

**Soaring Society of America (SSA)**  
**Simulation-based Online Flight Training Experience (SOFTE)**

**Introduction**

SOFTE (Part 2) is an extension to the SOFTE (Part 1) webinar series conducted in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and covers the more advanced topics specified in FAA-S-8081-22A – Private Pilot Practical Test Standards for Glider Category.

In the interest of further advancing the sport of soaring, the Soaring Society of America announces the following:

**Simulation-based Online Flight Training Experience – 2025-2026 – SOFTE (Part 2)**

The overall purpose of the SOFTE initiative is to advance the sport of soaring by providing an additional source of cost effective, time efficient glider flight training. SOFTE (Part 2) is open to current members of the Soaring Society of America and its affiliated Clubs, Chapters, and Commercial Glider Operations, and focuses on the more advanced aspects of primary flight training for a glider category rating.

**Format**

The program format is composed of:

- webinar-based presentations/demonstrations
- independent simulation-based trainee performance/practice sessions, combined with recommended but optional critique by local flight training mentors

The webinar-based presentation/demonstration sessions will be hosted weekly on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 PM Central Time. Webinars will be recorded and archived to allow additional review of presented material, to allow viewing of the webinars at dates/times other than the regular schedule, and to enable late registrants to catch up with the current schedule.

Following each presentation/demonstration session, trainees are responsible for completing any related simulation-based flight performance exercises and/or reading assignments.

With respect to critique, trainees are responsible for recruiting one or more qualified flight training mentors (Certificated Glider Flight Instructor (CFIG), private/commercially rated glider pilot) to provide them with critique services. Ideally the critique agent would be a local resource, e.g., a club CFIG, club member, friend, etc. In the event a local critique agent recruitment fails, SOFTE's primary flight instructor will offer critique services to a limited number of participants. Critique may be provided online or in-person, is scheduled at the convenience of both parties, and is most effective when incorporated into the trainee's practice sessions. There is no requirement for persons providing critique services to have any working knowledge of the simulation hardware or software.

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**Eligibility/Costs**

The **Simulation-based Online Flight Training Experience – SOFTE (Part 2)** is available at **no cost** to SSA members in good standing at any of the available membership levels (<https://www.ssa.org/membership/>). While the course itself is available at no cost, there may be related equipment costs. See **Equipment Costs/Sources** below.

**Prerequisites**

Registrants must have completed SOFTE (Part 1) via a prior webinar series or independent study or provide evidence of having soloed in an actual glider.

**Information/Registration**

For additional information and/or to register for enrollment, contact SOFTE's primary instructor:

Scott Manley – a.k.a. “The Condor Guy”

Email: [smanley@wisc.edu](mailto:smanley@wisc.edu)

**SOFTE (Part 2) Course Content & Schedule**

1. Nov. 04 Curriculum Review / Condor Overview and Setup
2. Nov. 11 Steep Turns
3. Nov. 18 Flying in Thermal Lift  
Thanksgiving Break
4. Dec. 02 Stall Recognition & Recovery
5. Dec. 09 Turning Stalls
6. Dec. 16 Spin Recognition & Recovery  
Holiday Break
7. Jan. 06 Slow Flight
8. Jan. 13 High-Speed Flight
9. Jan. 20 Flying in Ridge Lift
10. Jan. 27 Flying in Wave Lift
11. Feb. 03 Landing Over an Obstacle
12. Feb. 10 Landing Downwind
13. Feb. 17 Landing Off-Field (Out)
14. Feb. 24 Premature Aerotow Termination – Part 1
15. Mar. 03 Premature Aerotow Termination – Part 2
16. Mar. 10 Boxing the Wake
17. Mar. 17 Aerotow Signaling Maneuvers
18. Mar. 24 Slack Rope Mitigation & Recovery Procedures
19. Mar. 31 No-Spoiler Approach & Landing

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**Equipment/Software**

○ **Requirements/Options**

1. The ability to view internet-based webinars (**Required**)  
Because the webinar presentations will include video demonstrations, a high-speed network connection (e.g., cable, fiber-optic) is highly recommended.
  
2. Access to a glider flight simulation workstation including:
  - Windows PC running the most current release of Condor Version 3 (**Required**)
  - Condor ASK-21 Aircraft License Key (**Required**)
  - Joystick (**Required**)
  - Rudder Pedals (Optional but highly recommended)  
If your joystick has a twist grip, that function may be used for yaw control.
  - View Control Device (**Required**)  
Options include:
    - Two-button computer mouse
    - Joystick with hat switch
    - Head-tracking system (e.g., TrackIR)
    - 2 or 3-screen computer monitor system
    - Virtual Reality Headset

○ **Equipment Costs/Sources**

- |                                     |       |                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|
| • Condor3 Standard Software License | \$85  | Cumulus-Soaring.com |
| • ASK-21 Aircraft License Key       | \$20  | Cumulus-Soaring.com |
| • Joystick                          |       |                     |
| Logitech Extreme 3D Pro             | \$50  | Cumulus-Soaring.com |
| • Rudder Pedal options              |       |                     |
| Thrustmaster Pedals                 | \$160 | Cumulus-Soaring.com |
| Other Rudder Pedals                 | \$??? | Amazon, Ebay        |