

2019 West Coast Junior Soaring & My Experiences at Hobbs

Thomas Greenhill

Agenda

1. Intro
2. 2018 Junior Camp, Avenal CA
3. 2019 Junior Contest, Williams CA
4. Keys to successful junior contests
5. My experience at Hobbs
6. Future Plans



About me

- 19 years old, started flying at 14
- SSA Junior Committee member since Fall 2018
- Organizer of Avenal and Williams Jr. Camps/Contests
- Top ranked junior nationwide in 2019
- Flown over 25,000km, 450 hours in last 3 years





Junior Camps

Building confidence to fly
cross country flights safely.

Avenal Junior Camp, September 2018

- 3 days
- 15 junior attendees
- Over 100 hours flown cumulatively
- Longest flight of 250km (ZY)
- Structured mentoring
 - Lead & follow for certain groups
 - Post-flight reviews
- Presentations
- Questions & Answers



Williams Junior Camp/Contest, March 2019

- 3 days, 1 rainy
- Informational presentations on rainy day + questions answered
- 30 junior attendees
- Over 200 hours flown cumulatively
- Structured mentoring
 - Lead & follow for certain groups
 - Post-flight reviews



Williams Junior Contest, March 2019: Practice Day

65 Mile Task: 3-Sisters, Berryessa
Towers, Walker Ridge, Montgomery,
Williams.



Flying Day 1: Strong Post Frontal Weather

- Very unstable
- Task:
Start WSC 1 mile
MaxMllr 5mile
3 Sisters 5 miles
102 StrainE3 4 miles
Finish WSC 1 mile
- Tornado in Colusa
- One land out in a rice paddy
- Winner: Alex Neigher



Flying Day 2: Overcast but soarable

- Task:

Start: Sisters 3 miles

Montgomery 16 miles

Finish: WSC 1 mile

- 2ish kn climbs
- Tough day for club class pilots
- Winner: Thomas Greenhill



Keys to success

- Slack
- Structured mentorship
- Camaraderie
- Friendly competition
- Getting juniors excited about flying XC

ASW 22 BL "MAL"

Amazing & extremely
generous opportunity

Totally different flying
mentality than Club/Standard
class



2019 Open Class Nationals: Hobbs NM

Borrowed Glider from Mallory
Lynch: ASW 22 BL "MAL"

Flew 10/12 days

Received mentorship from Dick
Butler & Ron Tabery

Fastest day: 92.2mph over 410
miles

Most concentrated learning
experience of my soaring career

Up For The Challenge

Thomas Greenhill, 19, is the youngest pilot competing at the National Soaring Championship in both the 18-meter and open classes. Thomas is trying to qualify for the Junior Championship.

EDUARDO
MIRANDA
NEWS-SUN



Gaining experience the key for youngest pilot

EDUARDO MIRANDA
NEWS-SUN

Thomas Greenhill is the youngest pilot competing at the National he has competed in, Thomas mentioned one. age. Then things began to progress from there, I flew a lot every year.

Other Juniors

Zach Yamauchi, 21

1st place, 2019 Air Sailing Sports Class contest

Flown over 18,000 km in last two years

Longest distance flight of 772 km

Wyll Soll, 21

Flown over 9,000 km in last two years

Longest distance flight of 489 km

Jennifer Bauman, 25

Flown over 1,000 km last year

Founder of Akaflieg group at Cal Poly, SLO



My Aspirations for 2020 & 2021

- Training
- 2020 Junior Camp/Contest
- Get more juniors involved in our sport
- Getting more people involved in mentorship & helping juniors
- Standard Class Nationals, June 2020
- 18m Nationals, June/July 2020
- 2021 Junior World Gliding Championship, Delnicka, Czech Republic

Questions?



Thank you!

