

Saturday, March 13, 2010
307th Cobra flight, 317th PIC, 5 landings
Valencia Flying and Retrival Society Balloon Rally

Belen : 10:37am MidValley: 8:50am
MidValley: 11:50am Belen: 11:10am
Today's Airtime 1.3hrs
Total PIC Time 812.9 Total Logged Time 834.1



The Space Shuttle was hovering below the top of the mesa. There were a 5 or 6 other balloons nearby. I wished they would fly higher, but I was able to get these pictures. Mike was flying around with me in his RANS S-18.

There always seems to be a balloon fiesta near Los Lunas/Belen around St. Patrick's Day. A quick search on Google and I found that it was this Saturday. I had hoped to bring my wife Amy along for a trike ride, but the temps were cold, 25-35 degrees, We both knew she would freeze.

So I headed down to Belen by myself and was surprised to see the balloons inflating just across I-25 from Belen.



A few minutes later, the Space Shuttle was deflated.



The balloons near the shuttle started to land. It was getting crowded so I left the area and headed east towards the Rio Grande. The pilot and crew of this blue balloon waved at me in a friendly way, so I circled them a few times.

Mike was heading over towards Mid-Valley. I thought I would land and talk to him for a while. On the way there I saw a yellow balloon far below. I spiraled down to get a closer look at this one too.



I landed at Mid-Valley and taxied over to Mike's hangar. Mike landed a few minutes later, (on the crosswind dirt runway) and taxied over. I was surprised to see that his wife Jan was in the back seat.

We talked for a while, making some general plans for next year. I headed back to Belen and landed. It was a nice morning flight.