

Friday, December 3, 2010

344th Cobra flight, 354th PIC, 2 landings
Flight to Double Eagle to pick up Steve

345th Cobra flight, 355th PIC, 1 landings
Sunset flight with Steve, Red Spot, Caldron tour

Belen Takeoff: 3:55pm DE Landing: 4:05pm
Airtime 0.7

DE Takeoff: 4:17pm Belen Landing: 4:50pm
Airtime 1.3

Today's Airtime 2.0

Total PIC Time: 905.1 Total Logged Time: 926.3

Steve and Jane woke up at 5am and drove out to Double Eagle for lessons with Frank. I told them I would fly up to Double Eagle in the afternoon and give one of them a tour ride back to Belen while the other flew with Frank. We would meet back at my house in Albuquerque.

The flight north was uneventful, but as I approached Double Eagle Airport, I heard Frank report his position to the tower as being near the VOR station south to of the Airport. It was actual a message to me, because he heard me call into the towwe. I landed at Double Eagle and Steve was suited up and ready to go. We loaded up and took off. The tower relayed a message from Frank that he was heading for "The Red Spot."

We flew south along the Rio Puerco looking from Frank. I dropped down low and cruised over the sandy grassy desert down here.





I eventually spotted Frank's trike flying south along the volcanic escarpment south of the Red Spot.

We met up and followed the volcanic cliffs to the north.



We flew up the Rio San Jose Canyon for a while. At this point Frank broke off and headed back to Double Eagle.

I headed south following the railroad tracks for a while. We passed a train coming north.





We climbed up and skirted the edge of the north bowl of the Caldron. There was a slight wind blowing, so I cautiously flew across the gap that forms "The Jaws of Death." I was very smooth, so I circled around again and made a low pass over the south jawbone of the Jaws. When we flew past the edge, I made a diving turn into the canyon. That's always a lot of fun. These frames from my Aiptek video show the dive sequence, starting in the upper left, and going clockwise.



After the dive, we headed back to Belen and landed at the end of civil twilight again. It wasn't as dark as it looks in the photo to the right.

That was a fun flight for me. Here is my GPS tracklog.

