

SOSA Gliding Club

Cost of Learning to Fly Gliders vs Powered Aircraft

Gliding is a fantastic gateway to flying! Since you'll learn skills that are applicable to flying any aircraft, gliding opens the door to both recreational and professional flying. Unlike learning to fly a powered aircraft, glider flight training is inexpensive. Let's take a look at why this is the case.

Obtaining a private pilot licence for a single engine aircraft is expensive. Here's why!

- Requires 60-80 hr of flying to pass the Transport Canada Flight Test. The cost associated with this rental aircraft training, both with a flight instructor and solo, is about \$11,000;
- Pre and post flight briefings, ground school and required study materials ~\$2,000;
- Transport Canada multiple choice examination and flight test fees ~\$800;
- Aviation headset ~\$1,000;
- Aviation medical examination ~\$200;
- Licence and medical certificate issuance fee \$150; and
- HST ~\$2,000.

TOTAL over \$17,000

You might complete the in-flight training in about 65hr if you fly several times per week and save \$2,000 or so, but you won't learn to fly within the 45 hour minimum advertised by most flight schools! And after you've obtained your licence, a Cessna 172 will run \$150 to over \$200 per hour plus HST to rent.

Now let's explore why learning to fly a glider is so much less expensive.

Glider flying in Canada is conducted by clubs. The members of these organizations freely volunteer their time to keep training and operating costs as low as possible. Due to this, at SOSA, obtaining a glider licence is inexpensive, costing about \$4,800 or less which includes our club membership fees. Here's why!

- Club membership is \$200 under age 25 yrs, \$650 for others;
- Initiation fee \$200 for first 3 yrs if over 25 yrs. No fee under age 25 yrs;
- Flight training and ground briefings by Transport Canada certified SOSA instructors are free;
- Glider rental for ~45h of training and aerotows and winch launching ~\$3,000;

- Ground school and required materials \$200;
- Soaring Association of Canada membership fee \$80;
- Transport Canada multiple choice examination \$110;
- Flight test by a Transport Canada-approved SOSA examiner is free;
- Self-declared medical certificate is free;
- Aviation headset is not required; and
- HST

TOTAL ~\$4,000 if under 25 yrs, ~\$4,800 if over 25 yrs

And here's even more good news! Once you solo you can fly as much as you want, remaining close to our airport under supervision of an instructor. This means that you can really hone your skills! And once you're licenced, you can fly as much as you want by purchasing one of our glider rental packages listed in our fee schedule (\$0.98 or less per minute) and learn to fly cross country hopping from thermal to thermal. This means that for a \$40 launch fee plus the glider rental, you can fly for several hours at much less cost compared to renting a Cessna 172 for the same period of time.

So join SOSA and get started! You won't believe how much fun gliding is!

Visit us for more information at www.sosaglidingclub.com