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REDBIRD AND THE RAF PARTNER ON EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR RECREATIONAL AND BACKCOUNTRY FLYING

Lakeland, FL (April 9, 2024) – Today at the 2024 SUN ‘n FUN Aerospace Expo, Redbird Flight (Redbird) and the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) announced a new initiative to increase the awareness, accessibility, and safety of recreational flying.

Identifying a shortage of marketing and training materials that support pilots and prospective pilots in pursuing and developing their interests and skills in off-airport, backcountry, and recreational flying, the organizations are creating a catalog of resources covering topics such as practical flying skills and habits, planning and preparation, basic survival and first aid, and gear recommendations and usage.

“The pilot shortage has caused many flight training providers to focus their operations primarily on recruiting and training professional pilot candidates,” said Redbird COO Charlie Gregoire. “Consequently, pilots interested in pursuing recreational flying opportunities are left with little support beyond the typical \$100 hamburger run. This new initiative with the RAF will broaden exposure to the many flying activities outside of training for a new certificate or rating and arm pilots with information for how to approach them safely.”

Initial areas of focus include the following:

- What to pack and avoid packing for recreational flying adventures
- How to evaluate a potential landing zone
- How to read the wind without ATIS (or even a windsock)
- When to land (or not land) with a tailwind
- Non-standard traffic patterns
- Basic first aid and triage
- Leave-no-trace and good-neighbor flying

Over the next 18 months, Redbird will release the materials in written and video formats at no cost to pilots or training providers. Additionally, the organizations are collaborating on training scenarios for Redbird’s subscription-based personalized proficiency training app, Redbird Pro.

“This partnership with Redbird is exciting and yet one more piece in the aviation puzzle,” said RAF Chairman John McKenna. “We hope this excites a few more folks about aviation and perhaps the joy of recreational flying.”

Redbird manufactured a special edition of its MX2 aviation training device with a custom RAF livery to raise awareness of the initiative. The organizations are showcasing it in the Redbird booth (NE-51, NE-52) this week at the SUN ‘n FUN Aerospace Expo and in July at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. Pilots and prospective pilots are welcome to demo the device and try their hand at flying a series of recreational flying scenarios.

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About Redbird Flight

Redbird Flight was established in 2006 to make aviation more accessible through modern technology and careful engineering. Since its inception, the company has delivered innovative, reliable, and high-quality training devices, applications, and content to flight schools, colleges, universities, K-12 schools, and individual pilots worldwide. With more than 3,000 devices in service globally, Redbird has quickly become the fastest growing and most innovative provider of flight training technology in the industry. For more information, please visit www.redbirdflight.com.

About the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF)

The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) was founded by a group of Montana pilots who realized that the threat of recreational airstrip closure was of national concern. They also recognized that there was the need for a unified effort by pilots everywhere to protect public recreational opportunities. The RAF is dedicated to preserving existing airstrips and creating new public-use recreational airstrips throughout the United States. For more information, please visit theraf.org