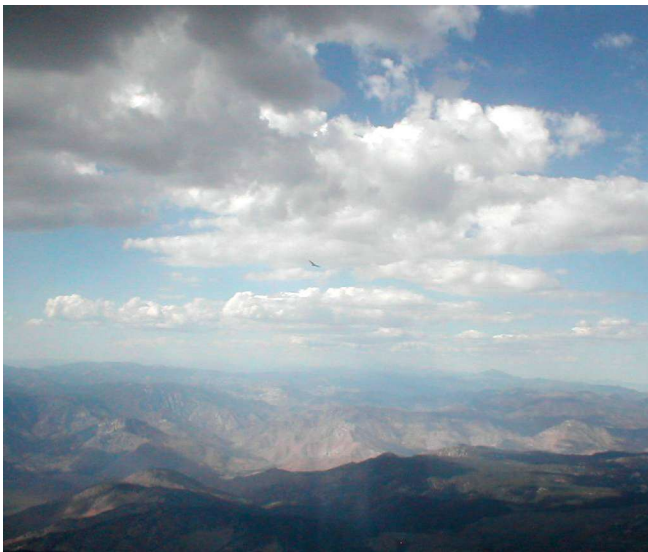


Tehachapi Campout A Huge Success By Flieger Hucksfedder



OCSA's Labor Day Campout 06 was a resounding success with many pilots exceeding their personal best flights and/or earning badge legs. Social activities were combined with the Experiment Sailplane Association allowing members to meet many of the "greats" of soaring. Sailplanes were aplenty but Mountain Valley's three tow planes kept lift lines short. With tremendous soaring conditions, low releases combined with long flights to keep a lid on tow costs. All three days had excellent lift with wonderful clouds to mark the way to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. And crews reported little but much needed rest from the hectic world back in the work basin.



Some members got "signed off" for their first solo flights away from home turf...some made their first cross-country journeys...some earned parts of their Silver, Gold, or Diamond badges...some headed north and landed out. Yes, it was the best of all possible worlds!

The Friday early birds caught many worms with many saying it was the best weather of the weekend. Dave Rasket flew "Sierra Alpha Sierra" close to home as Jan was busy elsewhere. Pat Russette flew north of Mammoth and back for 641 km. Mike Muncey in "Alpha Papa" made Coyote Flats for 543 km. Dan Rihn rode "Whiskey Oscar" and flew his first 300k O&R for a potential

Gold Distance and Diamond O&R (he is unsure his data logger worked correctly). Jerry Clark successful flew his Silver Distance 50k leg. Larry Tuohino missed the day as his seatbelts needed a repair, so he helped Lynn Erickson with the local permit process for putting in a bathroom in Lynn's hanger.



Saturday began with many arrivals and the assembly of the Blanik and PW-5. Jeff Donoho got first pick of flight times for trailering the Blanik out to Tehachapi from Hemet. Mary and Mike Rust arrived and Mary ran the Pilot's Meeting. Pat Russette launches and by the end of the day sets a new personal high water mark on OLC with a flight to Mina and return for a 755 km. Larry Tuohino launches late but makes up for missing the previous day by blazing a blistering average of 80 knots to Whitney and back in his Pik-20 "HoUdini". Mike

Muncey also turns Whitney and back yet for another 361 km.

That evening OCSA joined in a BBQ/hanger party with the ESA at Jeff Byard's hanger. In the "small world" department, Swantje Tuohino casually mentions to Bob Gaines that she grew up in northern Germany and finds out that her 8th grade biology teacher, Jochen Kruse, is a good friend of Bobs and also is an avid vintage glider collector. Finally, (don't tell Kathy but) Lynn adds to his pile both at the ESA auction and after an exchange of funds with Wayne Spani.

Sunday begins with a "local knowledge map seminar" by Larry Tuohino in the Raven's Nest map room. Roger Worden uses that info later in the day to fly his 50 kilometer flight for "practice" as unfortunately the PW-5's data logger was not brought to Tehachapi. Expect big things from Roger in 2007! Tony and Billie Davis arrive with Tony's new HP-11 for show and tell. Billie heads down to Bakersfield for the day to visit her brother. Jerry Clark completes his Silver Badge requirements he started the day before by flying over 5 hours and made it a weekend "hat trick" with Gold altitude. Pat Russette continues his streak with a 567 km to Sulman Grove and back. Muncey makes just south of Whitney for 348 km. Oscar Alonzo turns Whitney for 378 km.

Larry launches early and "lights the afterburners" for Boundary Peak but on the return gets swept off of Mt Whitney and lands out (along with Dan Rihn and 4 other pilots) at Lone Pine...he still flew 511k! With pilots down in Lone Pine, Pat, Mike, and Jerry Clark mobilize for the retrieve so all five miss the OCSA dinner at Jake's Steakhouse. Jake's was a nice place, good food, with a quiet room for the club to enjoy. Lynn and Kathy Erickson went to the ESA dinner and report much concern and discussion about the latest upheaval in SSA finances.





Monday Larry and Roger leave early to pick up Larry's Pik20 in Lone Pine and to check out landout sites along the way. At Cinder Cone they tie streamers to a pole for a makeshift wind sock for following weeks Dust Devil Dash. The Munceys and Russette head to the Kern River for a couple of days of fishing. Lynn cleans out Sam Burdons and his own hanger stocking parts in a quite functional trailer which Sam bought for \$37 at the previous nights auction. Jeff gets "signed off" for his first solo flight away from Hemet. Lynn, Harry, Eric, Jerry, and Jeff hang in to the end and put the Blanik on the trailer (Note:

Whose name is missing from this list?). The PW-5 is left for Jerry Snedden who is expected up the next week.

So if you include Roger's "test flight" a total of six badge legs were earned and adding everyone's OLC legs more than 5381 kms (that's 3223 statute miles) were flown. All flights can be seen online at the Aerokurier OLC site at <http://www2.onlinecontest.org>. While you are there check ex-Region 12 Director Jim Payne's three 1000ks. That's right, three 1000 kms in a row!.

And, yet again, Larry Tuohino lost another hat which when he lent it to a Sparrow Hawk pilot was not returned.

