



Air Sailing, Inc. presents

The 37th Annual Cross-Country Camp June 8 - 13, 2025

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What it is

A five-day comprehensive camp that offers classroom sessions, practical demonstration, and daily practice of the basic and intermediate concepts and skills involved in conservative, recreational cross-country flying.

Audience

Beginning or intermediate-level cross-country soaring enthusiasts who want to:

- Become more efficient at thermalling and cross-country soaring techniques through practice.
- Develop and sharpen their cross-country decision-making skills.
- Gain the confidence to advance and enhance their cross-country soaring abilities while managing risk.

The camp has a long history of giving pilots their first cross country experiences and honing the skills of more advanced pilots. In 1976, Tim Broyhill organized the first cross-country camp at Air Sailing. Carl Herold continued the tradition in the 1980s, and it continues today in the hands of dedicated Air Sailing members. Hundreds of pilots from around the country have attended over the years.

Location

Air Sailing Gliderport is located about 25 miles north of Reno, Nevada, near Pyramid Lake. Air Sailing, Inc. is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run, membership organization. Air Sailing has been a haven for pilots in California and Nevada for 50 years who enjoy our access to superb soaring. The gliderport property, located in the Palomino Valley about twenty-five miles north of Reno, Nevada, has been granted in perpetuity to Air Sailing, Inc. from the Bureau of Land Management. Our revenue is derived from memberships, donations, an annual banquet and silent auction, educational soaring camps, and hangar/tiedown fees.

Pre-Requisites

Participants must have a valid Private Glider Rating and at least 30 hours of solo time. Participants must provide their own glider, trailer, oxygen system, parachute, current sectionals, radio, and glider liability insurance. Participants need not have any cross-country experience but must have solid piloting skills. This means you should be accomplished at thermalling and with short/soft field landings (See "Pilot Preparations for Camp.") If you are uncertain about your skills, feel free to consult with the Camp Manager or an Air Sailing CFGI. Air Sailing is also hosting a Thermal Camp the week prior to the XC Camp. Many pilots find this to be an excellent warm-up to flying in the high desert and an opportunity to hone their thermalling skills before going cross country. A crew is not necessary, as an emphasis will be placed on returning to the gliderport each day.

Important: Pilots without previous experience flying in mountain or high desert environments may be required to check out with an Air Sailing CFGI prior to flying in the camp. This checkout can be as little as one flight, depending on your skill level.

Costs

The camp fee is \$350 (\$200 for additional pilot in same glider) and includes five days of classroom sessions and mentoring and course materials. \$50 is considered a non-refundable registration fee for registrants who cancel later than two weeks prior to the event. The registration fee includes a one-year Air Sailing membership and covers oxygen fills, glider tiedown and trailer parking for the week. Current Air Sailing members will be credited \$50 to their camp accounts. Tows and incidentals including aero-retrieves, instructor checkout, camping, banquet, etc. are not included. Budget \$350 for tows (more if you take relights), \$25 per person for a banquet, and additional for other incidentals (see "Cost Sheet").

Camping is available at Air Sailing: (i) in your own tent, car or truck, for free; (ii) in your own RV or camping trailer, \$10 parking fee for the week; or (iii) in one of the 5 Air Sailing camping trailers, \$100 fee for the week (reserve early with the camp manager for one of these).

Daily Schedule

This Cross-Country Camp includes an orientation on Sunday evening June 8, and then five days of cross-country soaring talk and practice in good Nevada lift on June 9 through 13. Pilots should arrive at Air Sailing on June 7 or 8 and have their glider set up and ready to fly by the end of the day on June 8. Pilots who are new to Air Sailing are encouraged to fly locally on June 7 and/or 8 for local orientation. Dual orientation flights with a local instructor may be available if arranged in advance.

Daily classroom sessions, demonstrations, and flights start at 8 a.m. and continue through at least 5 p.m. Participants with similar gliders are assigned to an experienced lead pilot who will be your mentor for the week. The week is topped off with a fun-filled banquet and celebration on either Thursday or Friday evening (See “Camp Syllabus.”)

All pilots (including lead pilots) are required to attend a yearly Air Sailing safety briefing. This briefing will be offered on Sunday, possibly combined with the camp safety briefing that evening.

Course for the camp topics include:

- Thermalling Tips, Techniques and Efficiency
- High Desert Takeoffs and Landings
- Cross Country Flying without Tears and Fears
- Preparations for Cross-Country Flight
- Cross-Country Speed to Fly and Efficiency
- Point of No Return Planning
- Off Field Landings
- Collision Avoidance
- Cross-Country Badge & Record Flying
- Reading Weather Charts and Soundings
- Soaring Near Thunderstorms
- Types of Lift
- Pilot Physiology
- Strategy and Standard Routes

Classroom sessions start at 8:00 AM sharp each day, and run until about 11:15 AM. We break for lunch and strategy sessions between camp participants and their lead pilots, and start gridding gliders for afternoon flights by 12:15 PM. There will be an assigned launching order each day, which is rotated so each group gets an early launch time at some point during the camp.

Directions

To arrive at Air Sailing Gliderport by road, take the Pyramid Way exit off I-80 and travel 17 miles north. Turn left onto Winnemucca Ranch Road and drive 7 miles; this is a paved and gravel road. Take a right at the Air Sailing sign and continue 1.5 miles to the gliderport.

Registration

Send an email to Harry Fox asking for a link to the Online Registration Form.

Related Info

Air Sailing Gliderport, <http://www.airsailing.org>
Nevada Soaring Association, <http://nevadasoaring.com/>
Pacific Soaring Council, <http://www.pacificsoaring.org>