

eMENTOR

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER

From NAFI's Chair

The State of Flight Training

Given the sudden dislocation that occurred last year due to the worldwide pandemic, many of us have been concerned about the status of the flight training industry. The information we see has largely been anecdotal in nature, often based on informal questions to the training community. Because of the unscientific nature of the questions and as well as the confirmation bias that inevitably become baked into non-scientific surveys, we are not very certain of the results.

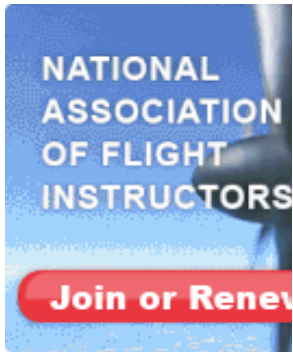
You recently received an email from NAFI with a link to a survey published by Redbird Flight Training that is designed to provide solid data in answering these questions and to set a baseline. This survey, *State of Flight Training: 2021 Survey and Report*, was created in partnership with several organizations, including NAFI. As stated on the survey's cover page, "To move forward, we first must look back on an unprecedented year in flight training. Participate in Redbird's research to help the flight training community identify and analyze industry trends, priorities, strengths, and challenges as we strategize for the year ahead."



Your participation in the survey will help the industry answer key questions and formulate plans for the future. Your participation is critical in knowing where we stand as an industry. Without real data, it is difficult for all of us to assess our current and near-term plans. Should a school invest in more and/or newer aircraft? What about inventories of training material, a concern for both manufacturers and suppliers? Is training activity up, as many have heard, or is there a slump in business, something else that we've all heard? In the longer term, what trends are evident in the training pipeline? In short, what is really happening in our industry? You will help provide those answers.

If you haven't seen the email, click [here](#) for a link to the survey.

Please take the time to participate - the survey only takes about seven minutes to complete, which is about one trip around the pattern. We also ask that you share the survey with your colleagues via the link provided on the survey cover page or above. Finally, as an incentive, there are chances to win a year-long subscription to Cloudahoy Pro,



ForeFlight Performance Plus, or a new iPad equipped with Redbird Corvus.

Thank you in advance on behalf of NAFI and the entire flight training industry.

Bob Meder.
NAFI Board Chair

A horizontal advertisement for GLEIM Aviation's online CFI renewal course. The background is a blurred image of an airplane. The text "ONLINE CFI RENEWAL" is in large, blue, bold letters. Below it, there is a list of bullet points: "• Customize your course with electives", "• Over 70 free resources", and "• Try Study Units 1 and 2 for FREE". At the bottom, there is a red button with the text "LEARN MORE" and the GLEIM Aviation logo.

COVID-19 News

Aero Friedrichshafen Postponed Until Mid-July

Citing COVID-19, Aero announced that it has rescheduled the expo from April 21 to July 14 to 17. In a brief statement, Messe Friedrichshafen's CEO Klaus Wellmann said, "Following the cancellation of the event last year, the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic coupled with the renewed lockdown extension unfortunately mean that AERO Friedrichshafen will have to be postponed." Aero was one of the early casualties of a wave of event cancellations last year as the COVID-19 epidemic gained traction in Europe and throughout the world. While other shows in the United States and elsewhere have also been postponed or canceled, Sun 'n Fun announced this week that the Lakeland, Florida show is still scheduled for April 13 to 18, 2021. Read more [here](#).

VFS Cancels In-Person Forum 77

Add the Vertical Flight Society (VFS) to the list of aviation organizations cancelling in-person events in 2021 due to the global pandemic. On Friday, AIN reported that VFS scrapped its annual in-person Forum 77 gathering, which was slated for Palm Beach, Florida, from May 10 to 14. That event will now go virtual. The extent of the reluctance of VFS members to gather in-person was shown in a recent survey conducted by the organization: 75 percent said they would not attend; 65 percent said their organizations precluded travel to Palm Beach; only 8 percent said they are confident that they would be vaccinated by May 11; and 51 percent said they were not confident. Also last week the Helicopter Association International (HAI) pulled the plug on its in-person annual Heli-Expo convention, which had been scheduled for March 22 to 25 in New Orleans.



