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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOM ROGERS EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

KALAMAZOO, MI — 5/11/2022 The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Tom Rogers has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor.

Rogers began flying at age 16 at the now closed Ramapo airport in New York. His family moved to California where he finished his Private Pilot at age 17 at the El Monte airport.



Rogers attended Arizona State University, majoring in Aeronautical Technology. As part of the curriculum he completed his Commercial, Instrument, CFI, CFII, and all levels of ground instructor certificates at the Phoenix Airport and Falcon Field in Mesa, Arizona. His first instructor job was in the Phoenix area in 1976 and he has held his CFI ever since, accumulating thousands of hours teaching.

After completing his Bachelor of Science in 1978, he was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force, where he completed pilot training in 1980. After initial qualifications he became an instructor at Williams AFB, now Williams Gateway airport in Arizona. There he accumulated 1,300 hours instructing in the T-37B primary jet trainer. His next assignment was in the F-15 and he eventually became a four-hip flight lead and instructor. After 10 years on active duty, traveling four continents, he was hired by Alaska Airlines. Rogers continued serving in the Air National Guard and has completed 25 years of service, retiring as a Lt Colonel.

Rogers spent 31 years at Alaska Airlines, over 24 as a senior captain, retiring in 2020. Initially he flew the Boeing 727 as both an engineer and first officer. Rogers upgraded to captain on the 737-200 based in Anchorage. Finally completing his career on all variants of the B-737 NG Series based in Seattle. One of his accomplishments at Alaska Airlines was establishing Aviation Day where the airline opened its hangar and flight operations buildings to over 1,000 youth for an in-depth view of aviation careers. He managed the program for 10 years before his retirement, working with over 350 volunteers and the youth each year. In 2012 he was selected as an Alaska Airlines legend, an award given to less than 2 percent the airline's employees for exceptional service to the airline and community.

Throughout his flying career he continued to stay active in general aviation. While in Arizona he instructed aerobatics at Chandler Air Service in a Great Lakes; in the Seattle area it was the Boeing Employees Flying Association. Rogers earned his Single-Engine Sea rating, and after attaining over 100 hours flying all over the Pacific northwest and British Columbia went on to instruct at the Renton Airport in seaplanes. He instructed in the DHC2 Beaver, Cessna 180 and 172XP on floats. Since his retirement from Alaska he has concentrated his flight instruction on tailwheel operations, upset prevention and recovery, CFI candidate spin training and mountain flying courses. His tailwheel instruction is in the Citabria and Super Decathlon. He has built a significant amount of time in the PT17 Stearman and T6 as well as YKS7 Cabin Waco aircraft.

Rogers is a FAA Team representative and gives presentations around the Pacific northwest on non-towered airport operations, loss of control and spin training. He has accumulated over 24,000 hours in over 50 years of flying.

*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.*