

## Fun in the Sun

Valle de Bravo 2006

The paratrip to Valle de Bravo was a great success. Joe Turman (P2), Alison Mason (P2), Doug Cubanski (P4) and Alex Berardi (P2) participated and flew like champs! As usual, Mexico was characterized by consistent sunny days and well-organized thermals. We flew EVERY day and at both sites: La Torre, the ridge-soaring site above town along the lakeshore, and El Penon, about 18 miles outside of town. El Penon is a wonderful spot to learn to thermal and (in some cases) make your first cross country flights. The landscape is lovely and the locals are unbelievably friendly.

By the end of the week, Alex, Alison and Joe (all new novice rated pilots and former students of Peak to Peak) had learned to thermal perfectly and were up at the top of the stack with "the best of them". Alison borrowed one of Kay's varios and was using it to get the feel of thermaling, along with coaching from Kay. She had to be a tad conservative on her Bolero Plus Small (DHV 1) not to get too far behind the ridge over launch on the higher wind days. But Alison made the best of it getting REALLY high out in front of launch and was landing out on the Mesa valley consistently and safely. Alex really demonstrated some excellent launching techniques, even on La Torre, a very steep hang gliding launch (originally). This launch can intimidate the best of pilots. His thermaling also became steady and smooth and he was topping out many of the house thermals on his medium Gin Zulu (DHV 1-2). He seemed to be enjoying his new "toy" also; his FlyTec 5030 vario-GPS. We were all impressed with the capabilities of this cool piece of technology.

Joe managed his first cross country flight on the last day to the "soccer field" on his medium Gin Oasis (DHV 1-2). This flight meant getting high enough to fly over the back of the launch ridge, past a second mound and to the local soccer field (approx. 4 miles). This was an amazing triumph for a new novice pilot and we congratulate him on this super accomplishment. It is even more note-worthy that Joe flew many long flights successfully all week without the use of a vario. That is no easy chore.

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In addition to *Gin* and *Advance*, Peak to Peak Paragliding now carries NOVA gliders and products. Nova has been a favorite in the industry for many years. Contact us at 303.817.0803 or [info@peaktopeakparagliding.com](mailto:info@peaktopeakparagliding.com) to demo a new NOVA glider.

Doug Cubanski (P4), a seasoned veteran to flying who learned to manage the skies in New England, had consistent launches and cross country flights and managed to fly to Valle along with Kay on one of his last days.

Kay and Alison took a wonderful glass-off evening tandem flight on the new prototype Gin Beetle 44 (a REALLY big tandem) and had a personal best tandem flight for Kay (2 hours, 45 minutes). Their successful high-wind launch brought compliments from some of the best pilots/instructors in the country (which made us really proud!) Both Kay and Alison were having so much fun, they didn't realize they'd been in the air that long.

Everyone racked up many hours of airtime in the course of a week, enjoyed exploring the front of El Penon (a massive rock formation not too far from the launch), landing on the lake-front LZ, sipping Pina Colatas after landing and sampling the native culture.

All in all, the entire trip was a great success and we look forward to Valle 2007! The dates are already set—see our website for details (plus more photos of Valle '06).

VALLE  
06

*It's that time again!*

## Reserve Repack & Slideshow

March 31, 2006

Come to our **free** slideshow on reserves and deployment presented by Chris Santacrose. This amazing **Reserve Deployment** slideshow is Friday, March 31st at 7 pm. See <http://www.peaktopeakparagliding.com> for location. Repacks will be conducted ahead of time by Kay and Chris. Please arrange to drop off your harness earlier that week and pick it up at the slideshow. Repacks will run \$40 each. Slideshow is free. Come socialize with other pilots & learn something about your backup system!

# Flying Under the Midnight Sun

## Paratip to Alaska

Join Peak to Peak Paragliding's Kay Tauscher to fly some of the favorite sites near Girdwood and Anchorage Alaska. (See article on flying Aleaska at <http://www.peaktopeakparagliding.com/articles.html>).

