

Safety Through Training

by Richard Carlson - SSF Chairman

Over the past few years the Soaring Safety Foundation has been working to update the activities and programs it provides to the SSA membership. This article give a quick rundown on some of those activities and encourages you, the SSA member, to engage with us to help reduce the number and severity of accidents here in the U.S.

The SSF's motto is "Safety through Training". The five SSF Trustees are all long time glider flight instructors and we have seen how better training can make a more proficient and safer pilot. Better training means that pilots are taught to make critical decisions, both on the ground and in flight. Better training means that pilots are taught to identify and mitigate potential risks. These risks may affect themselves or their fellow soaring friends. The old adage that "friends don't let friends drive drunk" applies to us as well "Soaring friends don't let Soaring friends take unacceptable risks".

The SSF has several in-person programs that can help pilots, clubs, and commercial operators identify and address operational safety issues. The primary program is the Site Survey program managed by Burt Compton. Visit <http://www.soaringsafety.org/outreach/sitesurvey.html> for more details on the benefits of a site survey.

Not ready for to invite us out, then take a look at the <http://www.soaringsafety.org/publications/Safety-Officer.pdf> Safety Officer training guide for help on how to identify hazards at your operation. This document summarizes the results of over 40 site surveys and provides guidance on what we've learned from those surveys.

Next we have our Safety Seminar program managed by Tom Johnson. Details about his program can be found at <http://www.soaringsafety.org/outreach/seminars.html> For the past several months the SSF discussed Scenario Based Training in this column and presented a introductory session on SBT during the convention. Tom can assist you in getting an on-site hands-on demonstration of how to use SBT at your soaring operation. The SSF charges a nominal fee to send an instructor out to your club for this training.

Our last in-person outreach program is the operation of a FAA approved Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC). Visit <http://www.soaringsafety.org/outreach/FIRC-home.html> for more details on this program. The SSF FIRC can be used by ANY FAA certified Flight Instructor (airplane, helicopter, glider, etc) to renew their certificate. Our FAA approved ACR can complete the renewal process at the end of the FIRC, allowing you to walk away with your new temporary Flight Instructor Certificate. While the class is primarily designed for glider flight instructors, any pilot or CFI wantabee can attend and learn more about SBT and how effective it can be in ground and flight training.

There are also on-line resources that you can use to generate/augment any training or safety program your soaring operation puts on. Among the things you will find on our web site are.

Flight Training Videos. Visit <http://www.soaringsafety.org/learning/FTvideos.html> to access our on-line training videos. The SSF has partnered with a professional video developer to produce a video of every maneuver listed in the Practical Test Standard (PTS). These videos show what the maneuver looks like from inside and outside the glider.



Flight Safety Videos. Visit <http://www.soaringsafety.org/learning/FSvideos.html> to access our on-line safety videos. The SSF has partnered with Scott Manely to develop Condor based videos showing accident producing videos that are too dangerous to do in real life. Each video comes with a student and instructor guide to help understand what the video shows and to assist instructors in using these videos during their flight training.

All the videos are stored on the SSF's You Tube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/soaringsafety>

Other on-line resources that you will find useful are:

Safety Incident Reporting Database <http://www.soaringsafety.org/forms/incident.html> In many cases, a soaring accident is the culmination of a series of incidents and issues that if recognized and stopped the accident can be prevented. While accidents get reported to the NTSB, incidents may be reported to the insurance company or they may just stay within the local operation. Sharing incidents with fellow soaring pilots can help the community by understanding what some potential risks are, how others dealt with those risks, and potentially the consequences of not dealing with them in a timely manner.

The Safety Incident Reporting Database allows you, the SSA member to inform your peers around the country about the things you ran into that you'd like others to avoid. Anyone can submit an anonymous report via the on-line web form. The report will be vetted by the Trustees to remove any inappropriate content and then it will be made publicly available. A random entry from the database is listed on the SSF's main web page to encourage more members to share this valuable information with their peers.

New this month is the SSF scenario database <http://www.soaringsafety.org/forms/sbt.html> For the past 2 years the SSF has been using SBT techniques to run the FIRC program. Each session the attendees are given a list of scenarios and they spend 20-25 minutes discussing the problem(s) and mitigation strategies covered in one of more of these scenarios. The SSF has now uploaded those scenarios into a new search-able database. Clubs, commercial operators, and individuals are free to pull scenarios out of this database or send suggestions for new scenarios to the SSF webmaster.

Safety through Training, its a motto we can all live with.

