

## The “Remote” SSA Instructor Bronze Badge Process

by the Soaring Safety Foundation Chair Richard Carlson.

The Soaring Society of America ABC/Bronze Badge program can be the cornerstone of an advanced glider training program. The badge program provides obtainable goals and challenges for students and newly rated glider pilots. By following this program pilots can develop the skills and knowledge to start on the path to safe and fun cross-country soaring. The SSA Badge program also helps pilots who fly locally build and maintain the skills and knowledge needed to enjoy those local flights.

The SSA Badge program is run on a grass-roots basis with the SSA setting the overall program direction and the Soaring Safety Foundation (SSF) providing oversight and guidance to the local flight instructors. It is the local flight instructor, specifically the designated SSA Instructor (SSAI), who mentors the local students and pilots, ensuring that they meet the training, written test and flight requirements of the SSA ABC/Bronze Badge program and awarding the badges as appropriate.

Since the SSAI will be teaching cross-country skills, it has been determined that the SSAI must demonstrate some of these skills. This is accomplished by earning a SSA Bronze badge or FAI badge (silver, gold, diamond.)

**If a current CFGI wants to become a SSA Instructor but does not meet the Bronze badge requirements and instructs at a club or commercial operation that does not have a current SSAI to administer the Bronze badge test and validate the requirements, the SSA/SSF has developed the following procedure for issuing a new Bronze badge to a applicant for SSA Instructor.**

A CFGI must demonstrate that they have completed all of the equivalent requirements for a Bronze badge.

Specifically:

1. Complete the equivalent requirements for the SSA 'C' badge.
  1. A logbook entry demonstrating the solo soaring flight requirement.
  2. A logbook entry demonstrating the accuracy landing requirement.
2. Complete the equivalent requirements for the SSA 'Bronze' badge.
  1. Logbook entries demonstrating the flight time requirements (total time and duration flights.)
  2. Logbook entries demonstrating the accuracy landing requirements (solo and dual flights.)
  3. Complete and return via email a Bronze Badge written test administered by a current SSF Trustee.

Once the logbook entries are verified and the written test is successfully passed, the SSF Trustee administering the test will award the applicant a Bronze badge and then the CFGI can submit the SSA Instructor (SSAI) application. A list and contact details of the current Soaring Safety Foundation Trustees is on the SSF website [www.soaringsafety.org](http://www.soaringsafety.org)

Notes:

- The knowledge requirements for the 'C' badge are met by passing the FAA CFGI practical test.
- Scanned copies of the CFGI's logbook must be submitted to demonstrate compliance with their glider flight time and accuracy landing requirements.
- Glider flight time and accuracy landing requirements for the 'C' badge may be used to satisfy the 'Bronze' badge requirements.
- Dual flights may be accomplished with another CFGI or a Glider Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE.)
- There is no time limit regarding the accomplishment of glider flights / landings and the submission of the request for a Bronze badge.
- The CFGI must complete the Bronze badge application within 24 calendar months after passing the remotely administered written test. It is recommended that the applicant update their progress

periodically with the SSF Trustee who administered the written test.

- This method may not be used if the club or commercial operator has a current SSAI at the field.

## **Bronze Badge Application and Resources**

SSA Instructor Requirements at [www.ssa.org](http://www.ssa.org):

<http://www.ssa.org/BadgesAndRecords?show=blog&id=2782>

SSA Instructor Application at [www.ssa.org](http://www.ssa.org):

<http://www.ssa.org/files/member/2015%20SSA%20Instructor%20Application%20Fillable%20ver%201.pdf>

Study Guide for the Bronze Badge written test:

<http://soaringsafety.org/learning/bronzebadge.html>

Answer Sheet for the Bronze Badge Test (blank):

<http://www.ssa.org/files/member/bbans.pdf>