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PMOPA SEF Introduces New Piper M-Class Training Programs

Austin, TX, November 4, 2024 – Dedicated to safety, advocacy, and community, the Piper M-Class Owners & Pilots Association (PMOPA) held its annual convention and fly-in in Austin, TX, November 1-3. The convention, which attracted over 300 attendees and 65 owner-flown aircraft to the Austin Executive Airport, featured 29 high-quality educational sessions, an exhibit hall packed with service providers who have specialty products and services for the Piper M-Class (PA-46) aircraft, and interactions with like-minded, passionate aviators.

At the convention, the PMOPA Safety & Education Foundation (PMOPA SEF) unveiled its newest safety initiatives: the M-Class Elevate training program and the M-Class Standardized Instructor Pilot (MSIP) program. M-Class Elevate was designed to provide Piper M-Class owners and pilots with consistent, quality training and proficiency in flying in order to reduce accidents. The corresponding MSIP program recognizes those certificated flight instructors (CFIs) who have experience instructing in Piper M-Class aircraft and commit to using the M-Class Elevate program. Twenty-three CFIs were recognized in the inaugural MSIP class.

According to PMOPA CEO Mike Nichols, “M-Class Elevate was created by leading M-Class flight instructors, with guidance from external training experts from other owner pilot associations, to provide a comprehensive curriculum based on best practices in owner-flown aircraft training to help pilots become safer and more proficient.” M-Class Elevate focuses on Risk Management and Decision Making, Aeronautical Knowledge and Systems, Avionics and Panel Instruments, and Flight Procedures and Proficiency.

Dr. Manny Casiano, PMOPA SEF Chair added, “Our M-Class aircraft offer superior performance capabilities, enabling faster and longer travel. This demands not only a comprehensive understanding of advanced technical systems but also the development of skills for flying with higher power, speed, and altitude. M-Class Elevate emphasizes skills development and is designed to improve pilot capabilities and reduce our accident rate.”

Pilots new to the Piper M-Class will complete an initial training event which will address the M-Class Elevate curriculum. Subsequent training events such as recurrent training and focused training will allow the pilot and instructor to delve deeper into specific content areas to more fully develop the pilot’s knowledge, skills, and abilities.

PMOPA SEF recognized twenty-three flight instructors under the new MSIP program at a Gala Dinner on Saturday, November 2:

- Daniel Archer, MSIP Gold CFI
- William Archer, MSIP Platinum CFI



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- Zac Armstrong, MSIP Platinum CFI
- Christopher Carmody, MSIP Platinum CFI
- Deanna Casey, MSIP Platinum CFI
- Joe Casey, MSIP Platinum CFI
- Ferenc Csatlós, MSIP Platinum CFI
- Edward De Coito, MSIP Gold CFI
- Hank Gibson, MSIP Platinum CFI
- Darwin Haines, MSIP Gold CFI
- Jerry Hinshaw, MSIP Gold CFI
- Lester J. Kyle, Jr. , MSIP Platinum CFI
- John Mariani, MSIP Platinum CFI
- David McVinnie, MSIP Platinum CFI
- Jacob Meyer, MSIP Gold CFI
- Neil Olufsen, MSIP CFI
- Thomas Rau, MSIP Gold CFI
- Victor Rivas, MSIP Platinum CFI
- Arnold Sperling, M.D. , MSIP Gold CFI
- Nicholas Theyer, MSIP Gold CFI
- Rick Tutt, MSIP Platinum CFI

For more information about the programs, click here: <https://www.pmopa.com/training>

Next year's PMOPA Convention will be held September 11-14, 2025 at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva, WI.

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ABOUT PMOPA

The Piper M-Class Owners & Pilots Association (PMOPA) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the interests and safety of owners and pilots of Piper M-Class aircraft worldwide. Formerly MMOPA, PMOPA was founded in 1988, and now serves over 1,100 members. Membership is available to any current or prospective owner and/or pilot or any qualifying individual involved with or providing a service for the M-Class family of aircraft.