

*“Aviation Professionals Dedicated to Excellence in Flight Instruction”*  
**AVIATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

## “ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GSLFIA FIRC”

Your GSLFIA has just completed another successful Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic. So many, that I’m starting to lose track of how long we’ve been doing this! We had 18 attendees this year and, from all accounts, they enjoyed the format and presentation from Aviation Seminars.



There have been a lot of changes to keep up with: MOSIAC, Part 61, TSA requirements, etc. If you’re not attending these FIRCs, it’s rather difficult to keep up with everything and, if you do still instruct, you could be missing out on information that is critical to your students (and to your certificate, for that matter)! We’ll continue to communicate any / all changes that we hear about in these newsletters and, as always, please don’t hesitate to reach out to any GSLFIA Board member if you have questions or concerns. Thank you for being a member and please spread the word about our organization so that we can grow and serve you even better!

Craig O’Mara  
Director, GSLFIA  
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Craig.omara747@gmailcom

Spring brings Scholarship Season for aviation related career paths! If your student is working towards a pilot certificate or rating and finding that the cost is becoming an increasing challenge, there might be some solutions available that help lead to success. Spring is well known for Aviation Related scholarships. Many large aviation organizations sponsor a serious number of scholarships that help students be successful when the dollars get tight.

Starting out with the well-known scholarships it’s the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association or also known as the AOPA organization. This year they are sponsoring hundreds and hundreds of quality scholarships. Scholarships are provided for high school and college students, teachers, Aircraft Maintenance, Aircraft Dispatchers, adults, general aviation training courses and many more aviation related career paths.

Locally, organizations such as the Greater St. Louis Business Aviation Association (GSLBAA) offer significant numbers of scholarships for several different aviation career paths. Take some time and put a sincere effort into every scholarship application you complete.

If you are enrolled in a collegiate aviation training program the numbers of scholarships are truly incredible. The University Aviation Association Scholarships are available by the bucketload and apply to many different career paths in aviation training.

Women in Aviation is another high-quality organization with more than 20,000 members. Chapters are available throughout the U.S. and in more than 100 countries around the world. Aviation opportunities are everywhere in the St. Louis area. Find a program, make the effort to do well and everyday becomes an adventure.

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### GSLFIA Website

<https://gslfia.com/>

### E-Mail

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**Greater St. Louis Flight Instructors Association**

**16105 Swingley Ridge Road #4488**

**Chesterfield, Missouri 63006-4488**

## SOCIAL MEDIA IN MODERN DAY FLIGHT INSTRUCTION

Social media has quietly become one of the most influential forces in modern flight training. Platforms like YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, and even LinkedIn are shaping how prospective students perceive aviation, and how current students supplement their learning. For many aspiring pilots, their first exposure to flight training is no longer a discovery flight; it's a cockpit video, a day-in-the-life reel, or a CFI explaining crosswind landings on a short-form video. This visibility has helped demystify aviation and made flight training feel more accessible, but it has also created new expectations about pace, cost, and career progression.

For instructors, social media presents both opportunity and responsibility. High-quality instructional content can reinforce aeronautical knowledge, introduce scenario-based thinking, and spark enthusiasm between lessons. Many CFIs are using platforms to explain regulations, break down maneuvers, or discuss real-world decision-making in ways that resonate with today's learners. At the same time, there is a growing need for discernment. Not all content online reflects best practices, current regulations, or sound ADM. Students may arrive at lessons with techniques or assumptions formed from online personalities rather than FAA guidance or POH procedures.

Social media is also influencing recruitment and retention. Flight schools that actively showcase safety culture, student milestones, instructor professionalism, and community involvement often attract more inquiries. Prospective students want transparency—they want to see the airplanes, the instructors, and the training environment before committing financially. For CFIs, building a professional online presence can enhance credibility and even open doors for future career opportunities.

However, maintaining professionalism online is critical; posts, comments, and cockpit content should always reflect compliance, good judgment, and respect for safety.

Ultimately, social media is neither inherently beneficial nor harmful to flight instruction—it is a tool. When used thoughtfully, it can inspire, educate, and strengthen the aviation community. When used carelessly, it can spread misinformation or normalize risky behavior. As instructors, embracing the positive aspects while modeling professionalism and sound aeronautical decision-making may be one of the most impactful ways we can shape the next generation of pilots—both in the cockpit and on the screen.

Craig O'Mara

618-558-7211

### **AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS TRAINING, WHEN SHOULD IT BEGIN AND HOW FAR SHOULD IT GO.**

When does aircraft systems training begin and what does your student need to know and understand. With many technology changes in the automotive industry today not many individuals understand their car. What was simple a few years ago, has now become more complex.



As a Flight Instructor and A&P with an Avionics background, I just can't complete a dual session without asking why, what and when. When explaining some items I attempt to add some of the basic automotive functions that many people can still relate to their aircraft today.

