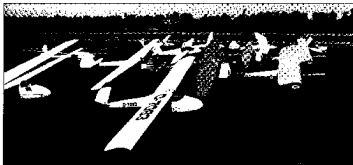


The Eastern VSA Regatta by Linn Buell

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 Cross 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 I-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 little 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-



Dennis Dellies shooting the field.

dent Jack Hilton presiding. Highlights of the meeting were the election of a new president, Linn Buell, while Jan Scott was re-elected as secretary. The Gross Award was presented to Bob Gaines for his Ka-3 restoration, and the Dean McMillan Award for exceptional service to Jim Furlong. Business was conducted in a timely fashion so that we could get on with the more fun business of soaring. And fun it was, with Kenny Stoia (a budding entrepreneur) and Kathy Furlong making and selling (\$1.00 each) flour bombs for those who felt they were sharp eyed enough to hit the target from 700 feet. Several bombs were never found having missed the airport completely. I'm told one landed in Bill Stoia's swimming pool. And a valiant effort (and sizeable investment) by Paul Gaines to "carpet bomb" the target

missed completely. The winner was Wayne Robinson flying a TG-2 and Troy Gray dropping the bomb.

Monday morning was spent mostly socializing and viewing some video tapes. Gliders were disassembled and prepared for the drive home. Most everyone headed back by 3:00 p.m.

Our thanks to Jim and Mary Stoia for their hard work and hospitality in hosting this event. Jim Furlong said it all when he declared that it was his best vacation ever.

The following gliders participated in this very successful three day event:

CLASSIC:		
Jim Kellett	VA	Open Cirrus
Robert Brown	FL	Libelle
Charles Cook	NC	Ka-6CR
Patrick Cotton	SC	Libelle
Jim Furlong	VA	Austria
Jack Hilton	VA	Ka-8 **
VINTAGE:		
Dennis Dellies	MD	SGS 1-23
Linn & Lee Buell	VA	Moswey 3
Bob Gaines	GA	Ka-3
Bob Gaines	GA	Mu 13D
Jim Stoia	SC	T-31
Glen Stone	FL	L-Spatz 55
Jan Scott	VA	Minimoa
Al Tyler	SC	T-31 *
Troy Gray	SC	T-31 *
Jack Hilton	VA	Ka-6 **
Wayne Robinson	SC	TG-2
Jim Stoia	SC	Ka-7
Note: * = shared aircraft, ** owned by Jim Stoia		

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