Short Takes

[Pilot Ranked Among Best Jobs](#)

[SpaceX Launches 143 Satellites On One Rocket](#)

[FAA Proposes \\$1M Penalty for Illegal Charter Ops](#)

[Saudi Aviation Authority Aims to Localize 10,000 Air Transport Jobs](#)

[AOPA Awards RV-10 Sweepstakes Aircraft](#)

[RC Glider Hits 548 MPH In Record Flight](#)

[NBAA: Remote ID Drone Rule Raises Privacy Concerns](#)

Aviation Business News

Planned Supersonic AS2 Takes Leap Forward With New Florida HQ

U.S. planemaker Aerion, whose AS2 jet promises to fly New York to London in 4.5 hours, is building a massive new global headquarters in Florida ahead of production beginning on the supersonic craft in 2023. It's a big step forward for the company, which will use some of the \$300 million it has attracted in capital investment to develop the 110+ acre Aerion Park in Melbourne, right next to Orlando Melbourne International Airport. The new HQ and integrated campus for research, design, production and interior completions of the supersonic craft promises to bring 675 new high-paying jobs to the area by 2026. Read more [here](#).

ATP Flight School Forms Pilot Pathway with Frontier Airlines

Frontier Airlines and ATP Flight School have formed a "Frontier Direct Program" targeting ATP graduates and CFIs for employment as Frontier Airlines First Officers. In the Frontier Direct Program, ATP graduates and instructors progress from ATP straight to the flight deck at Frontier after enhanced ATP CTP training that includes additional Airbus A320 full-motion flight simulator experience. The new partnership offers pilots an accelerated path to a career with Frontier while providing Frontier access to a high-quality pool of qualified pilot applicants. Read more [here](#).



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NAFI Pulse



The NAFI Pulse Poll

NAFI Pulse is a collaborative effort between NAFI and Gleim Aviation to identify and share points of view or best practices about topics important to the instructor community. Please take a moment and respond to today's poll.

How do you safely engage your passengers for a safe flight or cross country trip?

- I ask passengers to scan for traffic and assist with flight deck duties
- My passenger(s) are usually pilots so we share duties
- I developed a personal guidebook for my passengers for various types of flights
- I do not allow passengers to assist on the flight deck

[Poll Response](#)

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Gift Memberships

Do you know a pilot, aspiring flight instructor or CFI you believe may benefit from a NAFI membership? If so then purchase them a gift membership! Click [here](#) to begin and be sure to have your recipient's email and address information available.

Remember, even your non-CFI friends may benefit, since all aviators can improve their flying by learning more about flight instruction!



Government & Regulatory News

FAA Names Susan Northrup Federal Air Surgeon

The FAA appointed Dr. Susan Northrup as the federal air surgeon, responsible for all medical programs with the agency. Northrup succeeds Michael Berry, who held the role since January 2017. Northrup, the first female to be selected for the position, oversees airman medical certification, air traffic control specialist medical qualification policy, medical decision-making policy, aeromedical education programs, medical appeals, medical and human factors research, drug and alcohol testing programs, and aircraft accident investigations involving medical factors.

A private pilot and retired U.S. Air Force colonel who served during Desert Storm and Desert Shield, she previously has served as the FAA's acting deputy federal air surgeon and senior regional flight surgeon. Northrup also has held leadership roles as vice-chair for aerospace medicine on the American Board of Preventive Medicine, U.S. head of delegation to NATO's aeromedical working group, and past president of the American Society of Aerospace Medicine Specialists and the Civil Aviation Medical Association. More recently, she has been the FAA medical subject matter expert to ICAO's Covid-19 response. Read more [here](#).

