



TRI-WINGUAL PLUS

A Four-fun Day at Torrey Pines

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Bob and his Dream



Bob Kuczewski



Bob (R) with his RC mentor Parviz Kamiab

Last April 21 Bob Kuczewski made flights in all four of the glider types normally flown at the Torrey Pines Gliderport, near San Diego, California. Bob flew an SGS 2-33 sailplane towed up by the club's stationary winch, an Arcus paraglider, a Dream 205 hang glider and an EasyGlider RC model.

Considering the newness of paragliding and the infrequency of sailplane flying at Torrey, I figure this is the first time such a thing has happened. To fly four different types of craft on the same day might not seem like so much of an accomplishment, until you consider the time and effort expended ahead of time in becoming a competent pilot in each flight regime.

Bob started his aviation career in March of 1976 when he jumped out of a fairly good airplane at the U.S. Army's Fort Benning jump school. As a paratrooper in the U.S. Army Rangers, Bob made many jumps from diverse aircraft including the C-130 and the C-141 jet transports. He also exited the Chinook twin-rotor and the UH-1 (Huey) helicopters.

Bob started flying airplanes at the Fort Monmouth Army Flying Club in February of 1978, and began flying hang gliders at both Fort Lewis (Washington State) and Cape Kiwanda (Oregon) later that year. He earned his private pilot's license in February of 1979, and his seaplane rating in May of '80. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering in 1983. His senior project involved the testing of a model hang



glider in the University of Washington's small-scale (octagonal) wind tunnel.

Bob's hang gliding took a back seat for many years as he pursued his career at General Dynamics, TRW, and Northrop Grumman. In 1990 he began flying paragliders and flew his first solo at Little Black (near San Diego). Bob started his own consulting company in 1998, which eventually



Steve Pacura and Bob in the SGS 2-33



allowed him the freedom to spend half of his week flying.

Bob sought instruction from some of the best hang gliding and paragliding instructors in southern California. The signatures of Joe Greblo, Ken Baier, Rob McKenzie, Alan Chuculate, and others occupy Bob's rating cards. Bob earned his H-4 rating from Steve Stackable in 2005, and his P-4 rating from Ken Baier in 2006.

Last year he began flying RCs with the Torrey Pines Gulls, and in 2007 he began to work on adding a sailplane endorsement to his private pilot's license (which is still in progress). In addition to his flying, Bob has also worked to support the Torrey Pines Soaring Council, which represents pilots of all wings at the Torrey Pines Gliderport.

Bob is a for-fun pilot, and last April 21 was four times the fun!