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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOHN "MIKE" HARDIN EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

KALAMAZOO, MI — 2/26/2024 The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member John "Mike" Hardin has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor. This is Hardin's third NAFI Master accreditation.

Hardin grew up spending time at Terrell Municipal Airport (KTRL) in Texas. He said his earliest memory of aviation is flying with his dad at the age of six. In 1999, he started flight training at age 13 and earned his instrument, commercial, and CFI in 2008 while working at his family's FBO, Terrell



Aviation. He earned his MEI in 2010 and started his own flight school, Mike's Flying Service, a year later specializing in accelerated multi-engine training in a Piper Apache. In 2012, Hardin earned his CFII and in 2014 obtained A&P certification with inspection authorization, and his Gold Seal flight instructor.

In 2018, he celebrated hitting 10,000 hours by getting his seaplane ratings in a Piper Super Cruiser and a Grumman Widgeon. With more than 11,000 hours and 6,000 dual given, Hardin has flown more than 60 aircraft types. He has served as the Region 11 director of the Ercoupe Owners Club since 2013. He has ferried planes, flown pipeline aerial patrol in Cessna Cardinals, and flown for local clients. Most of his time is spent instructing in everything from Ercoupes to King Airs.

*The **NAFI Master Flight Instructor Accreditation** is earned by aviation educators based upon a system of advanced professional standards and peer review. The accreditation identifies and publicly recognizes those teachers of flight who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth, and service to the aviation community. The NAFI Master Instructor accreditation is for two years and may be used to renew an FAA flight instructor certificate. Applicants must have been a CFI for*

two years and have given 1,000 hours of flight instruction. In addition, candidates must meet and document activity in four NAFI Master Instructor categories (Instructor, Educator, Service to the Aviation Community, and Professional Activity).

*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 thirty countries, 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. For more information about NAFI or the NAFI Master Instructor program call **866-806-6156** or visit www.NAFINet.org.*