

Narrative for Aviation Videos from Lake Area Technical Institute

By Greg Klein

F-15 Eagles over New Orleans

Many of our students are military veterans - some from each branch of the service. Many from military aviation maintenance backgrounds in the military and they attend LATI to become FAA certified aviation maintenance technicians. One of our students who just graduated went the other direction and joined the Air Force to become a maintainer of the newest aircraft in the fleet, the Lockheed F-35 Lightning. Instructor Greg Klein at LATI is retired Air Force and worked on the F-15. Both those aircraft are featured in this video.

Fabric Covering Timelapse

I like to call this video "A Tale of Two Airplanes" because the aircraft you see being covered with fabric skin is one that we totally restored over a period of about 4 years and it was gorgeous when we got done. Near the end of the video you see two airplanes, a white one and the green one featured during the covering portion of the video, parked tail-to-tail. Over a period of about 3 years our students totally rebuilt the white one as well. We installed a tow hook on the white one and use it to tow gliders into the air as you can see in the last footage of the video. That aerial footage was of the very first flight of the green glider being towed. We had complete confidence in our work but we were still nervous. It's a very satisfying feeling to take basket cases and turn them into awesome flying machines.

LATI Soaring Event

Footage from an event we've done for 4 years in a row in late April where we invite owners of gliders to Watertown and do as many as 170 glider flights in 2 days. The video features three methods of launching gliders:

1. Self-launch gliders which have their own engine to get off the ground and you can shut the engine off to glide.
2. Aerotow which is where you connect a tow plane to glider and tow it up.
3. Ground launch, which in this case is where we hooked a 1600 foot rope from the glider to the schools pick-up truck and towed the glider up to 1000 foot launch altitudes. The sounds and sensations of this type of launch are fantastic. The rope sounds like a 1600 foot guitar string in the wind and it's loud! Also, the climb out is very steep and it's like getting launched from a carrier deck.

Last year's event was a STEM event and we took high school math and science class students up for a glider ride.

Spray Pass Take 1

This is what it looks like when a spray plane pilot goes to work to spray fields. The pilot is one of our students on a training flight. WOW! Nuff said.

Virgin Galactic – Dreams

This company uses a jet powered mother ship to lift a 6 passenger spaceship to 50,000 feet. The rocket gets released from the mother ship, fires it's rocket, and completes its trip to space. Both craft return to a runway (Spaceport America) in New Mexico where the space passengers are awarded astronaut wings. It's space tourism. One of our graduates was on the team that built the spaceship and they are flight testing it now.

Ximango

This is one of the school's self-launch gliders (motorgliders). It uses an engine to get itself off the ground instead of being towed up by a tow plane. This video shows a typical flight using the engine to get to altitude, shutting it off and feathering the propeller to soar, and returning to the airport to land without restarting. The scenes at the beginning with the students were taken at an Air Force base in New Mexico where we flew another school airplane to pick up the Ximango.