



# SOAR UTAH

**4-6 SEPTEMBER: WORLD-CLASS SOARING IN THE AMERICAN WEST**

*The Intermountain Silent Flyers (IMSF) invite you to the Soar Utah 2026 event near Salt Lake City, Utah. The event will be much like the famous Soar Utah 2024. Rich Vernon, Club President, and organiser Robert Rucinski give an overview.*

On Thursday afternoon, September 3rd, we will begin flying at the aerotow site Grantsville Salt Flats (Mistyway RC Model Airfield). Club members will be camping and cooking on the Flats. There will be food for the folks who wish to come that evening as well as a casual campfire.

Friday, September 4th, we will host an Aerotow and Fun fly at the Grantsville Salt Flats starting at 9:30 am and going to about 5 pm. Before the Aerotow gets started, we will serve Breakfast and there will be food available for lunch. The Point of the Mountain site will also be available for slope flying and members of the club will be on site. On Friday, we will be sharing the site with hang gliders and paragliders.

Saturday, September 5th, and Sunday, September 6th, two days of Fun Fly at the Point of the Mountain, sunrise to sunset. We are planning on having exclusive use of the Flight Parks on both the North and South sides. There will be water and light snacks provided by the Intermountain Silent Flyers.

On the last day, Monday, September 7th, traditionally we have traveled to Francis Peak, a 9560' high alpine soaring site with incredible views of the Great Salt Lake Val-

ley. However, attendance has been very light the last couple of Soar Utah events, so we may make a change. We see four possible options: Fly at Francis Peak as we have done previously, fly again at the Point of the Mountain, but we will be sharing the mountain with the hang gliders and paragliders, return to Grantsville for more aerotowing, or consider it a travel day and not fly.

The Point of the Mountain Flight Park is the primary slope venue for Soar Utah. Formed along the ancient shoreline of Lake Bonneville, the slope rises appro-

ximately 600 feet from the valley floor and extends nearly 800 meters along its face. This geography produces highly consistent lift conditions across a wide range of wind speeds and directions. A particularly unique characteristic of the site is its reliable daily wind cycle, allowing operations on both south-facing and north-facing slopes. This enables pilots to fly throughout the day, often transitioning seamlessly between lift bands as conditions evolve. Visitors regularly fly large-scale composite gliders exceeding six meters in span alongside high performance F3F racers, aerobatic slope ships, and classic





unrestricted flight in all directions, making it especially well-suited for large-scale sailplanes and powered tow aircraft. Aerotow operations at Mistyway offer pilots the opportunity to explore thermal lift and long duration soaring in a setting reminiscent of fullscale soaring environments. The combination of world-class slope soaring and dedicated aerotow operations distinguishes Soar Utah as a

present on site. Philipp Gardemin, owner and editor-in-chief of AUFWIND, will be travelling from Germany and is looking forward to getting to know the Soar Utah community. Following the event, he will also be inspiring the international model flying community with a comprehensive report on Soar Utah. In addition, Rosenthal Models USA will be showcasing and supporting some of Europe's finest sailpla-



nes, accessories, and soaring equipment. Their participation highlights the strong connection between the European and North American soaring communities and provides pilots direct access to world-class aircraft and expertise.

*Rich Vernon, Robert Rucinski*

scale sailplanes. The clean airflow, expansive landing areas, and absence of major obstructions make it possible to safely operate aircraft of nearly any size and performance level. Against the backdrop of Utah's alpine peaks and desert valleys, the visual and flying experience is truly exceptional.

Complementing the slope environment is Mistyway Airfield, located west of Salt Lake City near the Great Salt Lake desert. This expansive dry lakebed provides ideal conditions for aerotow and self-launch operations. The flat, open terrain allows

uniquely versatile soaring event. Pilots can experience dynamic ridge lift, extended thermal flights, precision aerobatics, and scale soaring. All within a single gathering.

The event is organized by the Intermountain Silent Flyers, an AMA sanctioned club dedicated to promoting soaring flight and maintaining access to Utah's exceptional flying sites. Support from strong partners such as MrMPX-Hobbies and AUFWIND-magazine reflects the growing recognition of Soar Utah within the international soaring community. Both will be

### Soar Utah 2026

**Date:** 4-6 September

**Location:** Salt Lake City, Utah

**Organiser:**

[www.intermountainsilentflyers.com](http://www.intermountainsilentflyers.com)

**Info:** Please bring 40 US-dollars in cash and the proof of current AMA membership if you plan to fly.

