

“Aviation Professionals Dedicated to Excellence in Flight Instruction”

AVIATION IS GROWING

THE NEEDED DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF THE AVIATION PROFESSIONALS OF TOMORROW.

Get ready for a great Spring, Summer and Fall of Aviation Activities near you!!

Aviation is booming and what better area could that be but here. There is a constantly increasing number of events almost everyday adding to what is happening in the Metro area.

The latest news from Boeing is that the next military fighter (6th generation of military fighter aircraft) will be manufactured and assembled here in STL. In total, the most recent list of major Boeing contracts are incredible.

- The MQ 25 Navy Refueling Drone facility at the Mid America Airport is completed and preparing to start the assembly of the unmanned autonomous aerial refueling aircraft.
- The new Air Force T-7 Redhawk pilot trainer is scheduled for St. Louis Boeing production as well. A new near \$2 Billion dollar facility is currently under construction at the St. Louis Lambert International Airport.
- The just announced Boeing Contract Award for the new military F-47 6th Generation Fighter Aircraft that will also be produced at the St. Louis Boeing Lambert International Airport location.

These contracts alone will bring incredible funding into the St. Louis area. The need for qualified skill workers is reaching new heights that need to be addressed not just by Boeing but the aviation community generating and supporting educational programs and STEM events to develop the next generation of the aviation professionals of tomorrow.

COMING TO AIRPORTS NEAR YOU!

As we progress into the year here’s a few of the many planned aviation events in the STL area and beyond.

April 1st the TRACON (Terminal Radar Approach Control) presentation by Pete Seddon at Creve Coeur Airport Terminal Building starting at 7:00pm sponsored by the Greater St. Louis Flight Instructor Association.

April 22nd the TRACON (Terminal Radar Approach Control) presentation by Pete Seddon at Piston Aviation at the St. Louis Regional Airport at Bethalto, Illinois starting at 7:00pm sponsored by the Greater St. Louis Flight Instructor Association. Instructors, require your students to attend this event.

June 7th the Gateway Youth Aviation Day, STEM Event and Career Fair at the Creve Coeur Airport that will feature many of the areas aviation organizations providing displays and STEM events with a major focus toward educating the future aviation professionals of tomorrow. We are expecting a record crowd for this event.



June 14th Scott AFB Illinois Open House and STEM Expo from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The event will feature many static display aircraft, STEM exhibits and a career field village. Expect large crowds at this event.

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COMING TO AIRPORTS NEAR YOU! CONTINUED

July 17th – 19th The Southwestern Illinois College Aviation Summer Sampler Camp. This event provides 3 days of aviation activities for 22 high school 11th and 12th grade students. Cost is just \$75.00 for interested students.

July 21st - 27th Air Venture Oshkosh, Wisconsin. If you haven't been there it's time to go to Oshkosh, the largest aviation event in the world. Last year a new attendance record of 686,000 visitors were present during the week long event was set.

PROFESSIONALISM IN AVIATION

We see many individuals today who have a desire to become an Aviation Professional. What are some of the primary characteristics that individuals need to immediately consider to begin to project themselves as a professional?

Let's start with appearance. Professionals need to project a professional appearance. Proper dress, grooming and cleanliness make an immediate statement. Hair should be properly cut, no large / ornate hairstyles, no radical designs, sculptured cuts, or unnatural colors.

Be reliable and on time for commitments and appointments. There is no better way for someone to lose faith in your character than by being forgetful or frequently late to appointments.

Projecting an open and friendly demeanor is always important. Having an inconsistent personality and attitude will drop you off someone's list of individuals that they want to be associated with immediately. Be approachable and project the same person every day.

Join professional organizations. This will give you the ability to engage with others who are actively working in positions that you might be interested in becoming employed in the future.

I HOPE THIS WAS NOT YOUR STUDENT

I was hired by an Aircraft owner to assist in prepping for the private pilot written exam. Since they had grown up in aviation, I thought this would only require a few hours going over the FAA books I had them order, and the on-line program that was being used, then sign the individual off for the written knowledge exam.

We got together, with the individual bringing all of their books, laptop, sectional chart, computer E6B, etc. When we talked, the student told me they had completed 2 solo cross country trips and was on their FOURTH flight instructor! I will not say what training organization the individual was attending. The student was flying an aircraft equipped with a GPS/COM. They did know how to call Flight Service on 122.1/122.2 and use the Unicom.

