

Towlines

The Newsletter of the Albuquerque Soaring Club

June 2009

President's Notes

By Bob Hudson

As I write this we are going through the longest period of non-flying we have experienced this spring. It began with our annual outing to Taos where we experienced high winds and then we came home to storms. It is just a test, but like the Phoenix the Albuquerque Soaring Club will rise to the challenge.

Speaking of Taos, Club private pilots dragged 14 sailplanes up Hiway 64, just to have them rest in their trailers for three days because of the winds. Besides the nice dinner put on by our host, Angel Pala, the most exciting thing that took place was watching Angel try to get five sail planes into a four sailplane hangar. You get your fun where you find it. Even though the event turned out to be a non-flying event it was fun to be with the "group".

The club has had a growth spurt recently. We are adding Terry Bryan and Justin Sapp to our roles. Be sure to help show them the ropes, that's tow ropes.

As you read this we will be knee deep into the 1-26 and World Championships (PW-5) Contest. We have put together a good program and are looking forward to providing them with a memorable contest. If you haven't been around these folks, be sure to come out and watch the festivities. Mitch Hudson is going to be the Contest Director and he plans to really put them through the paces. When they were here in 2005, several long time 1-26 pilots set personal records. We expect that to continue this time also.

Soon after this newsletter comes out, we will lose Robin Forster back to his home country of Germany. It was fun having Robin as part of our Club and he really contributed to our OLC

efforts. Keep an eye on Robin he has the potential to do good things for our sport and to be a great ambassador for the Albuquerque Soaring Club.

When it comes to ambassadors for the Albuquerque Soaring Club, we have members traveling to Slovenia to attend the Women's Soaring Seminar, 18-23 July. ASC members who will be in attendance are Mark Hawkins and Coleen Koenig, George and Kathy Taylor, and Tim and Mary Hawkins. Thanks to Mark Hawkins they will be taking some of our new ASC Challenge Coins with them to exchange at the event. When they return we will try to coerce one of them to provide us feedback on the event...watch this space.

Did you catch the reference to the Challenge coins? Well, Mark Hawkins designed Challenge Coins for the Club. We will be selling them at \$5 a coin (see me for your very own coin, or coins.) You might ask what is a Challenge Coin. Well, the Challenge Coin is a military tradition that was developed as a form of building unit spirit. You carry the coin to show pride in your unit. When standing at the bar, some of us has done that, you can challenge someone by slapping your coin on the bar. Everyone else then slaps their coin on the bar. If someone can't produce a coin, then he/she buys the round. If you were to challenge and your challenge was met, then you buy the round. When not challenging, coins are traded or given away as gifts.

Lastly, a little housekeeping note. Whoever borrowed the Club pancake griddle and the hand held GPS, would you please return them as we need them for the 1-26 contest.

Now go fly and have fun, but as always, fly safe. El Prez

Just one correction to her story. There was one flight, by Rolf Siebert in his DG 800. He was the only one with sufficient cojones – and an engine -- to take on the wind, the wave and the potential rotor.

Taos (almost) no flying

Connie Buenafe wrote a neat blog about the weekend, with lots of pictures. Despite the lack of aviation, those attending had a good time – as her extensive picture taking reveals to all.

It was also clear that if glider pilots have to spend a weekend on the ground Taos is a pretty decent place to be. Lots of places to go, things to do, and places to eat. There was also an open-house welcome at the one and only Micky-D in Taos (thanks to AP again!).

If you haven't seen Connie's account yet, it is worth a look. The link is:

