

Wednesday August 11, 2010

325<sup>th</sup> Cobra flight, 335<sup>th</sup> PIC, 2 landings

Rio Grande Valley flight with Amy, Rock Garden

I took Amy's sister for a trike ride last week, and my daughter Nyssa last month. They both had a lot of fun, so Amy has decided to give it another try. Our first flight was in November, 2006. Amy wanted to be sure trike flying wasn't too horrible before she would allow me to take our daughters up. She said it wasn't as too bad, except for the cold. That should not be a problem today.

Passengers don't really like the take off and landings, so do the minimum, just one of each. But as soon as we were off, I knew I would have to land.

Belen Takeoff: 9:26pm Belen Landing 7:58pm

Trip Airtime 1.5hrs

Total PIC Time: 858.5 Total Logged Time: 879.7



The left ear piece of my helmet was messed up and the engine noise was very loud. I told Amy, "I have to land and fix my helmet". As I turned downwind, we were hit by a booming thermal. So much for the mellow glass off flight.

When I landed and pulled on to the ramp and shut the engine down, I half expected Amy to say, "That was a good flight. I can get out now."

I fixed my helmet, and we were off again. I headed straight for the Rio Grande Valley, where I knew the air would be much smoother.

And it was much smoother here. We flew along the river and circled over Tom's house, I guy I know at work. The next day he told me he heard my engine and came outside and saw my trike overhead.

We flew over the farms and looked at the patterns below.



I gave Amy a tour of all the scenic wonders including, the Golden Gate Bridge, the San Ysidro Church.



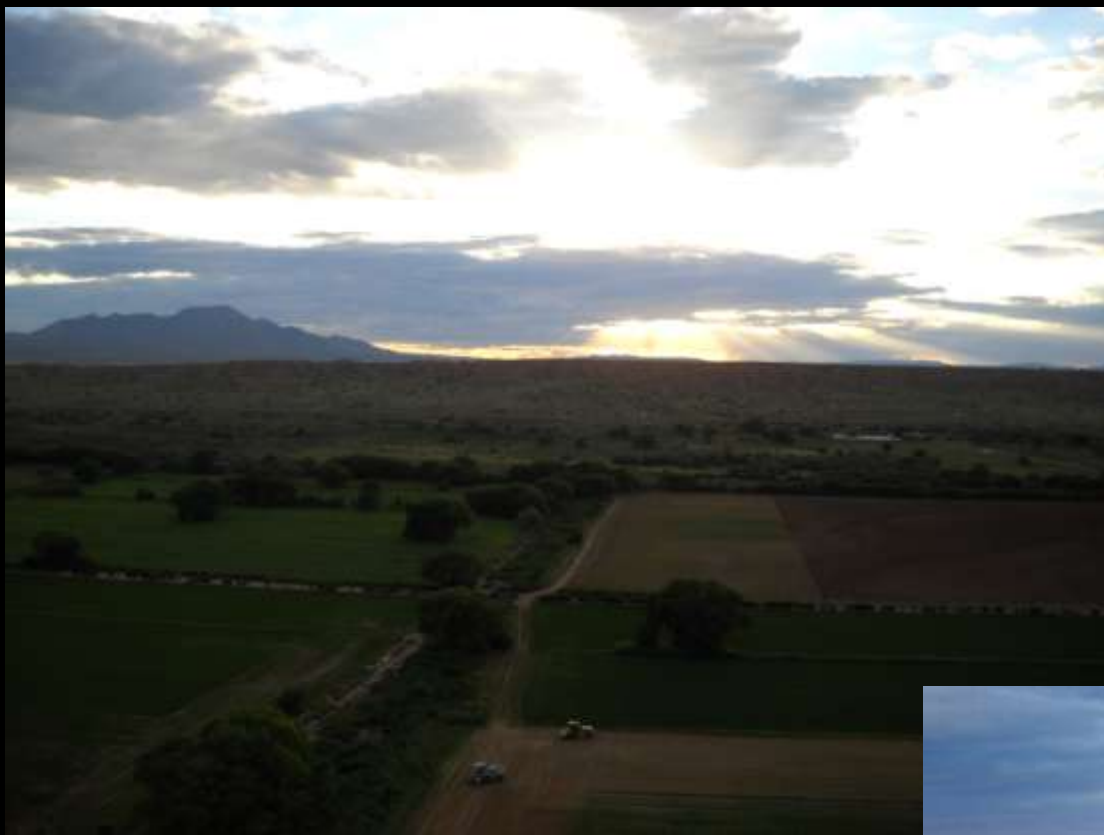


A the southern end of the valley was a large cornfield with no powerlines. We cruised overhead and rows of corn played tricks in our eyes. I noticed a hole in the center of the field at the far end. What was there, a secret hide out in the cornfield?



We headed over to check it out, but nothing was there except a hole.





I started back towards Belen, crossing onto the mesa and was greeted by strong thermals again. We flew over the rock garden then back into the pattern at Belen as the sun dropped to the horizon.



Amy said it wasn't too bad, so maybe we'll go up again soon.