I asked for the sectional chart that the course to the destination was plotted to be displayed. I saw they had drawn their route with the 10 minute ticks, so I started asking the individual about the symbols on the chart. I pointed to one of the airports, and asked the student to describe what it was and what it meant. The individual could not answer my question. They couldn't tell me if the runway was paved or grass, what the airport elevation was, airport CTAF frequency, airport services etc. I then pointed to the nearby VORTAC on the sectional chart. Again, the individual couldn't tell me the frequency, FSS frequencies, or anything at all about the VORTAC. I then had the individual use the plotter and asked the student to give me the route course. The student had no idea how to use the plotter to determine the course.

I have no idea why the initial first flight instructor did not teach the student, nor if the following 3 instructors had not assured the student was capable of accurately reading the sectional chart.

It is my opinion, sending a student pilot on a solo cross country without knowing that they could read a sectional is MALPRACTICE! If there had been an electrical failure, the individual would have to navigate by IFR (I follow rivers, I follow roads) in order to get home.

Please make sure your students are not like this one and make sure that you as the instructor insures that the student is fully prepared, knowledgeable and legal to accomplish the operation that they are about to embark on.

Make sure that your students knows the basics as well, be through and complete.

HOW TO READ A VFR SECTIONAL CHART



By AN ANONYMOUS MASTER FAA PILOT

A good instructor never stops learning or teaching!!!!

GREATER ST. LOUIS FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION (GSLFIA)

Mission Statement:

“Greater St. Louis Flight Instructors Association promotes aviation safety and improvement of flight instruction by increasing education, instructor knowledge, professionalism and techniques.” This is accomplished through the exchange of ideas and techniques between instructors, developing effective communications, liaison with the FAA and/or other aviation interested entities.

- We deliver ideas and techniques through: FAA approved Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic (FIRC), FAA WINGS programs, FAA Safety clinics.
- GSLFIA has held an in-person FIRC since the early 1970’s renewing thousands of CFIs over the last half century. The FIRC attendees cumulatively have 40,000 - 50,000 hours of “Dual Given” which fosters a very valuable exchange of ideas at each FIRC.
- GSLFIA sponsors 6-10 presentations each year to the St. Louis area GA community. Topics from: CFI techniques, regulatory/AIM changes, ATC procedures, DPE discussions, AMT presentations, TRACON tours, etc., all contribute greatly to aviation safety by improving the knowledge base of our attendees.
- We sponsor the “CFI of the Year”, “New CFI of the Year” awards, discovery flights for aspiring pilots, and “Ed Blue Scholarship” for outstanding CFIs, the “James Byrnes” award for continuous contributions to STL aviation and the “Spirit of St. Louis” award for corporations or individuals who’ve been instrumental in promoting St. Louis aviation. These awards are presented at our Awards banquet held annually.
- GSLFIA maintains a list of CFIs available to provide almost any kind of flight instruction imaginable to prospective pilots from all of the STL area airports. Some of our CFIs provide remedial training to those who might need a little extra attention in certain areas.
- We enjoy very close relationships with the many aviation businesses and educational Institutions in and around St. Louis, such as: Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC), St. Louis University, all of the local flight schools, the various MRO facilities in the area and organizations such as, Experimental Aviation Association (EAA), Greater St. Louis Business Aircraft Association (GSLBAA), Women in Aviation (WAI), etc.

For more information about GSLFIA, please or see our website: GSLFIA.org.

GSLFIA “WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, WHAT DO WE HAVE TO OFFER”

Our mission statement “The Greater St. Louis Flight Instructors Association promotes aviation safety and improvement of flight instruction by increasing education, instructor knowledge, professionalism and techniques”, is the starting point for who we are, what we do and what we have to offer. To continue with our website “This is accomplished through the exchange of ideas and techniques between instructors, developing effective communications, and/or liaison with the FAA and/or other desirable aviation interested entities. We deliver ideas and techniques by sponsoring the Ed Blue Flight Instructor Scholarship, FAA Safety Clinics, FAA Wings Programs, and FAA approved Flight Instructors Revalidation Clinic and other Seminars”.

