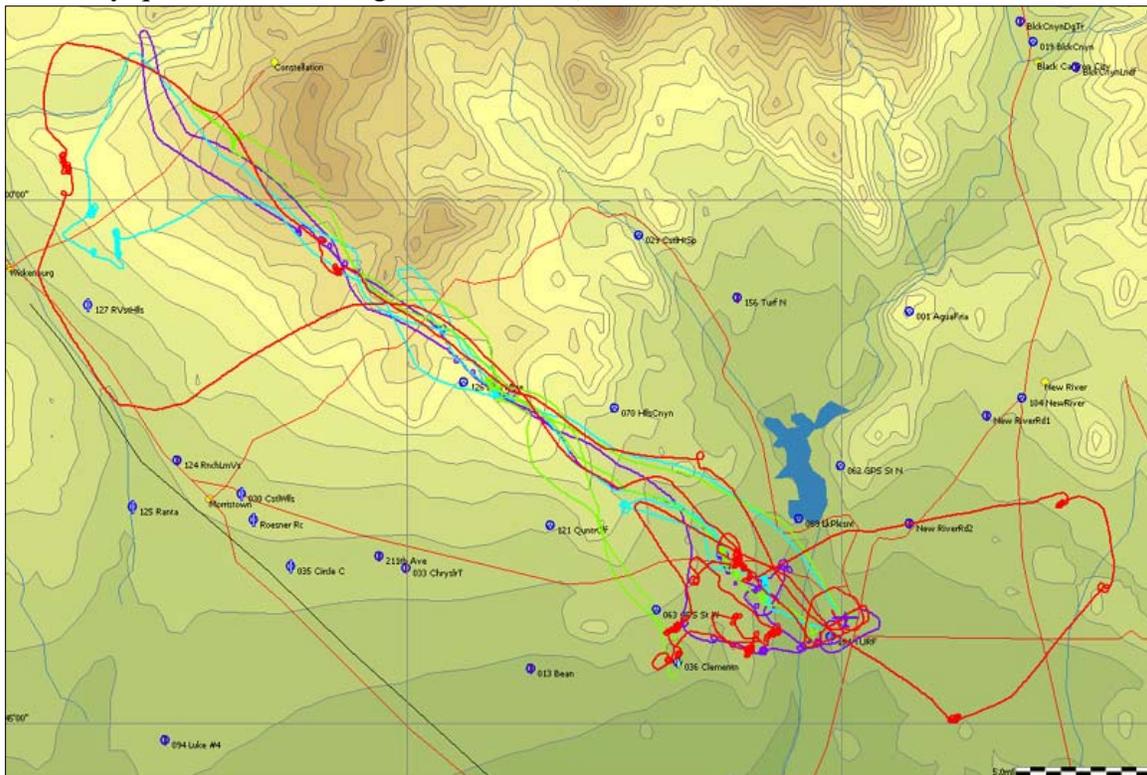


## ASA Cross-Country Weekend Review

There are two things in life that are assured: taxes, and rain at a glider meet. The weekend in Arizona was no exception, fortunately there were enough breaks in the weather for some soaring, but nothing could dampen the spirits of those who attended.

The forecast for the weekend had been calling for widespread precipitation all week, regardless, on Thursday morning four vehicles departed Warner Springs for Pleasant Valley, gliders in tow. Through out the day cu's dotted the southwest desert and a belief that the weather guessers got it wrong was starting to settle in.

Friday developed into an informal flying day with 927 (Garret Willat, Discus-2ax), GO (Dean Chantilles, DG 303), CA (Scott Finkboner, Pegasus), W4 (Bob Morford, LS-4), YB (Paul Cordell and Steve Koerner, Nimbus-3d), and DV8 (Orion Kingman, Discus-ax) launching into the spring skies over Pleasant Valley Airport. Getting off tow most saw relatively quick climbs through 6000' MSL (4400 AGL). For some this was their first



time flying in a new area, while for others this was a chance to knock off some rust that accumulated during the wet southwest winter. There were the usual lows and highs of a day soaring; 927 got a closer look of Rio Vista Hills than he had planned to, while YB got a chance to really use their legs by logging 167km based on the OLC scoring system. All said and done, at the end of the day there was over 500km logged by four sailplanes (The remaining two did not have loggers).

Friday concluded with a very informative lecture given by Garret Willat of the US Junior Soaring Team. The twelve attendees were present for topics ranging from beginning

cross-country theory, through more advanced concepts practiced by Paul McReady, George Lee, and Ingo Renner. Everyone got a chance to learn from Garret's first hand experiences, and an opportunity to bombard him with questions related to soaring.



The weekend brought the rain and foul weather with it. Saturday morning was spent at the Arizona Soaring Association's clubhouse reviewing the previous night's topics. Additionally members of the club spoke about their experiences flying in the local task area, and land-out options on the way along a flight Wickenburg – a good first cross-country destination for most pilots in Arizona.

The afternoon had enough breaks in the weather that several planes launched. For some it was an opportunity to practice low saves in weak conditions, meanwhile for one pilot it was a chance to reach a milestone in his soaring carrier. Terrill Willard took-off in a rented Grob 103, and was able to log his first soaring flight in excess of one-hour. The BBQ on Saturday evening was hosted by the US Junior Soaring Team, while nature took care of the entertainment; thunderstorms and lightening on the horizon to go along with the fajitas and salmon.

The pilots on Sunday morning were greeted with more cold weather to accompany the discussion on racing rules and techniques. A handful of gliders launched after everyone in attendance had received a very complete review of the morning's topics.

In the end all who attended had nothing but praise about the course, even if it was water logged. Ultimately the US Junior Soaring Team raised over \$750 through direct contributions, including a \$100 donation from the Arizona Soaring Association. Additionally many thanks are due for the generosity of the ASA for purchasing the food for the Saturday evening BBQ.

