

**Minutes of the Soaring Safety Foundation  
Board of Trustees Meeting at Reno, Nevada  
March 1, 2018**

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*Draft # 2*

Meeting called to order. 1:44 PM

Trustees Attending: All . . . Rich Carlson, Tom Johnson, Ron Ridenour,  
Steve Dee, Burt Compton

Trustees Absent: None

Advisors Attending: Pat Costello, Bob Wander, Adam Kite,  
Bernald Smith, Steve Northcraft

SSA Members Attending: None

Approve Minutes: Houston FEB 2017 Motion Steve Dee, Second Tom Johnson. Passed.  
(*No minutes / no quorum at Dallas, in SEP 2017.*)

Approved FEB 2017 minutes to be transmitted by BC to SSF webmaster Brent Eigsti:  
brent@arrowheadim.com

**Trustee Reports:**

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

FIRC TCO modified for FAA Approval. 3 calendar month extension for 2018.

SOARING Training and Safety Articles. Continuing.  
Monthly SSF Articles focus on maneuvers.

Transition Pilots (FAR 61.31d) Flight Review and Medical requirement.  
RC seeking decision by FAA.

Research on glider flying hours in the USA.  
Current estimate 400,000 hours per year.  
RC will request SSA HQ to ask SSA Chapters at SSA Renewal time to submit  
number of gliders and towplanes on the site, then number of  
club gliders and towplanes on site as well as number of launches (club and  
private.) Total number of club hours.

RR suggests a cover letter for the renewal package.  
BW cautions about the extra burden to a Club Treasurer and how a better response  
may be more effective with a separate request.  
Pat Costello reports 179 clubs and 88 Commercial operators in the USA.

**Ron Ridenour, Treasurer's Report & Budget** (E-mailed to Trustees as separate files.)

Motion to approve Treasurer Reports by Burt Compton, Second Steve Dee. Passed.

Approved reports to be transmitted by RR to SSF webmaster Brent Eigsti:  
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**Trustee Reports, *continued***

**Burt Compton**

SSF Videos that track the Practical Test Standards (PTS.)

Two completed for Landing and Checklists per the Tasks in the Commercial PTS.

Total of 5 videos on the SSF youtube channel and a link on the SSF website.

“Stop Crashing / Start Learning” Letters that describe the programs of the SSF.

In 2017, two mailings of 190 letters per mailing to all SSA Chapters, SSA Directors.

BC requests the “Stop Crashing / Start Learning” letter into SOARING, one-time.

Site Surveys: 11 in calendar year 2017,

Cost of \$13,426.35 / 11 surveys = \$1,220.58 per survey.

86 Site Surveys in 32 States conducted since 2001.

10 surveys budgeted for 2018.

Safety Officer Training Guide updated.

Contains my observations of issues on Site Surveys and suggestions for solutions.

No specific sites are named due to the promise of confidentiality.

Common observations include poor launch point organization, use of checklists, operations for “convenience” such as intersection takeoffs and downwind landings to the launch point and towards aircraft on the grid. Slow to clear gliders from the landing area. Lack of “club management” regarding club pilots and visiting pilots certification, currency and proficiency.

Club Instructors renewing by online courses or by other means, not the SSF FIRC.

Many comments from clubs regarding the SSF needs updating.

Articles. BC wrote one article for SOARING magazine in 2017.

SSF Booth at the SSA Convention 2018 in Reno. Good location. Good traffic.

Invoices for electric service, extra table, shipping and handling will be sent to SSF Treasurer Ron Ridenour. BC paid booth expenses by personal credit card to be reimbursed by SSF after final invoices are reconciled.

SSF Seminar at Reno. Over 200 attendees. Approved for Wings credit by Reno FSO.

**Steve Dee**

3 articles for SOARING

1 Site Survey

**Tom Johnson**

2 SSF Safety Seminars

SSF programs advertising in SOARING effective and will continue.

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**Comments by SSF Advisors:**

**Steve Northcraft.** Continuing communications with FAA about possible future regulations regarding gliders, glider pilot certification and potential medicals for commercial pilots giving rides to the public (recent balloon ride fatal crashes.)

**Pat Costello.** Landings continue to account for majority of losses.

**Adam Kite.** SSF website need updating specifically make easier to find information.

**Bob Wander.** Regarding FIRC's.

Compliments FIRC presenters.

Suggestions: Limit time of comments from the attendees.

Some slides on screen too long. Should have more motion.

Integrate Condor videos to make the point.

Noted that the majority of the CFI's in the FIRC are NOT "active" flight instructors.

Bob Wander to develop an advanced interactive SSF Safety Seminar program that would include FIRC-quality presentations, to a larger audience for glider pilots, glider-pilot wannabes, student pilots, CFIG's, towpilots in order to educate and challenge participants to change / improve their behavior regarding risk management.

**Old Business:**

Program Planning, Flight Instructor Refresher Course - Richard Carlson  
FIRC's scheduled in 2018: Locations:  
Report on TCO Renewal Process.

Program Planning, Site Surveys - Burt Compton managing.

Program Planning, Seminars – Tom Johnson managing.

Advertising Results. See Tom Johnson report.

Stop Crashing Letters. Continue mailings twice a year. Use a new "crash" image.

SSF / FAA Webinars with Steve Brown, Boston FSO.)

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**New Business:**

SSF website: [www.soaringsafety.org](http://www.soaringsafety.org) needs to be current.  
Brent Eigsti does updates.  
Send minutes and treasurer reports directly to [brent@arrowheadim.com](mailto:brent@arrowheadim.com)

OSTIV / Training & Safety Panel (TSP) Meeting,  
OCT 2017 at Wasserkuppe, Germany, attended by Rich Carlson.

Bronze Badge Study Guide. Out of date. Old text references.  
RC suggests student pilots (boy scout/youth engagement) update the reference materials. RC suggests interactive study topics in data base / topic search / sample Bronze Badge tests.

Motion by Ron Ridenour: Rich Carlson will identify two individuals to update the references for the Bronze Badge Study Guide sample questions. SSF will donate a scholarship of \$500 each to their club for flight time after completion of the task.  
Second by Steve Dee. Passed.

FAA WINGS program modules - can we create.  
\_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_ will research format for submission to the FAA.

**Next SSF Trustees Meeting:** SEP 7, 2018 with the SSA Directors meeting in Houston, TX

**Adjourn:** 5:04 PM. Motion by Tom Johnson, Second by Ron Ridenour. Passed.