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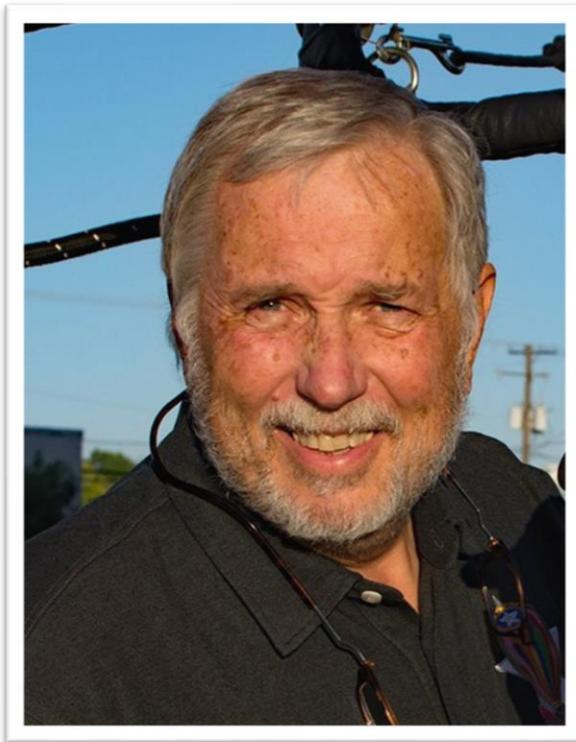
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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Kent J. Barnes Earns Elite Balloon Instructor Accreditation!

12/23/2019 The Elite Balloon Instructor Committee is proud to announce Mr. Kent J. Barnes as an Elite Balloon Instructor!

Barnes, from Murray, UT, currently serves as Assistant Chief Instructor at Balloon the Rockies, a part 141 Flight School. He began with Balloon the Rockies in 2008 as a flight instructor. Barnes has over 1,550 hours LTA PIC time which includes over 680 hours of providing instruction to students.



As an instructor, Barnes has successfully trained many students to their LTA balloon rating. With student's, Barnes is regarded as calm, yet effective. Former student, Derek Mortensen, recalls, "I lacked confidence in my first few lessons. In hind sight, I made some ridiculous errors, but Kent always remained cool and collected. His ability to foresee a balloons path is remarkable."

As an educator, Barnes has developed a pre solo written exam, and private pilot training guide. Barnes has also organized a local safety seminar – orchestrating scheduling, venue and speakers. The seminars are known to be well run and provide great learning opportunities.

Barnes has provided great service to the aviation community and has kept his own professional education up to date. Barnes is recognized by the

local FAA FSDO as being the "balloon person" for the office. Barnes is highly regarded by the FAA for his "dedication to safety, passing his knowledge on to future generations of balloonists, and passion."

Elite Balloon Instructor

The Elite Balloon Instructor Program fueled by the National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) was created to differentiate between commercial balloon pilots. In the ballooning community, all commercial pilots are considered flight instructors. The Elite Balloon Instructor Program will separate those who provide flight instruction and are raising and maintaining the professional standing of the flight instructor in the ballooning community.

To learn more about the program visit: <https://www.theballoontrainingacademy.com/ebi/> or email theballoontrainingacademy@gmail.com

The Balloon Training Academy

The Balloon Training Academy is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with a mission to bring the launch field to students across the USA. Through online ground schools, flight instructor refresher courses, continuing education courses, and flight training syllabus we make quality hot air balloon education readily available. To learn more visit: www.theballoontrainingacademy.com

National Association of Flight instructors

Since 1967, NAFI dedicates its efforts exclusively to “raising and maintaining the professional standing of the flight instructor in the aviation community.” NAFI’s renowned Master Flight Instructor program is recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration and showcases CFIs who are raising the bar on flight instruction. NAFI is proud to fuel the Elite Balloon Instructor program! To learn more about NAFI visit www.nafinet.org