

What Soaring Means to Me

Ryan Taylor

I look to the sky and what do I see? Birds lots of birds, and I wonder what it would be like to be a bird. When you need to get away you don't go for a car ride, you fly just fly away. Not a fear in the world. Peacefully soaring away the time, and loving every second of it. That's what soaring means to me. Freedom from any of the problems you might have going on. The problems are just gone. You look down, and everything looks smaller. You are on top of the world, and no one can stop you.

I've been in a glider plenty of times, but I have never gotten any instruction. I went on my first glider flight when I was 13 years old, and fell in love with it immediately. It's just so amazing how you are on the ground one second, and then you are being towed by a powered airplane the next, and moments later you lift off the ground and are flying. About 6 minutes later you release from the powered airplane, and you are soaring at 3000 feet above the ground. I love that you actually have to work to keep the glider in the air. It's a challenge that is definitely worth it, and the longer you stay up the more you get out of the whole experience.

Soaring to me is about freedom, the freedom from all the stresses in life. It's just you and the glider piercing through the sky. The rush of adrenaline you get calling in through the radio that you are coming in for a landing. You get one shot so you can't mess it up. My dad introduced me to the world of aviation in 2005 and ever since I have been quite interested in learning how to fly. I'm 16 now, which means that I can get my soaring license. That would be the most amazing thing ever. I love the sky, I love flying, and I just love being around airports.

There is always something going on at the field and most people are very interested in getting youth into aviation. Being the youth, it makes me very happy that people are trying to get others involved in the sport of soaring. I remember when I first started going out to the club; I knew that I was probably only going to get in a glider maybe once, so I did odd jobs to keep myself occupied. I loved every second of it. I learned something new every day I was at the field. I thought it was the coolest thing when they finally let me be the GSO (Ground Safety Officer). I knew that I was responsible for safety and that we were on an active runway. I took that responsibility very seriously, I was in love with the idea that people would trust me with that responsibility had to listen to me, and they did.

Another thing soaring is to me is people. The people I met out at the glider club were all good people, and they were always cool with teaching me something new. If I went home and didn't know something new, then something was wrong. I learned a lot about the gliders and how they worked. I learned about all of the instruments and if I had questions, every person at the field was happy to help me. Soaring to me is just getting out there and doing something worthwhile. That's what soaring means to me.