



Las Vegas Valley Soaring Association

P.O. Box 19902, Jean, NV 89019-1902 Phone (702) 874-1420 www.LVVSA.org

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Weekend Reports:

Las Vegas from 17,000ft , photo by 8WE

6-7 Dec; Where were you.. one of the best wave days seen at Jean in a long time. Jay got the weather forecast and brought the Mighty Libelle, 8WE, to the roost on Saturday and assembled, awaiting the winds. All day Saturday we watched stacked Lennie's on Mt Charleston but nary a whisper of a breeze at Jean. High tows for training and we could feel a shear at altitude, each high tow brought the bump closer to the ground.

We could see what was left of the wind sock on the peak straining in the wind.. but no ridge lift. Then... a freshening on the ground.. the flag at the trailer waved.. the flag at Gold Strike responded.. and the race was on. Jack took a tow to the SW in Tweety, barely to the edge of some lift before getting off and retreating to the home ridge. JimW in his "brand new" Speed Astir took a tow to the ridge and rocketed up to the bottom of Class B. Jay launched next in the Libelle and with a 2K tow to the peak started climbing, but now the race was on to get back before sunset.



On Sunday the Wave was very active in the Ivanpah Valley, 8WE took high honors with flights above 17K in wave. The low "clouds" at approximately 7,000ft were only a taste of the the lift available. JimW in 16UF "Uncle Fuzzy"? was reported to be zipping around the valley at 12K, a lesson learned.. get the O2 ready. Many flights reported by Jack and others in the Grob and Tweety to 10-12K.



13-14 Dec; The 13th started out with the annual "Wind Sock Climb" lead by Jay to replace the tattered wind sock on our local peak. The newest/youngest member Bill Savran and his father Steve, Jay's buddy Milo who normally makes the trip, Jay and Lex Thistlethwaite, tackled the boulders to replace our trusty wind sock. Although the climb was in sunny and warm conditions, the afternoon became overcast with the approaching cold front and the afternoon flights were smooth glides. Sunday reported strong gusty conditions and winds quickly exceeded safe flying limits as the approaching front caused over development and rain in the northern valley.

Wind Sock Crew, Photo by 8WE

We Need Volunteers!! (Contact Jay)

Day	Date	Tow	FOO	Notes
Sat	Dec 27	Holden	Thistlethwaite	
Sun	Dec 28	Gough	Volunteer	
Thu	Jan 1	Volunteer	Volunteer	New Year's Day Flying
Sat	Jan 3	Tisdale	Burns	
Sun	Jan 4	Felgar	Wynhoff	
Sat	Jan 10	Dvorchak	Volunteer	Monthly Business Meeting 10 am
Sun	Jan 11	Ratzin	Volunteer	
Sat	Jan 17	Lyon	Volunteer	
Sun	Jan 18	Madson	Brewer	
Sat	Jan 24	Holden	Thistlethwaite	
Sun	Jan 25	Gough	Volunteer	
Sat	Jan 31	Tisdale	Burns	
Sun	Feb 1	Felgar	Wynhoff	

LVVSA 2004 SAFARIS

The following SAFARIS are in the planning stage for 2004. Further Information will be posted, as it becomes available. No dates have been determined as of yet, except for the “*Flight to Coolness*” on July 3rd to 11th, and the Roach Dry Lake auto tows in May. *Keep your eye on the web pages.*

THE FLIGHT TO COOLNESS JULY 3 TO JULY 11

The first annual “*Flight to Coolness*” is leaving Jean, NV July 3rd. Anyone with any kind of sailplane is welcome to participate. This is a fun flight to the north, fleeing the hot desert sun, and the monsoon. Tows will be available at Jean at normal club rates. The armada will gather at the end of each day at the place on the route agreed upon. If possible all contestants should have cell phones available to facilitate retrievals if necessary. We will assign a ground crew volunteer to be the coordinator of the next stop in the unlikely event that someone desires to commune with the cows. A graphic list of planned stops can be found on the club web page: <http://www.lvvs.org/safaris/To%20Coolness.htm> We do request that all that wish to participate please contact the tour director, Jack Harkin by email soaringjackalope@cox.net or phone 702-227-9757. This is so that we can figure out the size of the group before the start to make sure we have adequate tows available at the stops.

Start – Jean; Jean to Parowan 200mi, Parowan to Morgan 234 mi, Morgan to Teton Peaks Driggs Muni 182 mi, Teton Peaks Driggs Muni to Hamilton Airport 228 mi, Hamilton Airport to Kalispell City Airport 133 mi,
Finish - Kalispell City Airport total distance 978.33 miles.

Roach Dry Lake Auto Tows ***SPRING DATE TO BE DETERMINED***

The club is planning auto tows at Roach Dry Lake again this year. We will aero tow the aircraft to the lake first thing on Saturday and remain till the crowd leaves Jean on Sunday. The annual bonfire and homage to the lift Gods is also a major event. A glider can be launched every ten minutes so long as the crew is up to speed. If you have never done an auto tow it is something to look forward to. If you need to get the aero tow only restriction removed from your license this is one way and there will be instruction available. A neat vertical ascent to about 80% of the tow rope length in less than one minute. We have a 2000 ft rope. It is also possible to soar from the launch, especially in a 1-26 or any glider with a CG hook.



N33923 on auto tow.(photographer unknown)

Follow the clubs web page at http://www.lvvs.org/safaris/Safaris_main.html for continuing updates on Safari Events. Information on the 3rd Annual Race to Tonopah, 1000K Days at Tonopah, and the Race from Tonopah. Dates and details are still in the works.

Birds home to roost. Two new gliders are at Jean, well, one new and one old glider returning. Jack “JH” Harkin took possession of a new ASW-27B in November. He has been learning the “ins, outs and assembly” of this new bird. Jim Wynhoff has bought N16UF (Uncle Fuzzy?) from Ralph, so as soon as someone can get Jim to wipe that silly grin off his face.. ask him how it flies...



The Annual Presidents Christmas Party was held at Jim Madson’s house on December 13th. Many thanks to Jim for the use of his house, and to Robin and others who assisted. With plenty of food and great company, a great time was had by all. If you were unable to attend, we missed you. Special gifts were presented to the ladies compliments of Linda Gough, Neville played Santa in her absence. Thanks to Linda for taking the time to recognize the ladies.

Make plans to join us for the ***Spring Banquet***, normally it is held instead of the business meeting in March. We are looking for ideas, dates, and someone to help with the arrangements.

Hopefully a new picture will grace the outside of the newsletter each month. Send yours to the Secretary.

Reminder: Pilots discovering a problem are responsible to phone in the maintenance report, no one else.



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