

Sunday, December 26, 2004
26th Cobra flight, 36th solo
Frank's Aeros Trike, Blue Springs
5 landings

Launched 3:40am, Landing 5:15 pm
Flight time: 1:35 Total logged time: 78:40
Launch: calm on runway 21
Landing: calm on runway 21

Earlier today I made a 3 hour flight up the Rio Salado to Alamo and Petaca Pinta. After the flight I worked on my trike some more, fiddling with the BRS bridle and the folding mast. Finally got it set up right. Frank showed up and put some finishing touches on his new Aeros Velocity trike. Last week he made a "once around the pattern", flight that he called short because of cross winds on the runway. Today the winds are calm. Frank had the airport to himself and got in a half hour of touch and goes before I took off. I did one touch and go then we headed south over the mesa.

I concentrated on flying instead of photography.

This means I set my digital camera on wide angle, pointed it in the general direction of Frank, took lots of pictures.





We flew past the observatory and past the south end of the mesa. We spied a horse track scraped into the soft earth below (no horses) and swooped down to circle the track (sorry, no pics), then headed towards the Rio Grande.

US 60 crosses the Rio Grande then heads straight as an arrow for Abo pass.





As I crossed this field, I had a good laugh watching all the sheep run to the far corner. The cows were oblivious. We flew past the Rio Grande valley farms and headed towards the pumping station, some sort of utility compound in the middle of nowhere with a dirt strip. It looked almost as bad as the airstrip at Alamo I saw earlier that morning. Frank was feeling confident about his engine so we continued on to Blue Springs before heading back to Belen.

After sunset, it wasn't this dark, but it felt as cold as this picture looks. Frank had to head for the hanger early because he didn't have his strobes set up yet. I did 4 touch and goes in the twilight.

Nice fun flight.

