

SSS Flight Instructor and Club Training Newsletter.

Welcome to the new monthly 'SSS Flight Instructor and Club Training Newsletter'. I am happy to be a part of the SSS training team. Future Newsletters will also be offering you continued education on glider / soaring related issues.

This issue will get us up to speed on the state of the SSS training program so far in 2009.

Thank you in advance for reading our monthly newsletter.

1.0 Completed students and pilots of 2009.

- 1.1 We have completed three transitions to date. Mr. Steve Bryant, Mr. Nate Stockham and Mr. Robert Watson have all been transitioned successful thus far.
- 1.2 We have conducted three flight reviews to date. Mr. Steve Bair, Mr. Bob Hey and Mr. John Mansfield have completed their required part 61.56 training requirements successfully.
- 1.3 We had a successful revalidation of Mr. Billy Singleton's Glider DPE by the FAA Little Rock, Arkansas FSDO (Inspector Mr. McFarland).
- 1.4 We have soloed 7 (seven) students this year. Mr. Steve Bryant, Mr. Robert Griffith, Mr. Casey Henderson, Mr. Russell (Russ) Holcombe, Mr. Nate Stockham, Mr. Jock Thacker and Mr. Robert Watson. Nice job gentlemen. Thank you for your dedication to your training.
- 1.5 We have completed a number of cockpit check-outs and aircraft familiarization endorsements for our members. It is good to see our pilots working on their skills by learning a new machine.
- 1.6 We have completed a number of spin training evolutions in the L-13. Of course this is mandatory training for my students prior to solo.
- 1.7 We have completed a number of FAST packages to date for the club.

2.0 Current students and pilots of 2009.

- 2.1 Three initial students are in the wings of completing their training for a private glider pilot certificate. Those three are Mr. Robert Griffith, Mr. Russell Holcombe and Mr. Jock Thacker.
- 2.2 We also have one student in training that is a year from legally being able to obtain a private glider pilot certificate. Mr. Casey Henderson is just now 15 years old and requires another year before he can complete his

glider private pilot certificate. Casey recently transitioned to the SGS 1-26. Congratulations Casey on his first single seat check-out.

3.0 Known and upcoming training needs.

- 3.1 Currently we know that we have Mr. Tim Lockert working on his commercial glider pilot certificate.
- 3.2 Tim will also be training for the CFGI (Certified Flight Instructor Glider) later this year. This is a real plus for the club if you ask me. Tim is highly educated in soaring and gliders with many years of experience to offer the future SSS members as they train for re-currency, proficiency and new certificates. He has a lot to offer as a CFGI for the SSS.
- 3.3 We also have a possible CFGI in training with Mr. Jim Locke. He is like Tim in that he has a lot of experience as well to offer the SSS regarding training.
- 3.4 Both will make excellent coaches, mentors and instructors. I am happy to have their help.
- 3.5 To date I am putting a list of materials together for our future CGI (Certified Ground Instructors) candidates Mr. Victor Germann and Mr. Robert Watson.
 - 3.51 For those that don't know you do not have to have a pilot certificate to be a Certified Ground Instructor. You must only pass two written tests and fill out an 8710 to present to the FAA to earn a CGI. No oral or practical test is required in addition to the written tests.
 - 3.52 This is an excellent path to develop new talent for a club CFGI due to the experience they develop in the methods of glider instruction.
- 3.6 Both will offer a wealth of knowledge and be a valuable asset to the SSS training department. It's my pleasure to have them working for the club in this capacity.

4.0 Unknown and possible upcoming training needs.

- 4.1 I have spoken with a number of possible new members that would like to train with us. Two that come to mind are Matt Holt and Chris (I'm sorry I forgot his last name) of Birmingham, Alabama and would both be transition students for the club.
- 4.2 A number of FAST packages have been redeemed and it is always possible that one of those individuals could become a new student and club member.

- 4.3 As always thank you for your help with any and all future members that you meet along your travels. Being a good ambassador for our club (and soaring in general) is vital to the success of the SSS. I appreciate all of your efforts in this regard.
- 5.0 Instructional charges.
- 5.1 I thought it would be a benefit if you heard this from me. I can't speak for the other instructors but I believe that certain training events should be free to a club member in good standing.
- 5.11 First any training not required by regulation (and thus not tax deductible) should be free. Example: badges, continued education and FAST packages.
- 5.12 Second any continued education that isn't required by regulation but insurance should also be free. Example: cockpit check-out.
- 5.13 These previous examples do not include X-Country or Spin training.
- 5.14 Third any training not included in the above should be charged at an hourly rate decided by the club. Currently that is \$20.00 an hour. That is extremely low if you ask me. But, this is the current rate for instruction.
- 5.15 I charge for ALL flight training that results in a certificate. In addition I charge for ALL flight instruction aimed at cross-country.
- 5.16 For the students that I've trained for a certificate (at the SSS) their ridge and wave dual flight training will be free. One to two flights only per student per lift mechanism.
- 5.2 What are the other instructors doing about billing? That is up to the individual instructor.
- 5.3 Why are you doing that for the club members Mr. Holcombe? Because I think some things should be a benefit of being a club member in good standing.
- 5.4 If I heard you correctly that means a spring check-out is free and a flight review will cost me \$20.00 bucks an hour? Yes.
- 5.5 Again this will all depend on the individual instructor.
- 6.0 A Club's health is in its training department.
- 6.1 Without one you are not going to grow as a club or maintain your current aviators needs.

- 6.2 Training lost to another operation due to a lack of training at your club is lost revenue for the club.
 - 6.21 If you don't use your flight instructors then you've done the same thing. And, you will let your skills unknowingly rust.
 - 6.22 You spent a good deal of money to obtain the certificate a certain level of maintenance flying is necessary to stay in practice and proficient. And, is tax deductible in some circumstances.
- 6.3 Continued education is required at a professional level of flying. And for good reason it is necessary to maintain your proficiency. Don't let your skills rust due to lack of continued education and training.
- 6.4 Come on out and fly with one of our CFIG's and maintain your skills. It's good for you and the club. Which, again, is good for you.
- 6.5 And since I don't charge for continued education flying you don't have an excuse. For the cost of a tow you can enjoy the peace of mind that your skills are still sharp.
- 7.0 Remember the SSS Training Department is here to support the club. That means each member individually. We provide individual instruction at your request. It is our pleasure to help you achieve your goals.
 - 7.1 Currently we have 4 CFIG's at the SSS: Mr. Hal Brock, Mr. Jason Holcombe, Mr. Billy Singleton also our SSS Glider DPE member and Mr. Charles Weldon. We have 0 (zero) CGI's at the club currently.
 - 7.2 Our club goal is to have 2 (two) active CFIG's and 2 (two) active CGI's in the near future to support the clubs training needs.
 - 7.3 We needed new instructors to accomplish our goals in addition to our current instructors.
 - 7.31 The new instructors will be Tim Lockert (CFIG), Victor Germann and Robert Watson (CGI). We also have a possible new CFIG in Jim Locke.
 - 7.32 A BIG thank you should be extended to each of them for volunteering to help the club with such an important task.
 - 7.4 When we add our new Instructors this will give the club a better level of choices and continuity for training that we have not had before at the SSS Training Department. And that is good for the students and the club.
- 8.0 I think we are now up to speed on the clubs training. Stay tuned for future monthly 'SSS Flight Instructor and Club Training Newsletter' updates.
- 9.0 See ya' on the flight line.