

Soaring is a get away; a release. It is the only time I fully relax. It makes me forget all of my worries and focus on something that, no matter how difficult, is fun. As soon as I get out to the airport in Hinckley where I fly, all my worries melt away. The only thing that matters is the sky, and being up in the air and flying. It feels like I am a bird just flying around without a care in the world. As a high school student, relaxation is important, but I take flying more seriously than most of my classes. Flight is something I care about. It runs through my veins. My father is a pilot, his father was a pilot, and my mother's father flew and owned a few small planes during his life.

Last summer was when I began soaring. My first flight was exhilarating, and so was my last. I was heartbroken after breaking my foot; my instructor and I decided it would be best to stop flying until my foot healed. The break postponed my training more than the time between seasons. I thought that I would have been able to solo before the season ended, but the break set my training back, so unfortunately I was unable to. This next season I want to not only solo, but earn my private pilot's license for both a powered plane, and a glider.

Since I was in first grade, I wanted to be a professional pilot that flies for one of the legacy airlines like my father, and grandfather. Gliding this past summer was my first step; my entrance towards my dreams. Now it is a love, and my addiction. As far as gliding goals go, it is simpler than my career goal. I want to receive my commercial and instructor ratings as the years progress so I may share my love of soaring with others, and provide information to encourage them to begin as well.

For me, soaring is much more than being up in the sky. The adrenaline rush as the flight starts is amazing, and the best part is the people you can meet through soaring. Without the amazing individuals at Hinckley airport, I doubt that I would be so thoroughly addicted, and in love with this passion for soaring. It is because of the people there that soaring is more than a stepping stone in my career path but has become a love and a joyful new hobby. In terms of soaring, I have not accomplished much, but have made amazing friends who are so supportive and help encourage me to achieve more.

Even though soaring is a love that I would pay any price for, my parents currently control the finances and say it is getting expensive. As previously stated, I broke my foot which has led to many doctor visits and physical therapy on top of other expenses. As I want to get both glider and powered private pilot's license this summer, I know my parents are looking at paying a huge bill for me and any little bit of outside help relieves their stress and keeps me flying longer.