credit upon themselves and their profession. The honor highlights the important role flight instructors play as a foundation for the safety of the entire national air transportation system.

Flight Instructor Hall of Fame inductee Catherine Cavagnaro is recognized as an expert on spins and aerobatics. She teaches pilots from the US and other countries at Ace Aerobatic School in Sewanee, Tennessee. She writes the "Flying Smart" column for AOPA Pilot magazine that addresses topics of safety, efficiency, proficiency, and the science of flight. Catherine holds ATP and CFI-IA certificates. She also serves as a designated pilot examiner and FAA lead safety representative for the Nashville FSDO.

The General Aviation Awards Committee recognized Catherine in 2018 as the FAA Safety Representative of the Year and the FAA Certificated Flight Instructor of the Year in 2020. In 2018, Catherine was inducted into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame.

Catherine speaks around the country and online for the Federal Aviation Administration, AOPA, American Bonanza Society, National Association of Flight Instructors, and other pilot organizations. She serves as a regular guest on Aviation News Talk with Max Trescott as well as an expert for Pilot Workshops' "IFR Scenarios" "VFR Scenarios" and other educational products.

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Flight Instructor Hall of Fame inductee Ron Timmermans fulfilled a 40-year professional career as an architect and project manager before devoting himself to aviation on a full-time basis. He has been an independent flight instructor since 1998. These days, he owns and manages AileRon T, LLC, and he flies a Beechcraft Bonanza.

Ron holds ATP, CFI-IA, AGI-Instrument, and Remote Pilot certificates. He is a NAFI Master CFI and Master Ground Instructor, a Gold Seal Instructor, and an American Bonanza Society Master Aviator. Ron is particularly well-known in the Beech community due to his active involvement in the Beechcraft Pilot Proficiency Program (BPPP) and Bonanza/Baron Pilot Training (BPT) program.

Ron has served as a FAASTeam Lead Representative for the Orlando FSDO and the North Texas FSDO. He has presented at more than 30 *WINGS* safety seminars and at aviation events throughout Florida and during EAA AirVenture. He has also been a frequent presenter at AOPA's Rusty Pilots Seminars, Safety Seminars, and Flight Instructor Refresher Courses. He is a founding director of the *WINGS* Industry Network and has volunteered on the FAA's *WINGS* Usability Working Group in 2020-2021.

Ron's outreach activities include hosting NAFI Mentor*LIVE* broadcasts for flight instructors and hosting broadcasts for Florida Aviation Network live-streaming events to international audiences. He is a regular presenter at ABS national conventions, EAA AirVenture, Sun 'n Fun, and other aviation events. Ron is a contributing member of AOPA, EAA, NAFI, SAFE, ABS, BPT, BPPP, and Quiet Birdmen. In 2021 he was named the National Certificated Flight Instructor of the Year.

John Niehaus, NAFI Director of Program Development and administrator of the Hall of Fame award program, commented, "Working to continue the tradition of inducting deserving flight instructors into the hall of fame is such a humbling project for me. Every year the individuals we choose from are the best our industry has to offer, and this year is no different. Catherine and Ron have given so much of themselves and this is our chance as an industry to give back to them." Mr. Niehaus added, "My sincere thanks go out to our volunteer judges who each year work to make the selection for the induction class, and to ABS for allowing the induction at their annual membership dinner."

The Flight Instructor Hall of Fame judges include:

- Retired US Marine Corps aviator and current director of education and training services at the Helicopter Association International, Greg Brown
- Retired US Air Force instructor and former 121 instructor pilot, Colonel Julie Tizard
- Executive Director of the American Bonanza Society Air Safety Foundation and former Hall of Fame inductee, Tom Turner
- Board member of Women in Aviation, extremely experienced and talented flight instructor, Brittney Tough
- Former 121 instructor pilot, celebrated AOPA author, and former Hall of Fame inductee, Barry Schiff

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***About the National Association of Flight Instructors***

*Members of the National Association of Flight Instructors work as independent instructors, at flight schools, universities, FBOs, corporate flight departments, and in the military. Since 1967, NAFI and its members, who teach in countries around the globe, are dedicated to increasing and maintaining the professionalism of flight instruction.*

*NAFI members influence active pilots daily: Students working to become pilots, current pilots training to advance their skills with new ratings or certificates, and pilots who seek to improve their skills with recurrent training. NAFI also serves as an advocate with industry and government as a voice for flight instruction. NAFI helps shape the current and future direction of flight training.*

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