

Monday, April 13, 2009

264th Cobra flight, 273rd PIC, 4 landings

Volcanoes, Double Eagle, Red Spot, Caldron,
Twilight landing

Today flight was another after work, sunset flight. I had all my gear in the car, "just in case" the weather was good. Frank said he would be flying, so I said I would meet him near the Red Spot.

I took off and headed north, flying by the line of cinder cones. I haven't landed at Double Eagle since last December, so I headed there to use my Class D radio skills. I made an uneventful approach and landing and taxied over to Frank's hangar. His car was there but he was not, obviously he was flying.

Takeoff: 5:40pm Landing: 8:05pm

Airtime: 2.3hrs (10 m stop at Double Eagle)

Total PIC Time : 670.4 Total Logged Time 691.6



I headed back out, flying past the PPC, occasionally calling out to Frank on 123.4. A few points left of the sun, I saw a sundog in the sky (upper right).

I continued to the Red Spot, the looped around and flew up the Rio San Jose. I made one last call to Frank, then started heading south in the general direction of Belen.

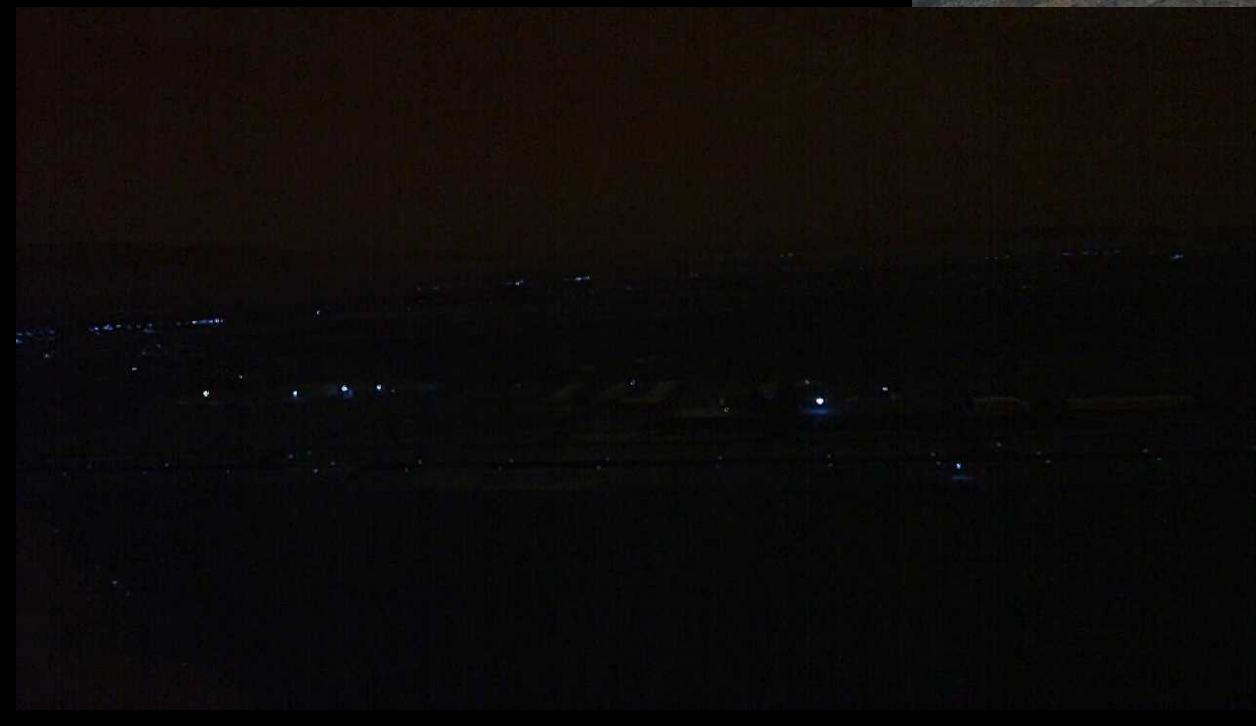


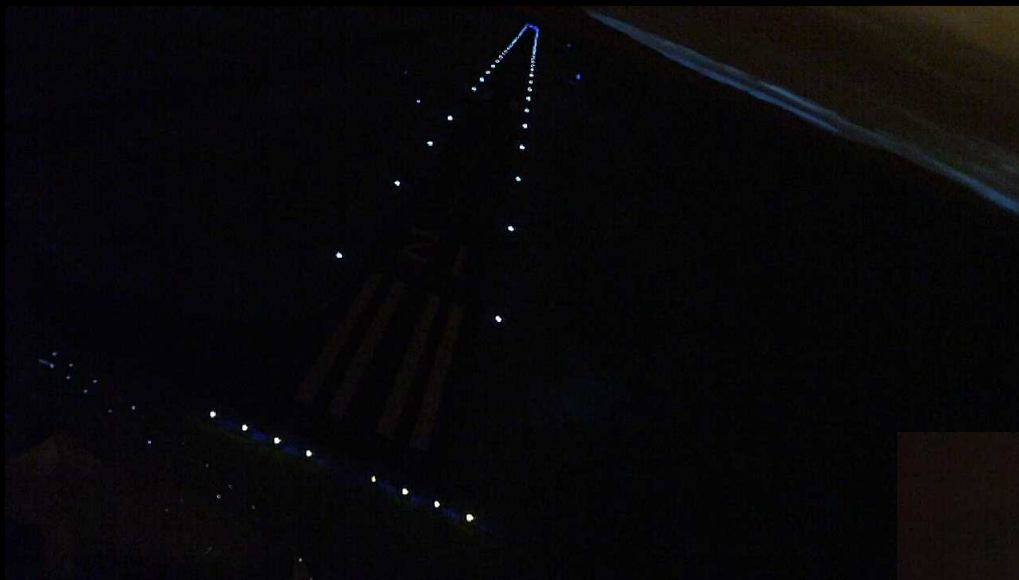
The sky was very bright, but I knew it would darken quickly once the sun crept below the horizon. I flew along the jagged rim of the north Caldron Bowl (upper right), then across the bridge mesa to the south Caldron Bowl. I flew a while in the valley of the horses, then finally turned east in the direction of Belen.

I slight headwind 10mph headwind appeared. I pulled in all the way, not wanting to get caught out here after dark.



I made my approach from the north and crossed over the pattern at midfield to get a good look at the windsock. It was dark, but not as dark as show on this frame of video from my Aiptek video. I still had 5 minutes of twilight left.





Upper left: Lining up on Runway 21.



Right: I set down very smoothly. Even did a wheelie landing. It was so nice, I went up and around again for some more practice.



Lower left: My second landing on Runway 21. Note the silhouette of Ladron Peak beyond the far end of the Runway.

That was a fun sunset flight. Here is my GPS tracklog.