What has happened and what is going to happen when you have that ALT (Alternator) light comes on in your car? Now, ask the same question about your aircraft, when the Low Voltage light comes on, what is the difference and what will become the outcome.

Somewhat basic but still essential that students understand the difference. An alternator failure on your aircraft has no effect on continued engine operation. Since aircraft utilize magnetos to power the ignition system there is no effect on the operation of the engine.

At Southwestern Illinois College we add a 32 hour Aircraft Systems and Components Class to the 64 hour Private Pilot Flight Theory (Ground) course. After completing those two courses, students have a much stronger understanding of training aircraft systems along with the status of the aircraft in the event of a malfunction. The course covers electrical, hydraulics, fuel systems, pressurization, engine components, design and operation. This continues through the two year program. Commercial Pilot Flight Theory (Ground) adds significant systems training, followed by a 24 hour Multi-Engine ground course that continues to add more and more systems training.



Finally near the end of the program, there is a Boeing 737-800 NG systems course taught by Air Transport Association (ATA) subject codes. This provides a significant advantage for students. Later, as they eventually move toward a Regional Carrier they have a significantly improved background and understanding of C.F.R. Part 25 Category Aircraft systems. That alone makes the airline ground systems course much more understandable and easier to digest. Knowledge adds to safety.

Keith Mueller

# 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ULTRALIGHT & LIGHT SPORT AVIATION SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

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 to 3.**

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



- **"MOSAIC: Important Things You May Have Missed"**  
by Bob McDaniel, CFI/Retired Airport Director
- **"If my tools could talk—Aircraft Spring Tuneup & Preflight"**  
by Doug Keck, A&P/IA, Pilot
- **"Medical Issues for the Aging Pilot"**  
Dr. Rich Hehmann, AME/Fixed-wing, helicopter & glider CFI
- **"My Path to Gyros"**  
by Rob McTiernan, Gyro Pilot & John Shadduck, MagniGyro Distributor & CFI
- **"Communicating With a Tower & Oshkosh Traffic Tips"**  
by Rick Balinski, Air Traffic Controller
- **"Camping With Your Plane"**  
by David Warner, Pilot/Ambassador for the Recreational Aviation Foundation
- **"State Aviation Issues"**  
Illinois Division of Aeronautics Flight Safety
- **"FAA Safety Initiatives"**  
St. Louis Flight Standards District Office



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



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



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

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#### PRESENTED BY:

AeroCareers, NFP & Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 64

#### SUPPORTED BY:

FAA • Illinois Division of Aeronautics  
Southwestern Illinois College • Illinois Ultralight Advisory Council

For additional information e-mail [bob@aerocareers.org](mailto:bob@aerocareers.org) or call 618-530-0805

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

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**YOU CAN FLY™**

# REDISCOVER YOUR PASSION FOR FLIGHT

**SEMINAR**



## ONCE A PILOT, ALWAYS A PILOT. BUT IF YOU'RE FEELING **A LITTLE RUSTY...**

We'll help you brush up on your aviation knowledge and understand what's changed since you last took the controls.

AOPA You Can Fly's Rusty Pilots seminars held in partnership with local flight training providers are the easiest way to get current again and rejoin general aviation in YOUR community. **It's easier than you think! Free for AOPA members, \$89 for non-members (plus a 5% credit card processing fee) without joining.**

**AOPA Rusty Pilots seminar hosted by:**

**EAA Chapter 864**

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST**

**Address:**

**St. Louis Regional Airport (ALN)**

**16 Terminal Drive**

**Piston Aviation Flight School Bldg.**

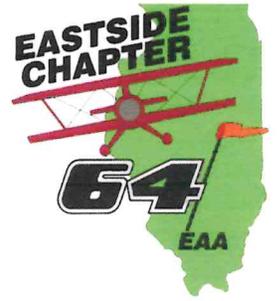
**East Alton, IL 62024**



Pre-register using the QR code or by searching this seminar at [AOPA.org](https://www.aopa.org) > Events > Rusty Pilots.



EXPERIMENTAL  
AIRCRAFT  
ASSOCIATION



# Trivia Night

**When? Saturday March 21st, 2026**

**Where? Millstadt VFW Post 7980**

**200 S Veterans Dr, Millstadt, IL 62260**

(Look for the tank on Highway 158)



