



Welcome to our Private Pilot Ground Class

You have already entered into what could easily become the single most rewarding chapter of your life. I make two promises: Learning to fly airplanes is a very real and attainable goal. And it will probably be more exciting and satisfying than anything you have ever done.

Purpose

St. Charles Flying Services routinely sends pilots from the starting point you are taking on here all the way to airline transport pilot and even military careers. You have most likely already met some of these pilots who stop in regularly to visit their SCFS family.

In this ground study class we will be teaching you the material you will need to know for both your flight lessons with your CFI and the oral portion of your Private Pilot Practical Test oral exam. This is a bit of a moving target designed to make sure you KNOW and UNDERSTAND the material we will be discussing for 13 plus weeks. Memory is part of it but the use of concepts, common sense, utilization of resources and practical applications is where we will concentrate our efforts. With this knowledge in your head, you know intellectually what you need to know in order to fly an airplane safely.

As well we will teach you the material you need to know to do well on the FAA written test which will be an effort to teach to the test. That is a written test of 60 multiple choice questions designed by the FAA and a pretty good indicator of your rote memory of the material we will be discussing in class. While I'm not crazy about the concept of teaching to the test, it has to be done to a point and you will understand fully by the end of class why that is.

Schedule

We will start on Monday, April 17 (tentatively). Classes will be held once a week on Monday evenings at the Administration Building of St. Charles County Smartt Regional Airport. The exact address is

6390 Grafton Ferry Rd,
Portage Des Sioux, MO 63373.

The hours will be from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM. Make-up sessions will be available if necessary but there can be a cost attached. Depending on your progress and the class missed, we can usually arrange around a missed class without an additional session or extra cost.

Content and Expectations

One main point I'd like to make is that for this to work, you absolutely must dedicate to it fully. Just meeting once a week won't be enough. There is a lot of study, memory and reading (and particularly viewing of the Online program) that will have to take place in between each session. There is just too much you have to know given the limited time of 50 hours or so in a class room.

Think of it as a guided self-study course. Expect to spend several hours between each class or you will have a very hard time keeping up. We're only talking about an hour or so a day but you can't afford to lose the momentum, especially in the early and middle weeks.

Your check ride oral exam (the hardest part of the process for most people) goes much quicker and easier with a high FAA test score. A low but still passing score assures you that the DPE (Designated Pilot Examiner) will grill you on the material you got wrong on the FAA test until (s)he is positive you know it. Or (s)he will send you back to study until you know the material. I will do my best to make this class fun and interesting but your success will be a direct descendent of the work you put into it.

Online classes have been known to work for some people. But I have had a lot of people through this class who have taken just an online class and no ground class and just not felt confident. Each one has expressed to me that that having a chance to have two-way discussions and along with the ability to stop and ask questions, as this class is structured, has been right for them.

Text and Supplies

The main text book will be “Cessna Sport/Private” Online Course by King. There are a couple of other text sources that are usable but the Cessna King Course will work best. Attached to this e-mail is the syllabus which contains a full list of all other items required, many of which are included in the Cessna King package. You can get most of these materials including the main text at the St. Charles Flying Services FBO. You might want to set a shelf aside in your home library for all your aviation publications and study materials. You will accumulate them and fill it up sooner than you think.

Cost

The cost of this class is a choice of one between three available packages:

Option 1

Ground School Only:

\$400. This includes 15 Ground School sessions of 3.5 hours each. There will still be \$125 to \$250 cost in supplies required in addition. The texts used for reading assignments will be at the discretion of the student.

Option 2

Ground School with Cessna/King Online Package:

\$575 plus tax. This includes 15 Ground School sessions of 3.5 hours each. It also includes most required supplies that come with C/K package. The texts used for reading assignments will be the C/K online itself.

Option 3

Cessna/King Online Package Only:

\$375. The texts used for reading assignments will be the C/K online itself. With this, you may sit in on any scheduled Ground Class for: \$25 per session.

This gets you a seat in the class for as many sessions as it takes to complete the material. The schedule indicates 13 weeks but there may likely be a week or two more.

* Important Note

Please make payment promptly and prior to the start of classes (or make direct arrangements with me). **In order to get the \$200 discount for the class, you must purchase the Cessna/King Online from St. Charles Flying Services.** If you have not bought the C/K Online or paid for the class yet, please do not delay.

** Additional Note

If for some reason you cannot finish this class (life has a way of getting in the way of everything good), you will be welcomed to join any subsequent class at no additional cost. Our goal is to see you complete this course and we will do everything possible to assure that you do. Transitioning to a subsequent class can be problematic for a variety of reasons but we will keep you in the game.

Please go over the class syllabus which describes in detail the scheduling and course content. Thanks again for giving us this opportunity. We very much look forward to your success here along with a new and rewarding relationship that all of us will share.

This class will get my best effort. I do ask and very strongly suggest that it get yours as well. I know you will be very happy with the result if it does.

Please call me if you have any questions or if there is anything else I can help you with...

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