



For more information contact:

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRED L. GIBBS EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

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The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Fred L. Gibbs has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor.

Gibbs' actual aviation career started in 1971 when he was hired by the FAA, and started out in the flight service station in Williamsport, PA, the home of Lycoming Aircraft engines and right down the street from Lockhaven, the birthplace of Piper Aircraft. He put his flight service knowledge to work for the local FBO, trading knowledge (in ground school teaching) for flight time, and as a student pilot, "hob-knobbing" with all the Piper test pilots and gaining experience flying all over the East coast with his instructors delivering Lycoming engine parts late at night. Gibbs actually worked with the local "GADO" offices back then, doing education programs with the same examiners he flew with for his ratings, and even flew within the FAA's internal 4040.9 flight programs, one of the very few from within the Air Traffic organization actually allowed in! Gibbs eventually qualified for the Airline Transport Pilot certificate under that internal FAA program.

Gibbs holds an ATP CFII ASMEL Gold Seal, with over 17,500 hours of flight time, and over 13,200 hours of instructor time. He has been an instrument flight instructor (CFII-SMEL) since 1976, as well as a



certified Cirrus Factory-certified flight instructor since 2008. After retiring from the FAA, Gibbs became the assistant chief pilot at the Freeway, MD airport, a very active Part 141 flight school in Maryland. Upon relocating to Flagstaff, AZ, he assumed the role of Director/Chief Flight Instructor at the local FBO there. Gibbs has flown about every GA aircraft around, has extensive conventional gear experience, and is a very experienced instrument instructor. Gibbs credits his FAA ATC and Flight Service Station experience and knowledge for much of the success and opportunities he has enjoyed through the years. He also owns and operates his own aircraft, a restored and meticulously maintained 1973 Bellanca Super Viking. Gibbs has flown under the FAA's internal flying program, and has been an FAA safety counselor at large for the past 44 years. He is also a FAAST Team Lead Representative for the Scottsdale FSDO, active in the FAA's "Wings" programs, serve on the Board of Directors for the Arizona Pilots Association, is the Safety and Education Director for the Arizona Pilots Association, and was a Captain in the Civil Air Patrol serving as the safety officer/check pilot for the local squadron in Flagstaff.

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 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.*