There are very few Flight Instructor associations in the US with National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI), Society of Aviation and Flight Educators (SAFE) and the GSLFIA being the only ones that I know of. So we are a rather unique organization and have been around since the late 1960’s with about 100 CFI members, mostly in the St. Louis, Missouri area.

GSLFIA has been putting on Flight Instructor Refresher Clinics since the early 1970’s, renewing thousands of CFIs over the last half century. We continue to offer an annual in person FIRC each January, where attendees can discuss issues with other, very experienced CFIs. A typical FIRC will have CFIs with a cumulative experience of 40,000 - 50,000 hours of “dual given”.

The GSLFIA sponsors about 6-10 presentations every year to the St. Louis area’s General Aviation community. Topics from CFI techniques, regulatory/AIM changes, specific topics on aircraft care, icing, Loss of Control, discussions with local DPEs on what they see on check rides and how to better prepare our students to be successful on a check ride, We sponsor annual tours of the STL TRACON to give pilots a chance to discuss issues with ATC controllers in order to understand each others’ duties and requirements, thus making a much safer environment.

We sponsor “CFI of the Year“, “New CFI of the Year”, Discovery Flights for potential pilots, an “Ed Blue Scholarship” for outstanding CFIs, a “James Byrnes” award for individuals who’ve greatly contributed to STL area aviation over a long period of time, the “Spirit of St. Louis” award for individuals or corporations who’ve been instrumental in promoting St. Louis aviation. These awards are traditionally presented in our Awards banquet held at a St. Louis location.

GSLFIA maintains a list of CFIs available to provide almost any kind of flight instruction imaginable to prospective pilots from all of the local STL are airports. Some of our CFIs provide remedial training to those who may need a little extra attention in certain areas.

We enjoy a close relationship with the many aviation businesses and educational institutions in and around St. Louis, such as; Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC), St. Louis University, all of the local flight schools, the various MRO facilities in the area and pilot organizations such as Experimental Aviation Association (EAA), Greater St. Louis Business Aircraft Association (GSLBAA), Women in Aviation International (WAI), etc.

GSLFIA invites you to become associated with our organization to see how we can provide resources to improve your business. Please contact us at 618-514-2647.

UPCOMING GATEWAY TRACON PRESENTATIONS

PETE SEDDON
FAA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SPECIALIST

Presented by:



Greater St. Louis Flight
Instructors Association

Take advantage of one of TWO upcoming TRACON presentations coming up in St. Louis, catering to pilots on both sides of the river in the metro area. Pete's presentations cover timely topics, case studies, safety discussions, and an open format Q & A session that allows attendees to get answers directly from a local ATC Controller. Pilots of all skill levels are welcome!

APRIL 1, 2025

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Creve Coeur Airport (1Ho)

Main Terminal - Banquet Hall Hangar

14301 Creve Coeur Airport Rd., St. Louis, MO

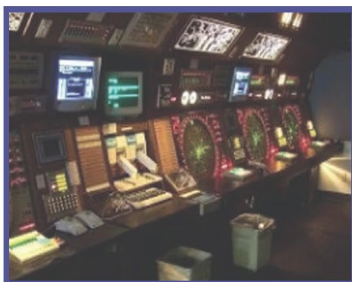
APRIL 22, 2025

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

St. Louis Regional Airport (KALN)

Piston Aviation Facility

16 Terminal Dr., East Alton, IL



PLEASE REGISTER

Registration not required to attend these events, however it is recommended for WINGS credit. Look for additional registration details to be sent out via FAASafety SPANS Notice prior to each event

YOUTH AVIATION DAY

STEM Event & Career Fair



SPONSORED BY



Sat, June 7, 2025
10:00am-4:00pm
@ Creve Coeur
Airport



FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES

Aviation STEM Activities
Guest Speakers on Aviation Topics
Static Aircraft Displays
VR Flight Simulators
F-4 Phantom II Cockpit Exhibit
Career Opportunities in Aviation
Local Aviation Organizations
Local Aviation Manufacturing Companies
Flight Schools, College Programs
Civil Air Patrol, Military Branches
EAA - Young Eagles Day Registrations
Food Trucks \$



UH-1 & AH-1 Rides Available with
Army Aviation Heritage Foundation \$