

'Meet the Masters' Breakfast Honors Top Instructors

By Harry Kraemer

This year's "Meet the Masters" breakfast at AirVenture 2000 was a big success. Attendance was up from last year. About 60 people, including 23 Master Instructors, were on hand for some good food and company on a rainy overcast morning. The list of attendees was like an aviation hall of fame, with many aviation greats, including Tom Poberezny, EAA president; Bob Warner, EAA executive vice president; Dale De Remer, National Seaplane Pilot of the Year and a 1999 inductee into the National Flight Instructor Hall of Fame; and Greg Brown, NAFI first Master Instructor and this year's National Flight Instructor of the Year. Also present were Mike Henry, the FAA AFS 800 manager; Roger Baker, FAA National Safety Program manager; Jim Lauerman, AVEMCO vice president; and several members of NAFI board of directors.

Sean Elliott, NAFI executive director, gave the welcoming speech. NAFI president and one of its founders, Jack J. Eggspuehler, followed Sean. Eggspuehler, former chairman of the aviation department at Ohio State University, found out just a few days before the breakfast that he was selected as one of this year's "Elder Statesman of Aviation Award" by the National Aeronautic Association. The award was established in



Sandy and JoAnn Hill. Photo by Pat Kraemer.

1954 and is presented annually by NAA. Past recipients of the award include William Piper, Igor Sikorsky, James Doolittle, and Chuck Yeager, just to name a few. Eggspuehler gave a well deserved thanks to NAFI Directors JoAnn and Sandy Hill for their hard work on the Master CFI program. The Hills followed with some interesting facts on the composition of the Master Instructor corps.

- 34 states are represented
- Two countries, United States and Germany, are represented
- 54 percent are aviation safety counselors

- 12 percent are FAA or industry pilot examiners
- 49 percent hold Airline Transport Pilot certificates
- 20 percent are involved in the Civil Air Patrol
- 11 percent are women (compared to 6 percent of all CFIs)
- Six are National Flight Instructors of the Year
- Two are National Seaplane Pilots of the Year
- One is in the National Flight Instructor

Hall of Fame

- 12 hold doctorate degrees
- Two hold all seven flight instructor ratings
- Two hold all five ATPs
- 33 colleges and universities are represented by Master Instructors

Following more than two years of research and development, the Professional Standards Committee of the National Association of Flight Instructors launched the Master Instructor Designation program in August 1997. Its purpose is to identify and publicly recognize those outstanding aviation educators, true "Teachers of Flight," who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth, and service to the aviation community. A "Teacher of Flight" can earn the Master Instructor designation by earning continuing education units in four categories: educator, service to the aviation community, creator of media, and participant. A minimum of 32 CEUs is needed, with 16 required in the educator category.

Instructors, be proud of your title and become one of the "best of the best" by earning your Master Instructor designation, and we will see you at next year's "Meet the Masters" breakfast at AirVenture in Oshkosh or at Sun 'n Fun in Lakeland, Fla.