

The FAA Safety Team web site

by Glenn Collins – SSF Advisor

The FAA Safety Team web site is a great source of materials useful to pilots. You can access the site at www.faaafety.gov. While the basic site provides access to most of the materials, setting up an account and logging into the site provides full access. At the top right corner of the page, you will see the log in panel. Input your login e-mail and password to log in. If you do not have an account set up there is a link in this panel to create an account.

Once your account is created you can set up your profile. Your profile allows you to select topics of interest, you will then receive notification for events covering these topics. You can also set your aircraft categories, classes and certificates you hold as part of your WINGS profile. This tab also allows you to set your current Flight Review date. This will provide a reminder and also track your Flight Review updates later if you use the WINGS program. You can now dive in and explore the information available to you on the site.

Most pilots visiting the site do so to access the FAA's Pilot Proficiency Program commonly known as WINGS. Generally, in the center of the page you'll find a panel for WINGS. This panel provides quick links to the WINGS User Guide and Advisory Circular 61-91 which defines the program. You also access the 300+ WINGS courses and the multitude of WINGS Flight Activities from this site. The WINGS program focuses on continuation training. By completing a series of ground training courses and flight activities, participating pilots earn phases of WINGS. Completion of a WINGS phase serves as an alternative means of complying with the 61.56 Flight Review requirement (61.56(e)). This summary is very simplistic. A separate article would be needed to fully describe the WINGS program and the specific details of completing phases.

Leaving the panels on the page for a moment, Look at the blue/gray header bar along the upper portion of the page just below the FAA logo. The furthest left pulldown option is Activities, Courses, Seminars & Webinars. This is where you can access the listing and descriptions of the various WINGS courses and Activities.

Returning to the main page, you'll find a panel on the bottom row for the FAA YouTube channel. Selecting the panel will redirect you to the channel where you will find a series of short videos discussing a multitude of aviation topics. These FAA produced videos cover topics for general aviation pilots and aircraft maintainers. New videos are uploaded regularly. If you desire, you can subscribe to the channel and receive update notifications.

Another feature of the web page panels I'll introduce here is the FAASite Directory. This directory allows you to quickly identify pilots in your state who volunteer with the FAA to provide training, outreach and education aimed at enhancing the general aviation community's safety culture. You can contact a local FAASite representative to help answer questions or augment a club safety meeting.

The final area of the FAASite web site I'll point out is again along the header bar at the top of the page. Selecting the pulldown for Resources you will find three very useful options. The first is the library. This library contains white papers, pamphlets and videos organized into 33 topic areas. Slightly below the Library you'll find an option for Notices. Selecting this you will find notices the FAA has posted regarding specific airport, publication, FAA reports and the

availability of materials pertaining to pilots. The last of the key options available under the Resources pull down is the Online Resource option. This option provides eight categories of various links to web sites

The intent here was to provide a quick preview of the multitude of resources available to all pilots on the FAASTeam web site. There is more content and excellent information than many pilots realize. From a soaring perspective, most of the courses focus their examples on the airplane community. The material however usually also applies to gliders. This is especially true when reviewing material on weather, NOTAMS and Decision Making. If your only interest is soaring, keep an open mind and think through the examples from a glider perspective. Remember when the engine quits, a Cessna 172 is nothing more than a low performance glider. I hope this overview of the FAA Safety Team web site is useful. I encourage everyone to explore the site and see what it has to offer.