
2006 Lost Stirrup Ranch Fly-in



Top Row: Albert, Mike, Dana

Bottom Row: Joe, Ranger Bo, Dizzy



(Sorry Bubba was not nearby)

Lost Stirrup Lodge 4th Annual PPG High Altitude Fly-in

The lost stirrup lodge fly-in went on as scheduled this last weekend despite being previously canceled. Fortunately the circumstances causing its cancellation resolved themselves at the last minute allowing for a great weekend. Due to the short notice only had a handful of pilots were in attendance but we had fun all the same.

Albert and Mike came all the way from Florida. Colorado pilots included myself (Alex), Bo, Joe, Dana, and our host Bubba. With the exception of Bubba none of us had launched from this altitude before. The Lost Stirrup Ranch sits at 9200 MSL, which provides



unique challenges for launching a PPG. Due to this difficulty Bubba has created a High altitude award for his fly-in and all of us were eager to earn ours.



Come Friday morning we were blessed with a nice light breeze to help with launch. We setup at the Stirrup ranch, which is just down the road from the Lost stirrup. This site provided a nice flat take-off area for both the foot launch and trike flyers. Only four flyers had made it to the fly-in at this point. Bubba and Myself both launched and had nice flights. The Florida gang consisting of Albert and Mike were not so lucky. Neither of their motors would produce enough thrust for a successful launch. Mike had a perfect forward launch and ran at least a quarter mile before calling it quits. He hopped off the ground a few times but mostly ran and ran and ran. This resulted in an afternoon of tuning and re-jetting carburetors for this high altitude.



By Friday night the rest of the pilots had arrived and Mike and Albert had their motors tuned for the altitude so we were ready to roll. The weather was not good Friday night so we had another potluck and waited for Saturday morning. This time Mike launched perfectly and had a great flight reaching altitudes over 12,000 feet. His SD Monster ran great once it was tuned in. In fact everyone launched including; Bo, Dana, Albert, Joe, and Bubba. Albert's small 100 cc motor still had trouble and he ended up with a very brief flight at about 10 feet off the ground. He informed us that he was simply doing what this sport does best, flying low and slow! Joe flying a trike had a perfect launch so he decided to land and take-off again for more practice. On his second take-off run the trikes rear wheel kicked a cow patty right into his prop busting both blades. To quote Joe "that was complete bulls@@@!" Later in the day we took a short hike to a nearby waterfall.

There are so many things to do here besides flying that filling the afternoons is easy. My daughter Emily even found an intact indian arrow head within the first day of our visit.

We had a BBQ Saturday night and the wind died down just enough for a few of us to catch an evening flight. Joe, Mike and I took a sunset flight from the field in front of the Lost stirrup Ranch. It's hard to describe how beautiful it is from 10,000 feet at sunset. Mountain ranges can be seen in every direction as far as the eye can see. Of course you will have to trust me since I never have my camera with me when I really need it.



Bo playing with his kite.

Sunday morning brought another opportunity with light winds. Everyone was successful at launching on Sunday and this time Albert was able to get some real altitude and fly around for a while. His little motor was doing all it could but at 9200 feet its a challenge. Bo decided to go for altitude and made it up to 12550 feet MSL before his engine would climb no more.

Later that day Bubba took us on a Jeep ride in his two restored Willies Jeeps to some old indian caves. Bubba and Jeanie brought fresh fruit for a picnic at the site.



The gang in front of an indian cave

Bo shared some of his ranger skills and taught us how to determine compass directions using the stick and stone method. It was very interesting although if I ever need that knowledge something has gone really wrong. Many of us headed out Sunday.



Jeanie, Mike and Bubba studying the stick.

Bo and his wife Silvia stayed on a little longer and Bubba and Bo were able to get some more flying in on Monday. Despite the low pilot turnout it we had a great fly-in and can't wait to do it all over again next year.



Bubba and Mike (Mike's kind of tall!)