Terrafugia Announces FAA Special Light-Sport Airworthiness Certificate

Terrafugia announced that it has reached a significant milestone by obtaining an FAA Special Light-Sport Aircraft (LSA) airworthiness certificate for its Transition roadable aircraft. As an integration of a two-seat aircraft and an automobile, the Transition is designed to meet safety standards from both the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The vehicle that received the certificate is legal for flight and represents the initial version of the Transition roadable aircraft. Terrafugia will produce and sell additional initial (flight-only) versions to interested parties and will evolve the driving portion of the Transition design, with the goal of being legal both in the sky and on local roads in 2022. Read more [here](#).

FCC Refuses to Halt Ligado 5G Program

*Industry Member &
Supporter of the
WINGS Proficiency
Program*



Employment

NAFI's Job Board
lists employment
opportunities
that may be of interest to
its members.

Visit
[NAFI Members' Only](#)
on the website for
available positions.

We are always on the
lookout for opportunities
to assist our members.
Please contact [NAFI](#) if you
have job listings to share.

Ligado Networks' terrestrial 5G program will continue its development despite aviation-industry pushback concerned with the potential for GPS interference. Earlier this year, aviation groups sent a request to the FCC to reconsider its prior approval, but the FCC last week denied "a request to stay its unanimous decision," authorizing the program to move forward. Read more [here](#).



Scholarship & Prizes News

GAMA's Stimpson Scholarship

The General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) is now accepting applications for its 2021 Edward W. Stimpson Aviation Excellence Award Scholarship. Each year, GAMA awards a graduating high school senior, pursuing studies in aviation, with a \$2,000 scholarship. GAMA is proud to continue to offer this unique scholarship as part of its commitment to workforce development and advancing careers in general aviation. It is named in honor of a GAMA founder and past president - Edward W. Stimpson. Scholarship applicants are evaluated on academic achievements, involvement in extra-curricular activities and their interest in pursuing a career in general aviation. Completed applications are due by April 16; email submissions are preferred. More information about this scholarship and GAMA's other educational opportunities may be found [here](#).

The Third Annual Richard Collins Writing Prize for Young Pilots

The Richard Collins family has again partnered with Sporty's to offer The Richard Collins Writing Prize for Young Pilots. To qualify, the writer must be a pilot (including student pilot) who is 24 years of age or younger. The article must be original, not previously published, and no longer than 1,500 words. The topic should be "my most memorable or important flying lesson (with or without a flight instructor)."

The winning article will be published in Air Facts, the publication Richard's father, Leighton, founded in 1938 and which was relaunched nine years ago by Sporty's as an online magazine.

The winning article will be published in Air Facts, while its writer will receive a check for \$2,500. The prize will be announced in April. Articles may be submitted now through March 4, 2021, and sent in as a Word document to editor@airfactsjournal.com. In addition, young pilots are required to submit a 100-word bio to accompany their articles.



How to Reach NAFI

For communication regarding your NAFI membership, contact NAFI Administrative Coordinator Sharon Tackabury at stackabury@NAFInet.org

For issues related to advertising and sponsorships, contact NAFI's Director of Business Development Matt Matthias at mmathias@NAFInet.org

For marketing and communications coordination, contact NAFI Director of Marketing Communications Laurretta Godbey at lgodbey@NAFInet.org

For information about NAFI programs, contact NAFI Director of Program Development John Niehaus at jniehaus@NAFInet.org

To reach the NAFI Board of Directors, contact NAFI Board Chair Robert Meder at rmeder@NAFInet.org

If you have story submissions, comments, or suggestions regarding NAFI's print or electronic publications, contact NAFI's Director of

Publications & Editor
David Hipschman at editor@NAFInet.org



National Association of Flight Instructors
866.806.6156 | editor@NAFInet.org | www.NAFInet.org
3101 East Milham
Portage, MI 49002

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