

The art of soaring

Utilizing naturally occurring vertical air currents in our atmosphere your glider silently climbs alongside soaring birds high in the sky. After climbing thousands of feet you begin a high speed glide towards your destination ahead. You may not have to circle again for many miles. Then, you begin yet another graceful climb followed by another glide. This is the sport of soaring.

Some glider pilots find satisfaction in staying close to their home airport and simply enjoying honing their skills in flying sailplanes for hours at a time while taking in the scenery below. Other glider pilots seek the thrill and challenge of making the most efficient use of the weather and their aircraft to fly great distances and altitudes. The world altitude record in a glider is more than 49,000ft. Distance flights of more than 1000 kilometers are not uncommon. The longest task ever flown in a glider is just over 3000 kilometers.

Cross country soaring is one of the most rewarding experiences a pilot can have. Flying a silent, engineless aircraft long distance using nothing but a start from a 2,000 foot tow and the weather poses a challenge unique to soaring.

Our Location

Moriarty airport is located in the Estancia Valley which runs generally north and south, with the Sandia and Manzano mountain ranges to the west. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are to the north.

The airport is southeast of the town of Moriarty. From I-40, take the Hwy 41 (Howard Cavasos Blvd) exit and go south. Pass through 1 stoplight (at old Route 66) and turn east at the next stoplight. Drive straight east until the airport is visible on the right and turn right on George Applebay Way. The long gray hangar/clubhouse is near the main runway and taxiway.



Contact Information

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Welcome to the Albuquerque Soaring Club

The ASC, established in 1960 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is currently based at Moriarty Airport in the heart of the Estancia Valley, 35 miles east of Albuquerque.

Moriarty boasts some of the finest year round soaring conditions in the United States, including 15 knot thermals to 22,000 ft, mountain wave to 30,000 ft, and orographic lift off the Manzano, Sandia, Ortiz, and Sangre de Cristo mountain ranges. Many flights in excess of 250 miles are recorded each year.

The principal mission of the Albuquerque Soaring Club is to:

- Promote the sport of soaring
- Provide the facilities necessary to allow Albuquerque area glider rated pilots the opportunity to soar
- Provide safe and reasonably priced equipment to it's members
- Provide ongoing training and education to it's members
- Provide for the growth of the ASC by recruiting and training new members
- Promote fellowship through club sponsored social events
- Be a "good neighbor" to the town of Moriarty and its residents

How do sailplanes stay aloft?

In order to start a soaring flight, a sailplane is typically towed to altitude behind a powered aircraft. The glider pilot can release the tow rope at any height. An experienced pilot will recognize when being towed into an area of lift and will release from tow in order to use the lift to climb unassisted. A tow to 2000 feet above ground is a common start.

Once aloft you seek one of the three forms of vertical air movements to keep your glider airborne. The most common form of lift is the *thermal*, which is a column of warm, rising air. The second, *ridge lift*, is created by wind flowing up the windward side of a hill. Finally, *mountain wave* is a form of lift caused by winds blowing perpendicular to a ridge or mountain and undulating downwind, often with great speed to high altitudes.



Flight Training

At Moriarty Airport there are two options for those who want to learn to soar. While not required, potential new glider pilots are highly encouraged to train with Sundance Aviation, the local commercial operation. Training with a commercial operator is beneficial in that you have the opportunity to earn your rating much faster and will likely have a more consistent relationship with the small number of instructors on staff. This operation is open 7 days a week for much of the year. More information is at www.soarsundance.com and 505-832-2222.



After initial training, ASC can provide an environment in which post license flight training and mentoring can thrive. This training can be oriented towards more advanced soaring such as cross-country flight, FAI badge flying, and competition racing, as well as training for the next levels of FAA certificates (glider commercial and instructor).

Club Aircraft

The club has two Piper Pawnee tow planes, five club ships including a Schweizer 2-33A, a Schweizer 1-26E, a Libelle 201, a Grob Twin Astir, and club members own many private ships ranging from 1-26s to ASW-27's.

Member Obligations

In return for reasonable tow and aircraft rental rates and access to the facilities, ASC members are asked to share in the duties of the club. In addition to monthly dues, new members help with Operations duties, which occur about once every couple of months and require a full day at the airport. As you get acquainted with the club and its activities you might find other ways in which you can help. Please remember, our fine club is made possible by the efforts of its many volunteers!



How much does it cost?

For new members there is a one time capital contribution fee of \$300 (non-refundable) plus \$150 account payment to build an initial credit.

All members are required to be registered with the Soaring Society of America (SSA) for \$64/yr.

Membership dues: categories: (1) \$34/mo-Non-Owner (fly mostly club aircraft); (2) \$25/mo-Owner (fly mostly a private aircraft behind a club towplane), and (3) \$24/mo-Family (if you have other family active in the club).

Tow costs: \$10 plus \$0.60 per 100ft with a 1400ft minimum

Aircraft Rental Rates:

- 2-33, 1-26 - \$10/hr
- Libelle - \$15/hr
- Twin Astir - \$20/hr

Youth Soaring Opportunities

The ASC is supportive of our youth members because they are the future of our wonderful sport. If you are age 25 or less and attending school full time, ask about special opportunities for training in our club.

