

Come On Out and Give Soaring a Try

The graceful launching and landing of sailplanes is something that even long-time pilots never get tired of watching. You are welcome to come out to the gliderport and watch the activities for a while. Of course, we encourage you to call ahead to make sure that we're operating the day you plan on visiting. Bring something to drink, a hat, sunglasses and some sunblock. Don't forget your camera! We'll be happy to show you the details of the sailplanes and answer any questions you might have. If you want, you can simply sit quietly and observe. If you come out just to watch and then decide that you'd like to give it a try, please don't hesitate to ask. All rides are delivered by FAA Certificated Commercial Glider Pilots or FAA Certificated Glider Flight Instructors.



Directions From St. Louis

I-55 north to Exit 30 at Hamel. Right on Illinois 140.

Approximately 9 miles to left at New Douglas/Rockwell Rd.

Approximately 2 miles to right at Leuscher/Rockwell Rd. (at stop sign). One-half mile to left at Rockwell Rd. toward New Douglas.

One-half mile to Silvercreek Gliderport on the right.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need a license to fly a sailplane?

A: Yes. Sailplanes and sailplane pilots are licensed according to FAA regulations.

Q: Are there fitness requirements?

A: A medical examination is not required to fly a glider. However, good general health and vision are needed (vision correction is ok).

Q: What does it take to add a glider rating to my current FAA pilot license?

A: You can add on a glider rating with a minimum of 3 hours dual, 10 solo flights and a checkride. No written test is required. Adding this rating will update your Flight Review.

Q: How much does it cost to buy my own sailplane?

A: A pre-owned sailplane capable of safely providing terrific soaring enjoyment can be purchased for as little as \$5,000, depending on equipment and performance. New, state-of-the-art sailplanes start at about \$50,000.

Q: What are the operating costs of owning a sailplane?

A: The primary costs are tows, maintenance, storage and insurance. Maintenance is usually minimal, costing around \$200 per year, mainly for the required annual inspection. Hangar fees for private sailplanes range from \$15 to \$60 per month at Silvercreek. Insurance costs vary significantly with the value of the sailplane; a group insurance plan is available to members of the Soaring Society of America.

For More Information

Visit our website:
SilvercreekGliderClub.com

E-mail us:
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Call us:
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Silvercreek

GLIDER CLUB



Discover

the sport of

Soaring!

"As close to pure magic as you will ever find."
— Tom Knauff, world record holder, long-distance soaring (1,023.4 miles)

The Sport of Soaring

Soaring is the exhilarating sport of flying a glider, also known as a sailplane. Glider pilots harness the natural energy of the sky – the rising currents of warm air called thermals, and the wind that blows across ridges and mountains.

To launch, a sailplane is connected to a 200-foot rope and towed aloft by a powered tow plane. The two ships climb in formation to about 3,000 feet, a ride that takes about five minutes. At altitude the glider pilot pulls a lever, releasing the sailplane from the rope, and gently banks away to begin a graceful and quiet flight. On a great soaring day, the sailplane can stay airborne on its own for many hours of sustained flight.



Who We Are

Formed in 1992, Silvercreek Glider Club is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the teaching and promotion of the sport of motorless flight. Unlike a commercial flight school, we are a “self-help” organization. All of our members perform the work required for the operation of the club, including towing, instructing, aircraft maintenance, glider assembly, ground crew, and yes, cleaning, painting, vacuuming, trash removal, etc.

We have a beautiful 4000 x 200 foot grass strip that many pilots consider to be one of the premier glider fields in the country. The air-conditioned and heated clubhouse has separate men’s and women’s restrooms with hot showers, two bunkrooms for overnight accommodations and a large family/common room. A separate screened-in kitchen serves as a dining area. All club and private aircraft, as well as trailers and utility vehicles are stored in two large hangars. Camping is available onsite or at nearby campgrounds.



Silvercreek is a family-oriented club. In addition to flying, events are planned throughout the year for members and their families. These include pot-luck barbecues, on-site camping, holiday gatherings and special flying events.



You Can Fly a Sailplane

Soaring is a great activity for family members of all ages. Some of the best glider pilots in the world are over 60 and consistently place among the top ten in National and World Competitions. Teens can solo a sailplane at age 14 and obtain a pilot certificate at age 16. Youth involvement is especially encouraged, and some scholarships are available for dedicated young pilots through the Soaring Society of America. Silvercreek welcomes spouses and children of members, who can fly for no additional monthly dues.



How Much Does It Cost?

Our current fees are:

- Member dues - \$45 per month
- Family member dues (spouses, children living at home) - \$0
- Sailplane use - \$5.50/flight
- Ground training - \$0
- Flight training - \$0
- Aero tow to 1000' - \$24.20
- Each additional 1000' - \$6.00

We require an initial escrow fee of \$300 which will be applied to dues and to flight fees. The escrow fee will also pay your first year membership dues in the Soaring Society of America, a requirement for membership in the Silvercreek Glider Club. Not sure you want to join? Give soaring a try with an introductory flight for just \$75!

How Long Will It Take to Get My License?

Silvercreek Glider Club operates primarily on the weekends, weather permitting. Although you are free to set your own pace, most students are encouraged to fly 2 or 3 times per day. Flights last anywhere from 20 minutes to one hour. Students are usually ready to solo after roughly 35 flights. Completion of your Private Pilot Glider License typically requires another 35 flights, some solo and some with an instructor.



Current Club Equipment

- Pawnee 250HP Tow Plane
- Schweizer SGS 2-33A Two-Place Glider
- Schweizer SGS 1-26E Single-Place Glider
- Grob G103 Twin Astir

Private Sailplanes On Site

- Schempp-Hirth Discus B
- Schweizer SGS 1-23
- Schempp-Hirth Standard Cirrus
- Glasflügel Standard Libelle 201B
- Diamond HK-36R Dimona Motor Glider

