

2007 Cross Country Soaring and Racing Camp
Sponsored by: Harris Hill Soaring Corp.
US Soaring Team Committee



On August 20, 2007, seventeen cross country soaring/racing hopefuls gathered at Harris Hill, Elmira, NY for the long awaited Soaring and Racing Camp.

Instructors Doug Jacobs, Mike Robison, Dave Welles and Tim Welles were well prepared with extensive presentations on the art and science of cross country soaring and racing, and a fleet of two place gliders for instruction. (three Duo Disci, and one ASK-21)

All but one of the campers also brought their own glider for “Lead and Follow” instruction and check rides were completed on Monday and Tuesday

The plan was for glider rigging each morning before 0930, ground instruction, weather and task assignment from 0930 to 1130 in the National Soaring Museum, flying (dual and lead & follow) in the afternoon, and debriefing following flying. Several evening meal events were scheduled as well.

The instruction material was well organized on Power Point presentations which were given to each participant on a CD.

The work done for previous camps at Sugarbush, Perry, PGC, Warner Springs and Harris Hill has really paid off in developing an excellent and complete curriculum. Doug Jacobs deserves a real vote of thanks in being the main driving force in pulling this information together.



Unfortunately, in spite of the optimistic weather forecasts given daily by Tim Welles, our weather was influenced by a stalled East West front giving us hot, humid conditions with low ceilings and the occasional rain shower, so we had ample opportunity for getting ahead on the ground instruction with afternoon sessions. As a result, Roy McMaster was able to give us a “how-to” session on SeeYou and SeeYou Mobile.

On Thursday, due to the low ceilings we assigned local flying as the task of the day, but it turned out to be mostly landing practice. (short field, of course)

Friday, looked slightly better for more extended local soaring, but the Camp Chief Instructor, Tim Welles, promptly demonstrated how not to do it by landing the ASK-21 in the Emergency Strip in the valley below Harris Hill. Dave Welles was able to manage a mini-cross country in the HHSC Duo marked by a 1300 ft AGL (over the valley floor) save.



In spite of the poor soaring weather, camp participants were very positive on the quality and content of the ground instruction, and unanimously voiced the intent to get out and apply their new knowledge as soon as possible. Many commented on how helpful the ground instruction had been in helping them understand how to fly cross country more efficiently and safely.



Five of the camp participants stayed for the Region Three Contest held the following week with much better weather. (Five contest days out of seven possible) In the Sports Class, Steve Vihlen (SV) finished ninth and Andy Brayer eleventh.

We will all be watching to see how the Camp Participants do applying their new knowledge next season.

Tim Welles
September 13, 2007