

**Soaring Safety Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 2100**  
**Hobbs, NM 88241**

Phone: 630-251-4572 email: [webmaster@soaringsafety.org](mailto:webmaster@soaringsafety.org)

Board Report, SSA BoD meeting, Reno, NV 1/2-3/2018

This Soaring Safety Foundation (SSF) report covers the fall and winter period of 2017/2018. During this period the SSF Trustees wrote the Society's annual safety report, which will be published in April. A summary of the report will be printed in April issue of SOARING, and the full report will be posted on the SSF's web site (<http://www.soaringsafety.org/accidentprev/ssfreports.html>). This report will show that NTSB accident data indicates a 6% increase (17 vs 16) in the number of accidents and no change in the number of fatalities (remains at 3) in 2017 compared to 2016. As of this report, all fatal accidents are still being investigated by the NTSB. The SSF takes both NTSB reports and insurance company incidents and accidents into account when developing safety programs and seminars. However safety reports are based only on the data found in the NTSB aviation accident database.

2017 continues a trend from started in 2012 where the number of accidents decreased significantly (down from 30 to 17). The Costello insurance agency also reported an no change in the number of claims SSA group insurance members made in 2017 vs 2016. To continue driving down the number of accidents, especially fatal accidents, the SSF continues to push strongly on teaching and using glider oriented Risk Management / Aeronautical Decision Making skills.

The SSF has continued advertising more in SOARING, informing the membership of our existing training and safety programs. For the past few years the SSF has also been using a direct mail program, sending over 200 letters out to clubs, chapters, SSA Directors, and SSA State Governors. These 'Stop Crashing' letters describe the SSF programs and encourage members to contact the appropriate SSF Trustee for more information on each program.

The following list of activities updates the status of the existing SSF programs. SSA Directors should continue to inform your SSA members/constituents about how to access these training and safety programs.

1. Flight Instructor Refresher Course – This ongoing program is the major outreach activity for the SSF. There are eight (8) FIRC's currently scheduled for the 2018 calendar year. We expect to serve approximately one hundred and forty (140)

instructors and glider pilots. Details for clinic locations can be found on the SSF web site. The SSF began sending postcards to potential attendees in a region surrounding a FIRC location. This advertising appears to be increasing attendance. The FIRC presentations continue to evolve the Scenario Based Training program started in 2014. This approach uses SBT techniques to teach the FIRC and emphasis's RM/ADM training by providing instructors the opportunity to practice these skills.

2. Site Survey program – See previous bluebook reports for details on the site survey program. The SSF completed Eleven (11) site surveys across the country during the 2017 calendar year. This is one more than originally planned and the SSF will continue to over deliver on this program when clubs, chapters, or Commercial Operators request a survey.
3. Safety Seminars – Tom Johnson continues to manage the Safety Seminar program. As of this report, there are three (3) requests for seminars in the 2018. Requests for additional seminars will be processed by Tom on a first-come first-served basis.
4. The Accident Reduction Program, started in 2006, will continue into the 2018 season. The SSF trustees will continue to write monthly columns that will be published in SOARING. The SSF Trustees take turns writing articles and all 5 trustees actively participate in the editing and review of articles before they are submitted to the SOARING editor for publication.
5. The SSF sent paper copies of an information gathering survey to every member of the society (10,000) copies. More than 1,500 members responded either by using the on-line survey form or returning the paper form to the SSA office. The SSF is in the process of analyzing this data to better understand the needs of the membership.
6. The SSF Trustees will participate in the SSA convention in several ways. As usual, the SSF will conduct a FIRC the Tue/Wed preceding the opening of the convention. The Trustees invited the chief flight instructor from Sweden to attend the convention and he will present a brief talk on soaring safety during the FIRC. The SSF will kick-off the convention with a Wed evening safety seminar. This FAA approved WINGS program will consist of several speakers talking about various safety and training topics. Our Swedish guest will conduct one of the presentations. Two of the SSF trustees (Carlson and Johnson) will make presentations in the OSTIV track. Our Swedish instructor will also make a presentation.

7. The SSF Trustees continue to assist the SOARING magazine editor by reviewing articles dealing with training and safety issues.

The SSF Trustees continue to look for ways to reach out to the US Soaring community. Traditional programs, such as those described above, and new programs, based on Internet technologies will be used to spread the SSF's message as widely as possible. All SSF programs are reviewed on a regular basis, to determine how they can be improved and new programs are considered as ideas are presented to the Trustees.

Ss: Richard Carlson  
SSF Chairman