

2006 Team Camp Warner Springs

April 23rd April 24-28, 2006



We had 13 students, 8 of whom brought their own gliders. We had 8 mentors total. Three past US team members (Garret Willat, Chip Garner, Sean Franke). There were 2 landouts.

The US Team sponsored Cross-Country and Racing camp held at Sky Sailing in Warner Springs has concluded with a very successful outcome; someone landed out! Actually there were 2 landouts one was Garret's follower and the other was Garret, but not on the same day. We had 4 students who were introduced into the wonderful and overwhelming world of Cross-Country flying. Five Cross-Country pilots were able to push a little harder than before and learn how to escape the valley before the sheer line moved in. Four brave souls had the opportunity to push lower and faster than they had before and learn the tricks to flying faster.

The mornings started off at the Warner Springs Ranch for a morning briefing, where weather was generally despised, then a topic was discussed in length. We would then fly (or sit inside as we looked at an overcast sky). Dinner was generally BBQ'ed at Sky Sailing since we are strategically located in the middle of nowhere. Then in the evening we would go over the flights with SeeYou and discuss what we learned during the day.

Monday started off decent, with everyone being able to go Cross-Country. The Grob 103's were almost doing 100miles with new pilots. Not only were there new pilots in the 103, but there were more new pilots following the new pilots flying the G103 (which also had a mentor). One of the Libelle drivers following me decided to head for home because we are all nuts and pushing down to 1000ft, but he landed out trying to get home and we eventually dug out. So the lowest save for the day was Scott on his first solo Cross Country flight. Everyone had a wonderful day. I landed pulled into the parking spot and started the charcoal for the nights dinner, Carne Asada and Pollo Asada.

Tuesday was tough. The key was leaving early, Dan Ladd took his student and they left early as everyone watched. But a few minutes later we could feel the temperature drop as the sheer line moved through. A few were able to make it out and successfully go Cross Country while the rest of us worked on our thermalling.

Wednesday was overcast and cold. Someone had to be the wind dummy. So I launched and towed high with my student to try and get in the wave (being lazy and tow into it). However the unstable layer was too high and no wave could be found. So after some thermal and ridge soaring we decide to take a one way trip into the desert to the east, where we could see sunshine and high cloudbase. So out we slipped through the rocks and off the escarpment. There sure seemed to be sink like there was wave. But after a few minutes of 1200fpm down we encountered some lift and flew around for a while under the clouds and totaled about 110miles.

Thursday well everyone stayed inside and listen to lectures and watch gliding videos. The Nimbus 4d was going to try it, but worked on setting mouse traps instead.

Fridays the overcast stopped. We talked about tasks and how to fly them. Then set a TAT for everyone to try. However with out the expert advise from Dan Ladd we didn't launch early enough and only 2 of us got out of the valley. We both aerotowed out. Sean Franke was able

to make it home after a few hours of struggling. I glided back into the valley before getting too low.

As a typical soaring event, the weather gods didn't help us. But everyone had a wonderful time, enjoyed themselves and hope I do it again next year.

I would like to thank John Roe and Scott Finkboner for allowing us the use of their sailplanes for us to use. Along with Sky Sailing for taking over the weekday operations and aircraft.

Garret Willat