



“Aviation Professionals Dedicated to Excellence in Flight Instruction”

THE 2025 GSLFIA ANNUAL FIRC COMPLETION

Aviation Seminars Supports Another GSLFIA Flight Instructor Revalidation Clinic



The Annual GSLFIA Flight Instructor Revalidation Clinic completed on Sunday January 12th with 22 in attendance. The FIRC was held at the Wings of Hope Headquarters Facility on the Spirit of St. Louis Chesterfield, Missouri airport. Along with instructors who were GSLFIA members we had several additional instructors and future instructors attend and audited the FIRC. Kim Barnes from Aviation Seminars was the instructor for the course. The GSLFIA provided a continental breakfast both days along with lunch from Panara Bread Company. We received many excellent compliments regarding the course subject areas and how well the course was administered through Aviation Seminars. We hope to see you there next year.



FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF RUNWAY SAFETY AND NTSB ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION PROGRAM PRESENTATION

The GSLFIA is planning a combined presentation that will feature two speakers. We are coordinating with an Chicago based FAA Inspector who is involved with the FAA Department of Runway Safety program who will speak about current airport operations. The same inspector provided a presentation in February of 2024 at Southwestern Illinois College that gained significant attention and many great reviews from our membership.

A representative from the National Transportation Safety Board will also conduct a presentation on accident investigation, causes and prevention.



We are currently establishing a date when we will host this event, likely in later March. This is an essential learning experience for all levels of aviators. Students as well as instructors will gain valuable operational knowledge attending this event. Currently the location for this event will likely be at Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville located at the intersection of Carlyle Avenue (Hwy 161) and Green Mount Road. Their theatre facility offers stadium seating and excellent visual and sound systems. More on this event in the near future. As always, monitor the FAASafety.gov web page SPANS messages. Registration is not mandatory but highly encouraged. Wings Credit is available.

Remember, a safe/good pilot is always learning!!!!

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A NEW ITEM FROM PISTON AVIATION

“Piston Aviation Online Ground School Live”

Joe Ord's, Piston Aviation has just begun their new innovative online ground school offered at only \$19.95 per month. This program has the opportunity that provides access to Piston Aviation CFIs every day. This is an excellent investment in developing your knowledge. So, discussing CFI issues with other CFIs is surely worth a mere \$19.95/month, contact Joe at 636-328-3750. Thanks Joe.

“Sparta, Illinois FBO/Flight School Sale”

If you've ever wanted to own your very own FBO and flight school at a beautiful little airport in a beautiful setting, without the work of starting from scratch - this may be the opportunity of a lifetime. Scott Marquardt currently owns the FBO and Flight School and is looking to move on. Rather than go into all of the details here, Scott would like to talk with any prospective buyers, one on one. So, if you have a desire to operate an FBO and flight school on your own terms, please call Scott at 618-443-5321.

44TH ANNUAL ULTRALIGHT & LIGHT SPORT AVIATION SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

Don't miss the February 22nd Ultralight & Light Sport Aviation Safety Symposium . The event will be held at the Southwestern Illinois College Sam Wolf Granite City Campus at 4950 Maryville Road in Granite City. The campus is located about a half mile south of I270 on Illinois Hwy 203. EAA Chapter 64 will be on location providing an opportunity to serve your morning breakfast followed by lunch.

The events continues from 8:00am to 3:00pm. See the expanded information flier in this newsletter.

THE PILOT SHORTAGE, WHAT HAS HAPPENED WITH THE HIRING PROCESS

No, you didn't miss your opportunity, the pilot shortage is not over. Although hiring dropped off last year and now slowed more, that doesn't at all mean that you have missed the boat or airplane in this case. In 2024, hiring added about 1,700 new crewmembers, still very good but not the numbers like we saw in the past 2 years.

Surveying the industry, the hiring process has slowed, but there are many more reasons driving the current situation than the lack of need. The need is still strong and industry forecasts are good. One of the key items that slowed hiring is due to some of the turmoil in the industry related to the supply chain. Reduced production left the industry with shortages of aircraft engines, electronics, components and technicians needed to maintain the world's fleet of aircraft. Reduced production by some manufacturers cannot be made up by competitors due to the same type of situations occurring in the industry.

