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**MINUTES**  
**Soaring Safety Foundation**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting April 18, 2024**

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84054326546?pwd=bBpggRIVQcf7O0fq4qAdCvIZ40diS5.1>

Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM EDT by Chair Richard Carlson

SSF Trustees Attending: Rich Carlson, Ron Ridenour (Treasurer), Tom Johnson,  
Steve Dee, Burt Compton

SSF Trustees unable to attend: None.

SSF Advisors Attending: Pat Costello, Tony Condon, Russ Howard, Glenn Collins

SSA Members Attending: None.

**Approve Previous Trustee Meeting Minutes:** October 24, 2023 virtual meeting.

Motion to Approve by RR Second by TJ

These approved minutes to be transmitted by BC to SSF webmaster Brent Eigsti:

[brent@arrowheadim.com](mailto:brent@arrowheadim.com)

## **Trustee Reports:**

### **Richard Carlson, Chairman's Report**

Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC):

FIRC's in 2024. 131 paid attendees + 2 comped.

Updates on the FIRC Authorization and schedule.

2024 FIRC Schedule and Venues published on the SSF webpage.

Virtual FIRC's are an option.

Changes to FIRC test: Updating slide presentations summer 2024.

Current FIRC Handout: "Eighty One"

Glenn Collins: WINGS (*list of courses = 12*)

12: Bronze Badge, Freedom Wings course,

SSF Website: Tracking Towplot course(147)

and Wing Runner course participants. (848)

SSA Website updating.

RC, GC and RR participating in website work groups.

**Trustee Renewals:** (RC to update list on SSF website.)

Steve Dee and Ron Ridenour expire Dec 31, 2024

Rich Carlson and Tom Johnson expire Dec 31, 2026

**RC** Reports to the SSA Board of Directors / SOARING magazine submitted.

**RC** Engaging the Soaring magazine editor David Hart regarding  
SSF pre-publication peer review of training and safety articles.

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**Trustee Reports, *continued*:**

**Burt Compton**

**Report on** Managing SSA Convention SSF Booth at Knoxville, TN

Next SSA Convention in October 22-26, 2024 at Knoxville, TN.

BC to confirm SSF Booth location in the hall with SSA.

Condition of the SSF Booth display. Generously donated by Pat Costello years ago, SSF Safety Seminar on opening night of the 2023 SSA Convention at Reno attracted 121 attendees. For Knoxville BC will coordinate with Knoxville FSDO WINGS manager.

Outreach Mailers: "Could This Be You?"

Mailers that describe the outreach programs of the SSF and SSF website resources.

2024. First mailings of approximately 248 letters per mailing to all SSA Chapters

(Clubs and Commercial Operators) and all SSA Directors and Governors.

A second mailing will be in early fall 2024 before the SSA Convention.

500 Mailers and Envelopes w/ SSF logo and Hobbs address ordered October 2023.

Site Surveys in 2023. Ten. Alabama (2), Colorado, Illinois (2), Michigan (2), Ohio (1), Texas (2). 140 Site Surveys in 34 States conducted since 2001.

Site Surveys in 2024. So far, Alabama (1), California (2) cancelled due to rain.

Survey Requests include California, Texas, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois.

Common observations include poor launch point organization, poor use of checklists, unsafe operations for "convenience" such as intersection takeoffs and downwind landings towards gliders at the launch point. Slow clearing gliders off the landing area.

Observed Club CFGI proficiency can be marginal. Training syllabi inconsistent.

In addition to the SSA wanting "more CFGI's", we need to cultivate "excellent CFGI's."

Lack of "club management" regarding club pilots and visiting pilots' pilot certificates,

The visiting pilots' currency and proficiency was also an issue.

**BC:** Added Scenario Training with Feedback from Students and MESA concept.

Clubs encouraged to renew pilots' Flight Review specifically in Glider category.

Discussions of Winch Launches "gone wrong" and Kiting" of the glider on tow.

**BC:** Post Site Survey follow up by e-mail to the club contact person about specific issues observed and discussed in order to confirm implementation of changes.

Lack of implementation will be noted. Repeat visits to sites necessary.

Get commitments from club leadership for a follow-up Site Survey within 24 months.

**BC** contributed to Pat Costello's powerpoint script on "Management and Insurance" based on the "Safety Officer Training Guide" and Site Survey observations.

Currently presented at all Site Surveys as part of the "Club Management" section of the Site Survey debriefing.

**BC.** Participation 2023: FAA Glider Webinar hosted by Stephen K. Brown (FAA.)

Participation 2024: International Vintage Sailplane Meet on Harris Hill near Elmira, NY.

**Trustee Reports, *continued*:**

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**Ron Ridenour, Treasurer's Report & Budget** (e-mailed Trustees as separate files.)  
SSA financial reports to the SSF Treasurer – quality of data from SSA office.  
Deposits from FIRC credit card fees.

Budget Approval for 2024. Motion TJ, Second BC Pass.  
Wing Runner Pins for SSA HQ.  
EGU Dues.

Approved financial reports to be transmitted by Ron Ridenour  
to SSF webmaster Brent Eigsti: [brent@arrowheadim.com](mailto:brent@arrowheadim.com)

**Tom Johnson:**

Pins for SSF Wingrunner Course.  
SSF Safety Seminars in 2023: Four.  
Currently Planned Seminars in 2024:  
Continuing advertising the SSF programs in SOARING magazine.  
SSA Instructor (SSAI) 5 year Renewal reminder advert in SOARING.  
Postcards mailed promoting FIRC's in 2024 w/Russ Howard  
Flight Time Data Postcards for 2024.  
Attending working group of the General Aviation Joint Steering Committee.  
Involvement with NTSB on accident analysis.

**Stephen Dee:** SSA Convention at Reno. Self-Launch / Motorglider Safety Seminar.  
Article in SOARING magazine. Two FIRC's.

**Reports / Comments by SSF Advisors:**

**Pat Costello:**

**Old Business:**

Movement by FAA on Exemption Request / Modification 61.56 FOR FLIGHT REVIEW REQUIREMENT  
for Transition Pilots for Glider Solo endorsement per 61.31(d).

MOSAIC proposal to extend Light Sport to heavier airplanes which may allow  
LSA and Experimental airplanes to be used as Towplanes.

Towpilots still need to meet the training and endorsements requirements of FAR 61.69.

*Rich Carlson requests input from SSF Trustees and Advisors.*

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**New Business:**

Ron Ridenour reports discussions within the SSA Board of Directors considering integrating the SSF and our [www.soaringsafety.org](http://www.soaringsafety.org) website onto the [www.ssa.org](http://www.ssa.org) website. Discussion regarding maintaining current and future content.

Ron Ridenour. CFG Camps. SSF should support.

Rich Carlson.

OSTIV. Rich Carlson is co-chairman of OSTIV Training & Safety Panel with Sweden's Henrik Svensson. Upcoming TSP meeting to be virtual.

Burt Compton: Advisors involvement.  
What do they think about the SSF missions and how they can actively participate.

**Next SSF Trustees Meeting:**

Possibly in conjunction with the fall SSA Board meeting.

**Adjourn:** Motion by SD, Second by RR  
Approved at 9:04 PM EDT.  
MEETING ADJOURNED.