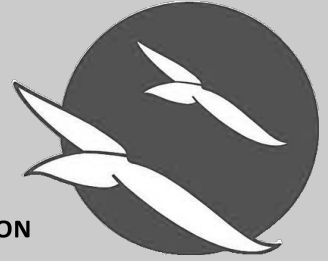


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GSLFIA News

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER ST. LOUIS FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION



“Aviation Professionals Dedicated to Excellence in Flight Instruction”

Just Weeks Away 2016 Flight Instructor Revalidation Clinic The FIRC is FREE if You Qualify

The Flight Instructors Revalidation Clinic (FIRC) date of Jan. 16-17, 2016 is fast approaching. The FIRC will be held at a new location: Helicopters Incorporated, Spirit of St. Louis Airport Location, 18366 Wings of Hope Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63005. See the flyer mailed with this newsletter for directions.

A CFI qualifies for the free rate if he or she did not attend the GSLFIA FIRC in 2014 or 2015. This is a great opportunity for CFI's who have never attended a GSLFIA FIRC or for those now “out of sync” with the January FIRC due to obtaining an additional rating, etc. These Instructors can experience the excellent GSLFIA FIRC and get into the January revalidation cycle FREE! An individual can only attend one FIRC free.

The FIRC early registration fee is \$200 if postmarked by January 8th and includes the 2016 association membership dues. The fee at the door will be \$225. To register for the FIRC or renew your membership you may refer to the FIRC Registration/Membership Renewal letter received in the mail with this newsletter or register/renew online at www.gslfia.com. Please return the FIRC Reservation/Membership Renewal form and if appropriate, with a check enclosed to: GSLFIA FIRC 16105 Swingley Ridge Rd. #4488, Chesterfield, MO 63006-4488.

Your continued membership and participation in the GSLFIA FIRC helps achieve our goals to further the flight instructor's development and promote aviation safety. These goals are accomplished by presenting the Flight Instructors Revalidation Clinic (FIRC) each January, Round Table Discussions and Safety Seminars for all pilots. We provide scholarship funds for developing CFIs and publish a handy Pocket Directory of members.

January 16th & 17th Flight Instructor Revalidation Clinic

The annual Flight Instructor Revalidation Clinic (FIRC) is just around the corner. Starting this year, we moved the clinic from the last weekend in January to an earlier weekend. This would provide an individual the opportunity to complete a FIRC on line prior to the end of the month if a last minute situation arose where-by he /she was unable to attend.

This year will be our 46th clinic offered by the Greater St. Louis Flight Instructor Association (GSLFIA). One of our primary goals is to focus on subjects that are of value to instructors. By regulation, we are required to address several mandatory areas of information but have the ability to add four related subject areas of our choice to the Training Course Outline (TCO). The TCO is then submitted to the FAA for approval before the material can be presented.

The GSLFIA strives to be the “Go To” organization for area flight instructors as a source of information, training support, mentorship and safety. We are currently in the process of adding more area pilot seminars bringing current items of pilot interest to various airports within the St. Louis and Illinois metropolitan area. If you are registered on the FAA website, (FAASafety.gov) please watch for FAA Spans notices sent to your email for a pilot seminar near you. We want to hear your concerns and receive recommendations for subject matter that you would like to hear. If you are not a member of the GSLFIA your first year of membership is free, subsequent years are only \$20.00 annually. Your first FIRC is also always free. Looking forward to seeing you on January 16th and 17th and remember, lunch is on us!!!!

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Living in the Age of Airplanes

Keith Mueller, GSLFIA President

Do you remember your first flight behind the controls of an airplane? Like many of us it quickly became one of the major events of our life. Experiencing the freedom of flight became the catalyst of what we are today.

The airplane and flight has made a tremendous impact on the world today. Just a little over 100 years ago manned flight was thought by many to be an impossible dream. Then on a December day in 1903, the path to the future changed forever. The invention of the airplane brought about monumental changes in just a few short years. We take for granted what Living in the Age of Airplanes has done to our world today.

If you have not heard of the National Geographic recently released documentary "Living in the Age of Airplanes" you will be seeing some media soon. The 47 minute documentary is coming to the STL Science center on January 22nd. The documentary is directed by Brian J. Terwilliger the same person who brought us the aviation Documentary "Runway 16 Right", a story about the airport, pilots and aviation community of the Van Nuys California airport and how the airport brought them together as a community along with their passion for flight.

"Living in the Age of Airplanes" is narrated by Harrison Ford, a major advocate for General Aviation. The film documents the changes that the airplane has brought about to the world along with the technology of the modern airplane. The airplane is clearly one of the greatest tools of the era and provides the ability to travel to any of the 7 continents of the world in comfort. Truly this is a documentary that could spark an interest in aviation with many young people today. The film has not yet been released to the public for purchase, but would be an excellent asset for schools with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs to generate technical careers for young people today. STEM programs are becoming more popular throughout the country, many involve aviation science and some have connections to Experimental Aircraft Association chapters around the country. A gift of this video to a local junior or senior high school might be the start of rekindling the spark that you experienced bringing you into aviation. Be a good mentor!

Keeping Students Interested in Winter

Nick Loftus, GSLFIA Director

Winter weather patterns have taken hold and with them come cancelled flights and frustrated students. Student attrition is a problem for every flight instructor and we face even more challenges this time of year. Flight cancellations, holiday commitments, student budgets, instructor availability, and aircraft availability make retaining students especially challenging. Part of our job as flight instructors is to keep the student interested and minimize the impact of these unavoidable sources of frustration. There is no way to retain 100% of our students, but here are some tips to keep your students engaged over the next few months.

1. Have the student come to the airport as scheduled even if the weather won't allow you to fly. There is always something you can work on with them. Fly the simulator. Give them a ground lesson on the weather phenomenon that has kept you ground bound. What is causing this weather? How do I see this in the weather briefing?

2. Have your private pilot student ride along in the back during an instrument lesson. Instrument students and students working on higher level certificates tend to fly on days that a private pilot student may be grounded due to weather. Instead of cancelling that private pilot student, ask them to ride along. There is a lot of knowledge to be gained from observing a flight like this, but it also shows them what they are working toward and reminds them of their ultimate goal.

3. Get multiple students in at the same time to do ground. With all of the cancellations, our schedules tend to get compressed. The flights that get cancelled get moved to a later date leaving you with less available slots for your students. Not being able to get on the schedule with your instructor can be very frustrating and can lead to the student losing interest or changing instructors. Teaching multiple students simultaneously allows you to spread the cost between the students as well.

4. Follow up with students that have dropped off after a few weeks. Sometimes all it takes is a phone call to get a student back out to the airport. With all of the hustle and bustle of the holidays, students tend to get busy and drop off the schedule. With everything going on it's easy for the student to forget to schedule their flight for that week. Then by the time they think to do it, your schedule is full. A simple call or email let's the student know that you haven't forgotten about them and reminds them to get on the schedule in advance.