

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

311<sup>th</sup> Cobra flight, 321<sup>th</sup> PIC, 14 landings

Landing practice and Bosque flight

Belen Takeoff: 11:30am Belen Landing: 12:36pm

Today's Airtime 1.1hrs

Total PIC Time 821.8 Total Logged Time 843.0

It has been another long month with little flying. The winds have been ridiculously strong, and I have been otherwise occupied with daughters graduating, one from college and another from high school. The New Mexico Trikers Espanola Rendezvous is coming up Memorial Day weekend. I wanted to put some additional air time on my trike after the work done last month, and get some air time for myself.

I headed down to Belen and immediately set up the battery charger. While I was charging up, I set up the over the shoulder camera mount for the Aiptek and a new monitor on the console. I forgot a coupler for the video cable, so I couldn't test it in flight, but I was able to check out the system in the hangar. The problem with the over the shoulder camera mount is that you have no idea where the camera is pointed until after the flight. I have hours of the back of my helmet recorded this way.

I have a low current drain in my system. I am ok if I fly every week, but after a month my battery is too low to start the engine. After today's flight, I will pull isolate the battery by pulling some fuses and see if that improves things.

I finally got the engine started and got in some needed landing practice, making two touch and goes per pass. It was windy and thermally, a good day for practice. I noticed the improvement each time I went round.

I left the pattern for the Rio Grande for a fun cruise down the valley. There was a lot of water in the river today.



The conditions were much smoother below the mesa and over the wet cool river valley.



The fields were extremely green today. I dropped down low for a while, but the winds blowing across the valley mixed things up enough that I wasn't comfortable down low. So I climbed back to 500 AGL for a more relaxing flight.



I flew down to US60 and turned back north, retracing my route to Belen.



I needed that flight. I am looking forward to a long weekend of flying at Espanola over Memorial Day weekend.