***Help Support Youth Aviation Pilot Training Programs!!***

***Fun - Trophy - Cash Prizes - 50/50 - Fun***



**Register at:**

**[EAACH64Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:EAACH64Secretary@gmail.com)**

**Or phone @ 618-239-9359  
(leave a message)**

Food and snacks  
welcomed, but  
**DRINKS MUST** be  
purchased on-site

**(Cash Only;** ATM  
available onsite)

**\$20 per-person  
\$150 for a table of 8**

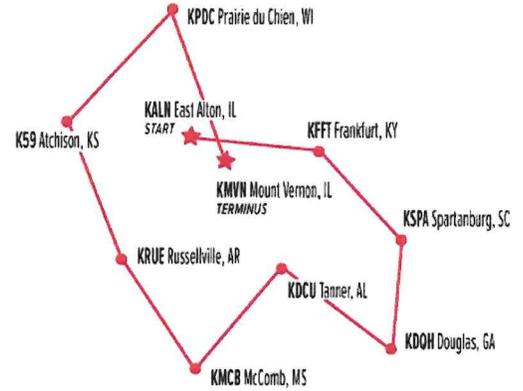
**Doors Open at 6 p.m.  
Game Starts 6:30 p.m.**



# arc

## Air Race Classic

June 23-26 2026



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[airportdirector@stlouisregional.com](mailto:airportdirector@stlouisregional.com)

 St. Louis Regional Airport



## STL Area Employment Opportunities

At our GSLFIA Board meetings we're always trying to find ways to add value to your membership in St. Louis' only organization specifically for the CFI. I'm not really sure why we didn't come up with this before now, but we're going to begin a column designed to advertise employment opportunities for our members and at the same time provide quality employees for St. Louis area Flight Schools and FBO's. We're in the process of contacting all of those aviation businesses (and hope to add more as we learn of their requirements) to see what their needs are and will publish those needs with every newsletter. The following information opportunities and are the latest and most accurate that were available at the time this newsletter was published and are presented in no particular order. May I please ask you for feedback to see how this is working for you?

Southwestern Illinois College  
2500 Carlyle Ave.  
Belleville, Illinois 62221  
Keith Mueller, Aviation Department Director  
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618-514-2647 Cell  
[keith.mueller@swic.edu](mailto:keith.mueller@swic.edu)

**CURRENTLY HIRING SIMULATOR INSTRUCTORS, CONTACT KEITH**

IDEAL Aviation CPS  
5600 Vector Drive  
Sauget, Illinois 62206  
Jim Moseley, Chief CFI  
618-215-2282  
[jim.moseley@idealaviationstl.com](mailto:jim.moseley@idealaviationstl.com)  
**NOT CURRENTLY HIRING**

St. Louis Flight Training CPS  
2500 Vector Drive  
Cahokia, Illinois 62206  
Josiah Bridges, Owner  
618-250-7930

Gateway Flight Training 1H0  
14301 Creve Coeur Airport Road  
Maryland Heights, Missouri 63146  
Bob Meder, Chief CFI  
314-780-7899  
[robert.meder@gatewayflight.com](mailto:robert.meder@gatewayflight.com)  
**CURRENTLY HIRING CESSNA 310 CFIs**  
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6016 Portage Road  
Portage Des Sioux, Missouri 63373  
Jordan Bryant, Assistant Chief CFI  
918-808-2446  
[jordanbryant96@gmail.com](mailto:jordanbryant96@gmail.com)

Elite Aviation SUS  
18600 Edison Avenue  
Chesterfield, Missouri 63005  
John Martin, Flight Ops Manager  
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Alli Adams, Chief CFI  
[Aadams@eliteksus.com](mailto:Aadams@eliteksus.com)  
John Tipton, Chief Instructor  
[johnt@eliteksus.com](mailto:johnt@eliteksus.com)  
636-778-4400

Sparta Aero Services SAR  
1800 North Market St.  
Sparta, Illinois 62286  
Scott Marquardt, Chief CFI and Airport Manager  
[Spartaaero@gmail.com](mailto:Spartaaero@gmail.com)  
618-443-5321 Office  
757-652-8008 Cell  
**CURRENTLY HIRING A CFI/CFII  
CALL SCOTT RIGHT AWAY!**

Meisinger Aviation SUS  
532 Beechcraft Ave.  
Chesterfield, Mo. 63005  
Dave Pressy Director of Operations  
[jobs@mallcstl.com](mailto:jobs@mallcstl.com)  
**NOT CURRENTLY HIRING**

Southern Illinois University – Carbondale MDH  
School of Aviation  
Transportation Education Center  
545 North Airport Road  
Murphysboro, Illinois 62966  
Steven Goetz, Chief CFI and Associate Professor  
[Sgoetz@siu.edu](mailto:Sgoetz@siu.edu)  
618-453-9247  
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Parks College of St. Louis University      CPS  
4300 Vector Drive  
Center for Aviation Science, Hangar 8  
314-977-9554

**NOT CURRENTLY HIRING**

Piston Aviation  
14301 Creve Coeur Airport Road      1HO  
St. Louis, MO 63146  
Joseph Ord, Owner  
314-440-2361  
[joe@flypiston.com](mailto:joe@flypiston.com)