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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MARK COOK EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION**

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

Cook says he knew he wanted to be a pilot since high school and his first airplane ride in Boeing 707. After obtaining his private pilot certificate becoming an airport rat, Larry Diffley, the owner of Bemidji Aviation Services, Inc. encouraged Cook to obtaining his commercial rating and switch careers and go to work for him.

Cook started his professional pilot career as night “freight dog” flying Beech Queen Airs. He sought his initial CFI because Cook he the ability to provide flight instruction to his friends. Cook is currently working as contract pilot for three construction companies and as an independent flight instructor. He has remained an active CFI who has a special fondness for tail wheel, skis and float plane instruction.

While working at Bemidji Aviation Cook developed a Part 61 flight training program that continues successfully today. As a Minneapolis FSDO FAA Safety Team Representative, Cook has hosted and presented aviation safety seminars throughout northern Minnesota, on topics ranging from winter



operations to airplane performance. The highlight of his instructional career was signing the endorsements for his wife Dawn's initial CFI ride (she passed).

He currently holds Commercial, Multi-Engine, Instrument as well as CFI-CFII-IGI and is commercial drone operator. Cook has flown over 7400 hours with 1800 hours of instruction given, and flown over 50 different types of airplanes. He enjoys flying his Champion 7GCB on his free days.

*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](http://www.NAFINet.org).*