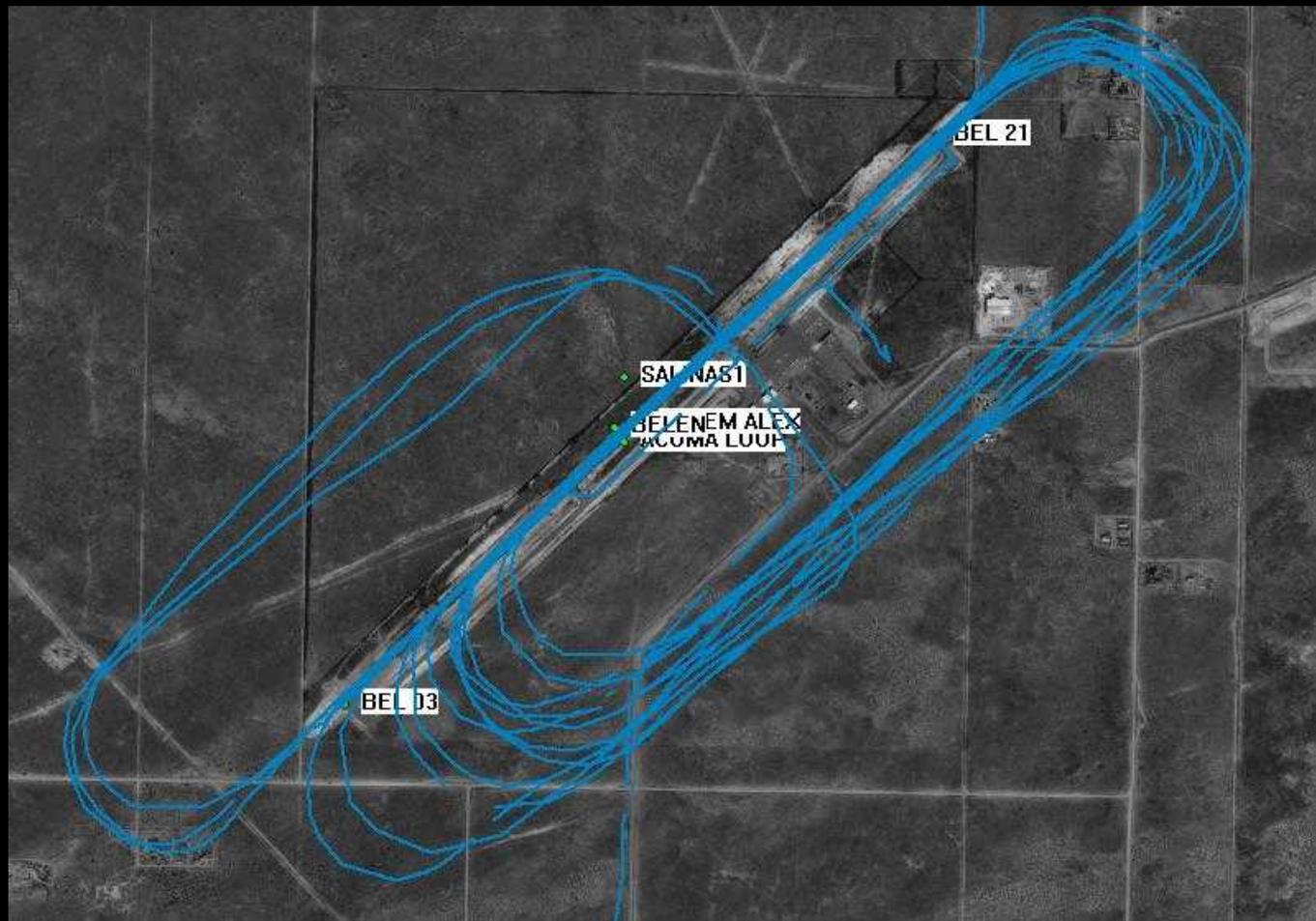


Monday, September 27,
2004
7th Cobra flight, 17th solo
Touch & Gos, Volcano

Launched 7:00am, Landing 8:50am
Flight time: 1:50 hour Total time: 34:15
Dead calm on launch, 7mph straight in on 03 for final landing.
13 touch-and-gos plus final landing

Launch Code Double Eagle
predicted calm the night
before. Left home at
5:20am. Got to Belen at 6am.
Messed around with antenna
some more, filled up gas
tank. Set up tape deck for
music, GPS log shows
wheels up at 7:00am.

Took off initially on Runway
21. Did 13 touch and goes,
most if not all dead-stick
landings. Winds shifted
halfway through and
switched to Runway 3. Did a
few more. Was originally
going to fly to Manzanos,
but bagged that trip
because of east wind and
large clouds hanging over
the mountain.



Instead, flew north to check out the volcanoes. As I approached the first volcano, I got out my camera and the door for the battery on the camera opened and down went the battery. No pictures on this flight.

The last time I saw the volcanoes close up was on my 2nd or 3rd training flight. They are still very cool. I flew all the way to the most northern one, which is kinda close to Albuquerque.

For the return trip, I flew west, followed the Rio Puerco down low (200 ft AGL). Followed the curves of the river, flew past the kiva, the bridge and on. It was turbulent at times and my heart would start to race. I gained some altitude. Then I climbed out of the river valley.

I was directly in line with the SW end of the Belen runway. I flew a few miles further south, crossed over some houses. I need to avoid this in the future. From now on I will head for the big stinkhole (STINKER) north of the airport and approach from that side. Winds were blowing strong here, probably the source of some of the turbulence I felt in the river valley. Made a nice landing on runway 03. Good flight. Glad I got in all the touch-and-gos

