

Soaring Safety Foundation Activities Update
By the Soaring Safety Foundation Trustees and Advisors

The Soaring Safety Foundation is the training and safety arm of the SSA. It has a five member Board of Trustees and multiple advisors who help develop and run in-person, virtual, and on-line programs. Below is a quick summary of the current SSF activities.

SSF WINGS activities managed by Glenn Collins

For many years the Soaring Safety Foundation has encouraged pilot participation in the FAA's Pilot Proficiency Program known as WINGS. This program is available to all pilots from those holding a student pilot certificate through Airline Transport Pilot. The basic premise of WINGS is to encourage pilots to engage in a continual learning process where ground and flight training is a regular aspect of their flying routine.

Details about the FAA's Safety Team web site (<https://faasafety.gov>) and the WINGS program have been discussed in multiple issues of SOARING from the CAP Corner article in March 2020 to the SSF's Safety Program articles in August and September of 2022.

The WINGS program, however, does not contain a whole lot of glider specific content. Although most of the knowledge activities are applicable to soaring, the examples you'll find in the courses are focused on the airplane community. There are also a limited number of glider specific flight activities. The Soaring Safety Foundation identified these shortcomings a while ago. The SSF has now been designated as a WINGS provider. This allows us to draft WINGS accredited knowledge and flight activities. The process is still in the early stages. To date; we have added two knowledge activities and seven flight activities to the WINGS program.

SSA members who currently take the Wing Runner course or the Tow Pilot course can request and earn WINGS credit. After completing the course you will reach a page to enter your information in order to take the short quiz. At this point you may optionally request WINGS credit if you pass this quiz. You'll need to provide the e-mail address you registered with on the FAA Safety Team website (<https://faasafety.gov>). This e-mail is the only way we have to access your WINGS account and issue the knowledge credits. Failure to have an account on the FAA Safety Team website will prevent us from granting you this WINGS knowledge credit.

The SSF flight activities can be issued by any instructor or requested by the pilot. The initial batch of new activities provides WINGS credit for each of the three launch endorsements and the A, B and C badges. We even threw in a course in



for our airplane friends who qualify to tow gliders. The table below highlights the new SSF sponsored WINGS activities.

SSF Safety Seminar managed by Tom Johnson SSF Trustee

You can invite a speaker from the SSF to come to your safety event. We will provide lively interactive discussion on the topics you choose. We will bring a national perspective to your local issues. Attendees are highly encouraged to participate and voice their opinions about the issues being discussed.

If you would like us to come to your event, contact Tom at tjj757@live.com. We will set a date and time, and determine what topics you want us to discuss. The discussion can be as short as 30 minutes, or as long as three hours. We will prepare a PowerPoint presentation that you may keep. We just ask for adequate space and a projector and screen.

We need about one week to prepare the presentation. We can do the seminars in-person or virtually if desired. The cost is \$300 payable to the SSF.

SSF Site Survey managed by Burt Compton SSF Trustees

The SSF must be invited by the club or commercial operation to conduct the FREE Site Survey. The SSF has conducted 136 Site Surveys conducted across the USA since 2001. This program is based on a similar Swedish Soaring Federation program. We are presently taking dates for Site Surveys in 2024 (including winter in the sunbelt.) The Safety Officer Training Guide offers past observations that could help a club's safety culture.

For more information refer to the March 2020 Safety Program article for more details. You can also find more details in the Safety Officer Training Guide on the SSF web site at <https://www.soaringsafety.org/publications/Safety-Officer-Training-Guide.pdf>

SSF Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC) managed by Richard Carlson SSF Chairman

The SSF operates a FAA approved, glider focused, FIRC during the winter months every year. Flight instructors must renew their certificate every 24 calendar months and a FIRC is one way to do this. While this FIRC is glider focused, any CFI can use it to renew, so tow-pilots or non-glider CFIs you know can take advantage of this class.

During the pandemic the SSF ran virtual FIRCs, returning to in-person classes last year. The SSF expects to run 10-11 in-person FIRCs between November 2023 and April 2024. A current schedule can always be found at





<https://www.soaringsafety.org/outreach/FIRC.html> Check frequently for updates.

Contact the listed SSF Trustee for more information on scheduling a Site Survey or Safety Seminar, or to see about hosting a glider focused FIRC for your instructors.

Safe Soaring:

The SSF Trustees and Advisors

Activity Number	Activity Name	Knowledge			Flight		
		Basic	Advance	Master	Basic	Advance	Master
SSF-Tow-Pilot-Flight	ASEL-Glider Tow Pilot Flight Training				3	2	2
SSF- Launch-Aero	G- Aero Tow Launch Endorsement				1	1	1
SSF-Launch-Self	G- Self Launch Endorsement				1	1	2
SSF-Launch-Grnd	G-Ground Launch Endorsement				1	2	2
SSF-A-Badge	G-SSA A-Badge				1	2	2
SSF-B-Badge	G-SSA B-Badge				2	2	2
SSF-C-Badge	G-SSA C-Badge				3	2	2
SSF-WingRunner	G-Wing Runner Course	3					
SSF-Tow-Pilot-Grnd	ASEL-Glider Tow Pilot Ground Training	3	2	2			

