

How to Become a Glider Pilot

Glider licenses are issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and in that regard is similar to that issued to power pilots or balloon pilots. Requirements for pilot licensing are included in Part 61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations; the basic requirements are as follows:

Students Pilots

Student pilots may solo at a minimum age of 14 with a student certificate endorsed for solo flight at the discretion of a FAA-Certified Flight Instructor for Gliders (CFIG). Generally, 30 to 40 flights with a CFIG are required to solo. This is roughly equivalent to 10-12 hours of flight time and is dependent upon the progress of the student.

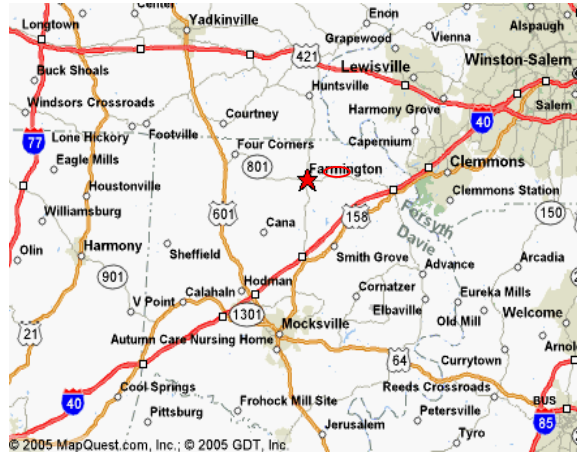
Private Pilot-Glider

After solo, student pilots may qualify as a Private Pilot-Glider provided they:

Are at least 16 years of age; and (1) have logged at least 10 hours of flight time in a glider and that flight time must include at least 20 total glider flights, and (2) have 2 hours of solo flight time in a glider, and (3) have passed the FAA written examination; and (4) have passed the flight exam with a FAA Examiner.

Commercial Pilots-Glider

Commercial Pilots-Glider must be at least 18-years of age, pass a written FAA examination, hold a Private Pilot-Glider license with 25 hours of flight time including 20 hours in gliders and 100 glider flights as pilot-in-command or a total of 200 hours as pilot-in-command in heavier-than-air aircraft including 20 glider flights as pilot-in-command, and pass a flight test.



Exit I-40 at Highway 801N PSS is 4 miles west on right.

Or Exit I-40 Farmington Road, turn north to 801, turn right to PSS Field

Exit I-40 on Highway 601 N turn east in (Intersection Hwy. 601 & Hwy. 801) Farmington onto highway 801 PSS is 1 mile on left.

YOU CAN'T MISS US — LOOK UP!

For more information:

Piedmont Soaring Society

Jeff Daye (704) 209-3125

Email: jdaye039@carolina.rr.com

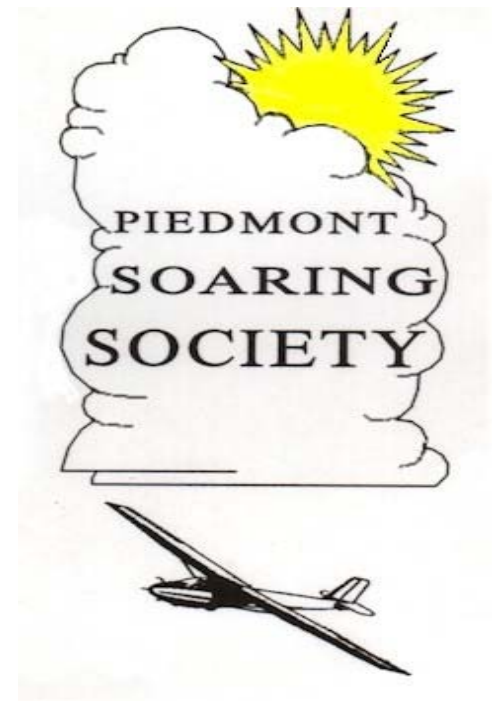
or

Jim Clark (336) 993-0723

Email: jim@jamesdclark.com

Please visit our web site

<http://www.piedmontsoaring.org>



Piedmont Soaring Society

Bahnson Field — 43NC

Hwy 801 W

Farmington, NC

<http://www.piedmontsoaring.org>

Piedmont Soaring Society

PSS was created as a non-profit organization by a group of soaring enthusiasts to encourage the sport and art of glider flight.

Founded in October 1999, PSS is located in beautiful Davie County, near Farmington, North Carolina.

The special quality of our club is the quiet rural area and atmosphere. We are fortunate that we have a beautiful area to soar. We have several events during the year. Most any day of the year regardless of weather pilots are usually at Bahnsen field working on gliders, walking around or doing what pilots do best, "hanger fly."



PSS owns two 2-seat gliders a Schweizer SGS 2-33 and a Grob Twin Astair. These gliders are primarily used for instruction and introductory rides. In addition our club owns a Piper Pawnee. This aircraft is used to tow our gliders to altitude.

WHAT IS SOARING?

You may already have an interest in aviation but perhaps you have not yet discovered the joy and excitement of gliding. If this is the case let us share with you our enthusiasm for what we regard as the ultimate sport.

Gliding, sometimes called soaring, is motor less flight. Gliders use naturally occurring atmospheric phenomena, called "LIFT", to gain altitude and stay aloft. The beauty of the earth quietly moves beneath as you soar across the countryside. Often we share the bright blue sky with beautiful birds such as the hawk.



Sources of Lift or What happens when the wind stops?



Once aloft you begin looking for one of three forms of energy. Thermals are columns of warm, rising air. Wave lift is an especially exciting form of lift. This phenomenon occurs when

strong winds blow perpendicular to a ridge or mountain. On the lee side of the ridge or mountain the wind is then deflected upward often with great force. Wave flights can reach altitudes well in excess of 40,000 feet.



Once in a thermal, you turn the sailplane in circles to stay in the center of lift until you are high enough to strike out in search of the next thermal.

Another exciting experience is ridge soaring. Imagine sailing along a mountain ridge exceeding speeds of 100 mph and only a few feet above the trees for many hours!



Methods of Launch

A sailplane is either launched by a power plane, by winch (a wire attached to a powerful engine which heaves the glider up to 2000ft into the sky) or by bungee cord. Aero tow launches are a widely used method of getting the glider airborne. The glider is pulled aloft by a rope secured by a special hook to the tow plane. The glider pilot can release the towrope at any height desired. Winch launching is achieved by attached a long wire to a powerful engine and then pulling the glider rapidly down the runway. The glider can achieve up to 2000 feet in altitude using this method.

