

Welcome to Imperial Flyers! You're now part of the oldest trapeze club in the country, maybe the world. Being a member means that you have equal rights and privileges to every other member—you can fly, catch, use other aerial apparatus, learn to pull safety lines, invite friends, etc. Though we are not a school, we are very excited to help you achieve your high-flying goals and have fun with you out at the rig!

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- You'll find date/time changes, events, groups, etc. on the message board. If you haven't signed up already, send an email request to

ImperialFlyers-subscribe@yahogroups.com

- Use the message board to post questions to the group or let us know if you intend to bring more than one friend.
- Please show up on time and plan to stay for the whole session if you can when you come to fly. The net goes up and down much easier with at least four people setting up, and it's not fair to expect others to set the net up for you. We understand that everyone can't be there on time, for the whole time, all the time, but please make an effort.
- As a member, we hope you'll participate in the circus, maintenance days, events, and groups when you have the time. The only thing that will perpetuate this club is the people in it!
- Please speak up if you see a newbie walking under the net or see something else unsafe going on. We're all responsible for safety at the rig.
- Because no one is officially "in charge" at the club, many people will probably give you advice. Take what works for you, and leave the rest!

Etiquette:

- Before heading up to the perch, look around and ask the people who showed up ahead of you if they want to go up first. This goes the same for catching.
- We try to have a maximum of three people at a time up on the perch, so please don't head up the ladder if there are already three people up there.

- Please exit the net as soon as possible, so the next person can swing. Sitting in the perch-side apron is dangerous but sometimes necessary when groups are out and beginners need help with the safety lines. If you find yourself serving as “net monkey,” please sit toward the side of the net and watch out for flying bodies!
- If you don’t want to do a trick across to the catcher when the catcher is up, ask the catcher if they mind you just swinging. Catching is hard on the ole’ tooshie, so generally catchers request you wait to just swing until they come down.
- If you’re standing on the left-hand side of the perch, your responsibility is to pull the board (palito, aka “burrito”) if a flyer uses it to take off.
- If you’re on the right-hand side of the perch, your responsibility is to hand the bar to the flyer.
- Regardless of what side of the perch you are on, if a flyer is returning to the perch, be sure you don’t have your hands where they are going to grab when they return.
- Be aware of whether you are to hook the bar or someone is dropping a return bar when a flyer goes across to the catcher. Remove the hook as soon as possible when someone has their hand on the bar, especially with beginners, in case they take off “unexpectedly.” Additionally, when someone does not need a return bar after going to the catcher, be sure to hook the bar immediately after he or she leaves the bar so as to avoid injury to the flyer as he or she drops into the net.
- The first time you are ever caught, you are obligated to kiss the catcher. 😊

Friends and Family:

You are more than welcome to invite friends out to the rig. Please make sure they bring proof of health insurance and \$10 each. EVERYBODY PAYS. If you do not want your friends to have to pay, you are responsible to pay the \$10 each for them.

Please email the group if you plan to bring friends out so we can ensure enough people will be available to help.

Children of paid members fly free until they are 18 years old, at which time they are responsible to pay \$10 per session or our regular annual membership fees.

Groups and Trapeze 101:

We generally encourage any groups of people who are interested in flying to come to our monthly Trapeze 101 classes (available from May through September). Helping with groups and Trapeze 101 classes is completely voluntary and much appreciated by those who regularly help. Even if you're a beginner, you can help by checking people in, showing a knee-hang on the practice bar, helping people remove their safety lines after swinging (aka net monkey), etc. Please consider coming to help if you have the time.

On select occasions, we do entertain groups of people who are associated with our members. Group sessions usually last 1.5 hours with about a half hour or so for set up and takedown. Group pricing is normally \$25 per person, but flyers may invite a group of their friends to come out for \$10 per person. If you'd like to invite a group of your friends to fly, please be sure they are fit enough to fly, have proof of health insurance, and bring cash. Also, please send an email to the group regarding date choices. It's usually best to schedule a group on a weekend before or after our regular flying times.

Circus:

Each year Imperial Flyers has a free circus in August. We encourage you to invite friends and family and show off your flying trapeze skills (in or out of safety lines) and any other "circus appropriate" skills, such as juggling, aerial fabric, lyra, web, etc.

Resources:

- Our website: <http://imperialflyers.org>
- Ludwig's website: <http://damnhot.com/trapeze/index.htm>
- The Trapeze Net: <http://www.flying-trapeze.com/>

If you feel a little lost or confused about anything, don't fret! Just ask us; we are all happy to help you however we can.

Catch you later!

The Imperial Flyers Board