

The Eastern VSA Regatta by Linn Buell

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINN BUELL



1992 VSA Eastern Regatta - Manning, SC - May 23-26

The participating gliders. Bob Gaines' award winning Ka-3 in foreground.



Bob Gaines with the Frank Gross Restoration Award.

The annual East Coast VSA Regatta was held Memorial Day weekend at Clarendon County Airport, Manning, South Carolina. This was a new site for us, and consequently we had many new faces and ships. It was perhaps a record for the number of attendees. We had 13 flying vintage ships and 6 classic ships participating. There were 5 other vintage ships on display only.

Several of us traveled in a caravan south from Virginia on Thursday, May 21. The drive was long, but easy. Jim and Pat Kellett with the Open Cirrus, Linn and Lee Buell with Albert Uster's Moswey 3, and Jan and Mai Scott with the Minimoa formed the trailer lineup with Jack Hilton bringing up the rear. We left the gliders at the airport where we met our host Jim Stoa who had cleared out a large hangar for us to store the assembled gliders.

Friday was cool and clear with no clouds, but the lift was there. Most everyone achieved altitudes of around 5,000 feet AGL. Clarendon County Airport sits at the edge of the very large Lake Marion, popular for bass fishing, so the scenery was terrific. Later in the day, more VSA members arrived with their gliders. Bob and Alice Gaines came over from Atlanta with the newly restored (and Gross Award winner) Ka-3. Bob was very color coordinated in that his very bright hat matched the trim on the Ka-3. Bob also flew his Mu 13D (the glider looking a lot better than its trailer, but the trailer has a lot of character). Glen Stone arrived from Florida with his L-Spatz 55. Newcomer Dennis Dellies came from Maryland with his SGS 1-23 and lots of enthusiasm. Saturday's weather was a repeat of Friday's, only a littler warmer. The lift was stronger and most of us got up to around 7000' AGL. I was beginning to be reasonably impressed with the soaring conditions so close to the ocean, and lamenting the fact that the glider I was flying was not mine, so I didn't feel comfortable going anywhere but higher up.

Kenny Stoa manned the grills for hamburgers around lunchtime and Saturday evening we were treated to a fine barbecued rib dinner prepared in the best traditions of southern hospitality by Karl Miller.

The weather on Sunday (does it get any better than this?) was just outstanding, with cloud streets everywhere and some of us achieving heights of 9,000 feet. But, I'm getting ahead of myself. On Sunday morning our annual membership meeting was held with presi-