

Sunday, June 13, 2010

316th Cobra flight, 326th PIC, 3 landings

Pools, Rick's Place, Rio Salado Ruins

BelenTakeoff: 7:11am Rick Landing 9:05am

RickTakeoff: 11:04am Belen Landing: 12:30am

Today's Airtime 3.3hrs

Total PIC Time: 839.7 Total Logged Time: 860.9



I called Rick on Saturday at his place out in the boonies to see if he was out there this weekend. He was there and said come on over the next day. When I arrived at the hanger, I started installing wingtips that Frank gave me for my Stream wing, but soon realized I had left some tools at home. Scratch that, time to fly.

I flew to the west, past the pools. I also tried my over the head mount for my Aiptek Video. The still looks ok, but there was a lot of vibration. The pool looked warm this morning.





Left: The third pool.

Its been 100 degree weather the last 3 weeks. But springs are flowing strong enough to keep the pools and the travertine formations wet.

I flew north in the valley of the horses. I saw two small herds far below. I was flying high today, because it was blowing 20mph out of the SW. Strange, because it was perfectly calm when I took off at Belen. While setting up in my hangar I watched "Mitch", a new trike pilot work on his touch and goes. He was greasing in each one.

Right: Travertine north of the pools from my Aiptek video.



I crossed the Sierra Lucero and looked south along Mesa del Oro (right). I was in the middle of nowhere.

The wind was steady at about 20mph, crossing my course line at a 45 degree angle. I made decent time out to Rick's Elk Valley landing strip. The air was very smooth out of the west. I circled 5 times, gradually lowering my trike to get a feel for the winds down low. On the ground it was blowing 8mph, and were mostly out of the west, but the windsock was swinging back and forth 90 degrees. I would have to land downhill and into the wind today.

Rick drove up in his truck and took me over to his house. He showed me all the work he had been doing out here. Then we went inside for breakfast.

We talked for about a hour with his wife Denise and a neighbor who came over when he saw my trike circling above. I thanked Rick and Denise for their hospitality, then got out of there before the winds picked up. Rick told me it had blown 30mph yesterday afternoon, and I wanted none of that.

Lower right: Take off downhill and into the wind, just the way I like it.





A wet winter and spring and made for a green summer. I flew by an interesting valley and a clearing on top of mesa, wondering if I you could land up there and camp. Maybe.

I flew down the Rio Salado and took a look at the ruins, grabbing the picture on the lower right. Then headed back to Belen and landed.



That was a nice long flight, here is my GPS tracklog.