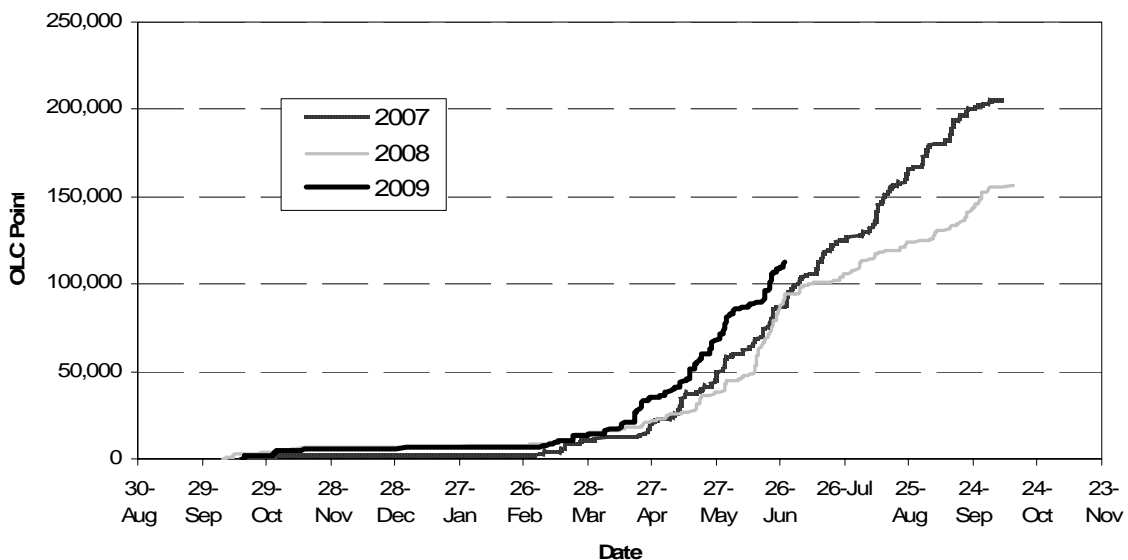
<http://www.examiner.com/x-12300-Albuquerque-Soaring-Examiner~y2009m6d14-Bad-weather-grounds-2009-Taos-Soaring-Camp>

And if that doesn't work, for sure Connie will be happy to provide you with a way to view it.

His flight gave the club some much needed points in the OLC League. It also underscored the lesson Mark Mocho came back with from the San Diego annual meeting of the OLC – to do well in the League it is essential to fly every weekend. No flights means a big fat zero for that weekend.

So, thanks to Rolf (who went straight from Taos to fly in the motor-glider meet at Parowan), ASC remains well in the overall lead in the world League. However, because of the quirks in the way the Formula One-style scoring used for the League works out, ASC is now second in the US League.

It is going to take some serious flying to get back to first – or some bad weather that puts our key rivals (Tucson Soaring in first place right now, and Warner Springs in third place) on the ground for a weekend. Not a nice thought perhaps, but reality in the world of the OLC League.



ASC Operations Schedule

Date	OPS 1	OPS 2	Instructor	Tow Pilot
Jul 4 Saturday	Roberts D	PHILLIPS C	MORRISON B	Stevenson D/
Jul 5 Sunday	MARTINEZ J	STOLL F		TICHY T/
Jul 11 Saturday	HAWKINS Mk	KOENIG C	DAFFER J	STOGNER M/
Jul 12 Sunday	HUDSON R	HARE J		WADSWORTH H/
Jul 18 Saturday	HEERMANN A	BROTHERS L	ROESKE S	WRIGHT R/
Jul 19 Sunday	EKDAHL C	Waldron D		STOGNER M/
Jul 25 Saturday	BRIGGS P	LEMON B		BUSS P/
Jul 26 Sunday	AIKEN G	REED R		HAWKINS T/
Aug 1 Saturday	Talarczyk R	Sapp J		HILL W/
Aug 2 Sunday	BANKS H	THOMSON T		STOGNER M/
Aug 8 Saturday	ROZZONI R	CATES J		TICHY T/
Aug 9 Sunday	HAWKINS My	McKNIGHT P		WADSWORTH H/
Aug 15 Saturday	STEWART W	OKANDAN M		Stevenson D/
Aug 16 Sunday	BOYCE J	WILSON B		WRIGHT R/
Aug 22 Saturday	HUSS J	CLAASSEN L		BUSS P/
Aug 23 Sunday	BIELEK K	HARE J		HAWKINS T/
Aug 29 Saturday	BUENAFE C	RESOR B		HILL W/
Aug 30 Sunday	CUMIFORD Jr. J	PALA A		Stevenson D/
Sep 5 Saturday	HARMONY D	KAWAL D		STOGNER M/