



For more information contact:
John Niehaus
Director of Program Development
National Association of Flight Instructors
(269) 355-6500
jniehaus@nafinet.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KAREN A. KALISHEK EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

KALAMAZOO, MI — 04/19/2017 The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Karen A. Kalishek has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor.

Kalishek holds ATP, MEI, CFII, IGI, and AGI certificates, along with commercial privileges for single-engine seaplane and glider. She anticipates earning the CFI-G in 2017 and using it actively for Civil Air Patrol and glider club training.



Kalishek started flying lessons in the 1980s but as sometimes happens, life got in the way. After resuming lessons in 2005 as a "bucket list" item, she said the aviation bug bit hard, with a clench that has grown only stronger over time. Transitioning to a new career of flight instruction became her goal, she said. At the time, she was working as an independent consultant and travelling internationally 75 percent of each year. Kalishek began part-time instructing in 2010 and after 20 years of international work, transitioned into full-time independent flight instructing in 2015.

While still a student pilot, Kalishek said she discovered a love of antique aircraft and has been privileged to fly numerous "low and slow" taildraggers. Her personal aircraft is an RV-6. After discovering that two Kalishek sisters were aerobatic pilots and wingwalkers early in the 20th century, she and her sister carried on the flame, wing-walking on the top wing of a Stearman while the pilot performed loops, rolls and Immelmans.

Kalishek founded an IMC Club in 2014 that continues to grow. She has volunteered in the EAA Pilot Proficiency Center since 2014. Active in the Civil Air Patrol as an instructor and mission pilot, as well as holding other duty assignments, she volunteers more than 300 hours per year for CAP activities, and is a FAAS Team lead representative for the Milwaukee FSDO. Kalishek said she believes that it is a sense of community that keeps many general aviation pilots flying. To support this, she actively organizes fly-ins and aviation educational activities throughout the year. Kalishek said that flight lessons should end with a smiling student who feels a sense of accomplishment.

*The **NAFI Master Flight Instructor program** is the longest running and most prestigious FAA accredited master flight instructor program in the industry. The NAFI Master 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 30 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.*