



FAA Production Studio News

September 2003

ASC of the Year 2003

By Cheryl DeFilippo & Hugh Hardy
FAA Production Studio Staff

On September 6, during the Annual ASC Planning meeting, at the studio, we were very pleased to be a part of honoring the Orlando FSDO's ASC of the Year for 2003.

Walter S. Schamel became active in aviation safety even before there was a FAA Aviation Safety Program. In 1968 Walt was holding safety meetings in Rolla, Missouri. After the Aviation Safety Program was established at the FAA, Walt continued to participate as an Aviation Safety Counselor in nine different FSDO's. When Walt "officially" retired from the FAA he continued to work in and for the FAA Aviation Safety Program. In 1997 Walt continued to dedicate his life to aviation and aviation safety and was appointed an *Aviation Safety Counselor* with the Orlando Flight Standards District Office. Walt 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 as evidenced by the following activities:

FAA PRODUCTION CREW

Walt currently serves as an *ASC Staff member* and *Member* of the prestigious, one-of-a-kind, FSDO-15 *FAA Production Crew*. He has volunteered numerous hours at the FAA Safety Center in Lakeland, Florida, to learn and acquire the techniques of operating the special equipment necessary to produce the safety videos that have had local, regional, and national impact on aviation safety related subjects. Walt is always willing to jump

in and learn or teach a new counselor any station! He has been particularly instrumental in working with projects for the International Acrobatic Club, Civil Air Patrol, FAA Designated Pilot Examiner Program, Seaplane Pilot Program and many more. He helps promote an efficient and relaxed atmosphere for preparing nervous, and even experienced, speakers for going on stage!

His pleasant personality has been a great asset for our public relations! He can be *counted on* to present at and support any task at seminars that are planned throughout the year! One of those planned special events is the *Sun 'n Fun* event that is anxiously anticipated every April! Walt has served for years as the Master of Ceremonies at the FAA Forums presented to audiences from all over the country and several foreign countries!

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Walt currently serves as a member of our *ASC Speakers Bureau*, which requires a great deal of personal contact and telephone follow-up regarding

the logistics of scheduling the speaking engagements. The Speakers Bureau services the Orlando FSDO's large geographic area between Jacksonville and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Walt has spoken at many locations inside and outside of the district and during special events at the FAA Safety Center and Production Studios in Lakeland, Florida.

YOUTH WORK

Walt has worked to educate young people about the joys and opportunities in aviation. Walt has given airport and airplane



tours at numerous airports and bases, assisted as a pilot in the EAA Young Eagle Program, and worked with local Cub and Boy Scout units. Walt served on a special committee that formed in November 1997 that coordinated a month long *Aviation Orientation Project* for the Boy Scouts in January 1998. Troops in Sanford, Orlando, Kissimmee, Winter Haven, Lakeland, and Tampa, Florida participated in the month long event. The project ended with a three day camp out at Sun 'n Fun complex that included control tower tours, museum tours, corporate hangar tours, special seminars and flights for over 100 scouts. Walt truly works wonders with kids.

WINGS WEEKEND

Walt has volunteered his many talents to support the *District wide "Wings-Weekend"* Program that takes place each March. Walt has signed approximately 58 Wings certification forms in the past twelve months for pilots ranging from the private to the ATP. Walt is a member of the Florida Flight Instructor Association and National Association of Flight Instructors. Walt has also been awarded the prestigious Mater Flight Instructor Award. Walt instructs pilots almost daily and always includes the Wings Program in all levels of training. Through his personal dedication he produces outstanding safe pilots. As an active CAP Flight Instructor Walt works with pilots to maintain currency and earn their Wings throughout the year. He submits timely reports with names and phases for wings certificates.

AVIATION SAFETY COUNSELOR

Being the professional aviator that Walt is, he has responded to the numerous requests from pilots and flight instructors to counsel local aviators about various flying procedures and regulations. He encourages and assists the newly appointed ASC's to participate in the safety program. Walt has also participated and supported the *PACE*, Pilot and Aircraft Courtesy Evaluations, in our district this past year. Walt also assisted with the *Charles Taylor Awards* program. The list of aviation programs that Walt supports with his time, energy, money, enthusiasm is long and distinguished.

RECRUITMENT OF NEW AVIATION SAFETY COUNSELORS

While being highly visible in the local communities, attending aviation functions and making safety presentations as a Counselor, volunteering for Civil Air Patrol, and the North Florida Aviation Safety Foundation, as a full time Flight Instructor, Walt has recruited several new and talented ASC's into our FSDO Safety Program Team!

Many thanks also to Mr. Ken Spivey, Regional Safety Program Manager; Walter Wilson, SPM & Rene Alvarez, SPM, from Miami; Buz Massengale, SPM, Tampa, Bill Hoenstine, SPM, Orlando and Ben Coleman, SPM, Orlando, for being with us for the day.

Many thanks to the Production Studio Crew...! We had a great day with many of our new Crew members shadowing experienced Crew members for training... Super Job to Everyone...!!!