This June trip takes advantage of the long days around the summer solstice to get as much flying in as possible. We plan to fly at Aleaska resort, Hatcher's Pass and other favorite flying sites. Fly over some of the most beautiful mountains in the world, and view glaciers from above. We will join in the Midnight Sun Paragliding Fly-In held in Girdwood with pilots from around the country for part of the week. A flight from Eagle Glacier can be added to the itinerary on an individual basis, but is not included in the cost. Don't miss this amazing trip. Cost of Coaching and Guiding for the week: \$ 750

Dates: June 18th - 25th



## Spring into action

### Over The Water Courses with Kay & Chris

It's that time of year again! Hone your flying skills and practice safety maneuvers over water. Learn new tricks or practice throwing your reserve!

Once again Peak to Peak Paragliding is offering three, 3-day over-the-water courses near Denver. Each course will include simulator training, towing and coaching over the water by Kay and Chris, classroom sessions and a maneuvers DVD by Chris Santacrocce. Take one, two or all three sessions. \$600/ 3-day session

Dates:

Water I: April 29 to May 1 • Water II: May 2-4 • Water III: May 5-7

## POWER UP!

### Powered Paragliding Course with Santa

With the help of Chris Santacrocce and Bill Heaner of Walker Jet USA, Peak to Peak is offering a new course this spring: **Power Up! Powered Paragliding** (PPG) in Boulder/Denver. This two day course will teach the basics of PPG skills and get you quickly into the air. No prior motoring experience needed. We will provide the motors if you haven't already bought one - you bring your wing. This course is recommended for P2s and up unless otherwise discussed with Kay. Cost: \$450

Dates: April 1 & 2 (weather make-up day April 3)

**Flatland Cross County Course**, June 2-4 near Denver, Colorado. Coaching by Kay Tauscher and Chris Santacrocce. Cost \$450

**ParaYoga** Watch for upcoming information on paragliding yoga courses and trips. These will be lead by Kay Tauscher (USHGA advanced instructor) and Niki Sue Mueller, certified ashtanga yoga instructor. Find out how to improve your flying through yoga...

## pilot profile | Alex Berardi

Alex Berardi is a novice rated pilot (P2) born and raised in Sparta, New Jersey. He now attends CU in Boulder and learned to paraglide with Peak to Peak in Summer 2005. Alex took to the sport quickly, seeming to learn to launch with beautiful technique in no time at all. He flies a medium Gin Zulu, which according to Alex "he loves a lot." In his opinion, the Zulu recovers quickly (like when he's practicing asymmetric collapses over water).



Alex has known he wanted to fly paragliders since the age of nine, when he took his first tandem flight on a trip to France. He always knew he wanted to fly more since that time. Alex aspires to becoming a backcountry ski guide and fly fishing instructor when he completes his college education. Alex enjoys being outdoors and flying a lot. To him, fly is "an escape from a silly little thing we call school."

Alex went on the trip to Valle de Bravo this past January and mastered his thermalling techniques there. "Mexico was a a lot of fun" he says. "It was really beautiful and I can't wait to go back next year." Alex is also planning to go on the trip to Alaska with Peak to Peak in June and is really "stoked" about it. He's planning a trip to Hawaii at the end of March and is taking his Zulu along hoping to get in some more airtime while there. A long term goal of his is to go fly the Dolomites of Italy. Those who have spent time with Alex will attest to his pleasant disposition, level-headedness and positive attitude. He is truly a joy to be around.

## NEW P3 Program

Peak to Peak is pleased to announce their new P3 program designed to help novice pilots progress through more advanced skills. The program consists of one OTW course; one thermalling clinic; either an advanced kiting clinic or a ridge soaring course; and presentations oriented toward intermediate pilots and topics required to pass the P3 exam. This ongoing program can be signed up for at any point in the year. Pilots have 18 months to complete the program. Cost: \$1400