Check the annual update listed in the Boeing Training report updated yearly. We continue to see record needs for aviation personnel. Retirements has frequently outpaced freshly minted new limited experienced A&P Technicians and avionics personnel who deal with ever increasing aircraft complexity. Trying to recruit the number of needed technicians in this industry is a serious challenge today. Another factor that has generated turbulence in the industry are possible mergers that are on the horizon. Mergers can cause a sudden surplus of personnel in some areas, this instability puts the brakes on the hiring process. The trickle down impact of this also slows the hiring process with the Regional Air Carriers as well. If the regional pilots are not moving into the Legacy Carriers, the regional hiring slows as well.

The time to retirement for everyone continues to tick down. Record numbers of the coming retirement statistics show that we haven't seen anything yet.

Industry studies don't begin to show that the need for pilots will slow down. Aircraft manufacturers would not continue to produce the number of aircraft that are attempting today and forecasted in the future if the need was not apparent. Major manufacturer aircraft orders have extended years into the future. We are seeing this worldwide, not just in the U.S... Year over year domestic and foreign carriers are boarding record numbers of passengers. In the U.S. last year according to industry statistics, we just boarded over 1 billion domestic passengers. This means that the average American had flown about 3 times. This number is up from about 2.5 flights annually well less than a decade ago.

Additional areas that show continued demand is the significant increases in salaries for aviation personnel. For Pilots, Maintenance and Avionics personnel alone, salaries are continuing to increase significantly, some have moved toward double-digit percentage increases. Media constantly focuses on aviation career paths; high schools and some grade schools generate aviation career interest through STEM programs to bring aviation career opportunities into the spotlight.

Overall, continue progressing in your training and become the best you can be. You will find your place in the best seat in the aircraft in due time, it isn't located in first class.

PLANNING FOR AN AIRLINE CAREER? HELP EXPAND YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

If you are planning a Major Airline pilot career, help yourself by expanding your qualifications. SIU Carbondale offers their B.S. Degree in Aviation Management through their Extended Campus program at Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) in Belleville. Your pilot certifications and ratings can provide college credit. If you hold an A.A.S. Degree or other prior education, and training, you may be able to complete a B.S. Degree in as little as 16 months on an every other weekend format. Contact SWIC at 618-222-5683 for additional information.



**44TH ANNUAL
ULTRALIGHT & LIGHT SPORT AVIATION SAFETY SYMPOSIUM
FEBRUARY 22ND, 2025**

SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE SAM WOLF GRANITE CITY CAMPUS

Located 15-minutes from St. Louis, 1 mile south of I-270 Exit #4



Come in from the cold and earn FAA Wings credits while attending this **FREE** one-day event! Registration begins at 8 a.m. Presentations from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You'll hear a variety of safety, operational and maintenance related topics presented by industry experts.

Speakers include:



- Frank Dressel, Pilot/Experimental aircraft homebuilder
- Jeff Hurst, Illinois Division of Aeronautics Safety Bureau Chief
- Dr. Rich Hehmann, AME/Fixed-wing, helicopter & glider CFI
- Bob McDaniel, CFI/Airport Manager
- James McGhee, Pilot/ FAA Air Traffic Controller Academy instructor
- Randy Ottinger, FAA Safety Program Manager
- David Warner, Pilot/Recreational Aviation Foundation Ambassador
- and additional speakers



Enjoy displays and exhibits of ultralight and light sport aircraft accessories and products.



Come early for breakfast prepared by the EAA Chapter #64. Lunch will also be available on-site.



Raffle prizes and **FREE DOOR PRIZES** throughout the day!

SPONSORED BY:

AeroCareers • Illinois Division of Aeronautics • FAA • Southwestern Illinois College
Illinois Ultralight Advisory Council • Experimental Aircraft Association & EAA Chapters 64 & 331

For additional information e-mail bob@aerocareers.org or call 618-530-0805

<https://aerocareers.org/ss.htm>

Parks College of St. Louis University
4300 Vector Drive
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314-977-9554

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