



2022 SSA Convention Activities SSF & OSTIV

Later this month the Soaring community will gather in Reno NV for its biennial convention. In addition to the great activities and speakers the SSA has in store for us, the Soaring Safety Foundation (SSF), and the Organisation Scientifique et Technique Internationale du Vol a Voile (OSTIV) will contribute speakers and host events that all can enjoy. Join us and take advantage of the expertise and knowledge that the SSF and OSTIV will provide.

The Soaring Safety Foundation (SSF) is the training and safety arm of the SSA. Flight Instructors and soaring pilots wishing to increase their understanding of our sport can avail themselves of our FAA approved Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC) held prior to the start of the convention. You may not be aware, but unlike your pilot certificate, a Flight Instructor certificate has an expiration date. That means that every flight instructor must renew their certificate every twenty four months. While there are multiple ways to renew, the best way is to attend a SSF Glider focused FIRC. The Reno FIRC will be at the convention hotel the Tuesday and Wednesday before the start of the convention itself.

The traditional first event at our SSA Conventions is the Wednesday night 6:00 pm Soaring Safety Foundation (SSF) Safety Seminar. This free seminar includes topics on motorgliders, how to earn or upgrade your glider rating, low altitude “saves”, our latest observations from 122 free “Site Surveys” around the USA and input from European flight instructors on their training and safety programs. Speakers will include Rich Carlson, Steven Dee, Burt Compton and more to be announced. This two-hour SSF seminar is a WINGS event, so everyone attending gets FAA WINGS credits in addition to enjoying a fine set of speakers.

Visit our Soaring Safety Foundation booth near the entrance to the convention hall to get the details about our SSF outreach programs including seminars at your club, annual Flight Instructor Refresher Courses at several venues around the USA and the free “Site Survey” program at your soaring site. Please ask our SSF Trustees and Advisors any training and safety related questions. At the booth next to us meet Mr. Pat Costello and his expert staff from Costello Insurance Associates for answers to your questions relating to the SSA insurance program for pilots, or your gliders and towplanes.

Traditionally, OSTIV assumes an important role at SSA Conventions. OSTIV is the International Scientific and Technical Soaring Organization. Its objectives are to encourage and co-ordinate internationally the science and technology of soaring and the development and use of the sailplane in pure and applied research, the design, airworthiness and operation of gliders of all types, and the safety and training of pilots. The constitutional objectives of OSTIV are achieved by seeking new knowledge, by encouraging its dissemination and by consultation with authorities. Therefore OSTIV organizes a biennial Congress for the presentation of scientific papers. Moreover, OSTIV is the publisher of the quarterly journal Technical Soaring that disseminates recent scientific advances in sailplane technology and meteorology. Finally, OSTIV has created Panels for international exchange. The function of the Panels is to ensure technical and scientific discussions of coordinated efforts to improve training and safety methods, to advance the design and construction of sailplanes and accessories, and to enhance meteorological support, for the benefit of soaring.

OSTIV has the special status of an International Affiliated Member of FAI. Each party, OSTIV and the FAI, has the right of representation – with voting rights – in the General Conferences of the other party, and the right to appoint observers. Thus OSTIV can appoint observers to the meetings of the Interna-





tional Gliding Commission (IGC) of the FAI and the IGC can appoint observers to the meetings of OSTIV's Sailplane Development Panel, Training and Safety Panel, and Meteorological Panel. This close relationship between OSTIV and the World Air Sports Federation helps ensure that advancements in sporting rules, sailplane technologies, and gliding safety go hand in hand.

In addition to these normal duties and activities, the OSTIV community will again host a daily speaker track and the Friday evening dinner. The speaker track consists of 3 days of talks focused on sailplane development, flight and ground training, soaring safety, and other aspects of technical soaring. The scheduled presenter for the Friday night dinner is Benjamin Pipenberg, who is employed by the company Paul MacCready started, AeroVironment. Ben is largely responsible for the design of the rotor for the Mars helicopter, Ingenuity. Ben's career has also dealt with the development of very small flight vehicles, including tiny flapping wing machines, one of which might possibly take flight in the banquet hall. A full list of speakers will be published in the convention program, but this partial list will get you started.

SSF Advisors Rus Howard and Adam Kite will discuss the basics of composite materials and practices used to maintain your composite sailplane, with an emphasis on common pitfalls that you should avoid and why.

SSF Trustee Tom Johnson will speak on the value of flying by Angle of Attack both for safety and performance. He will make the case that the safety benefits of Angle of Attack are well known, but can it also be used to enhance sailplane performance? He will examine simple Angle of Attack systems, their installation, and possible benefits.

SSF Chairman Rich Carlson and SSF Trustee Ron Ridenour will speak on the safety threats associated with low altitude maneuvering and how a Hard Deck can impact the U.S. Soaring accident rate. We will present data on how often contest pilots are operating in a high risk, low altitude environment. We will also present plans to evaluate the impact on a soaring contest that implements a Hard Deck during the 2022 contest season.

Finally, stop by the OSTIV booth on the convention show floor. Visit with the OSTIV team. Sign up as an OSTIV member and receive *Technical Soaring*, the quarterly publication of OSTIV.

As you can see, this will be a jam packed 5 days in Reno. Join us for as much of it as you can.

