

From the Editor

Publication Date

This issue is the fourth of Volume 48 of *TS*, corresponding to October-December 2024. For the record, the issue was published in March 2026.

About this issue

Many soaring clubs face the same hard reality of fewer resources – volunteer instructors and two-seat gliders – limiting their student pilot throughput and thereby the capacity for their own sustainment. The article by Navaratnam, Pinlac, Stone, and Bramesfeld from the Toronto Metropolitan University in Canada offers a concrete, club-relevant demonstration of simulation as a training “force multiplier” in the volunteer soaring ecosystem. In their University Soaring Society (USS) program, four of six selected students achieved solo in approximately 25 flights — or about half the national average of 40–50 flights. The article reports on how an integrated training program, combining structured ground school and weekly instructor-led simulator

sessions, prepared students during the winter season for actual flight training as well as complemented flight training during the flying season to review and correct any mistakes after each flight.

The original paper was presented at the XXXVI OSTIV Congress in August 2024 in Uvalde, Texas, and received the OSTIV Segal Training and Safety award. The peer review of this *TS* article was overseen by Associate Editor Richard Carlson, Chair of the OSTIV Safety and Training Panel.

Very Respectfully,

Kurt Sermeus
Editor-in-Chief, *Technical Soaring*
ts-editor@ostiv.org