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Memorial Weekend

Wow—another great weekend at HCR!

Memorial Day weekend (OK, this report is a little late—sorry) provided a mixed bag of weather conditions. Every day was soarable for those who were at launch a little early Friday, felt like dealing with strong but steady wind on Saturday and light (but soarable) conditions on Sunday. The classic glass-off just didn't happen—but it's still early and that can be expected during May.

Of course the unsettled weather (it never did more than a sprinkle) did nothing to hamper the work the club got done. The dilapidated porta-potty looks great after master craftsman Brian Bokkin patched cracks, shotgun holes and other damage from vandals. Adding a coat of white spray paint and “tagging” it with a symbol of a paraglider and hang glider were the final touches.



Next we permanently mounted the US Forest Service signboard at launch—this eliminated the unsightly pile of lava rocks that have been holding it up for years. In the #3 LZ we put up a real windsock (it replaced a wind streamer) and cleared small brush that is determined to take the area over again.



Back at camp festivities included fine food and fine adult libations. Brian's camp was pushing capacity most of the weekend, which made the weekend all the more fun. Sitting around the campfire and enjoying good friends and the scenic Hat Creek surroundings just doesn't get old and I can't imagine it ever will! Something new this year is the awesome club shirt Steve Kozloff (he did most of the graphics) and Brian Bokkin (he did the fine tuning and the leg work to get the job done) put together. We started with 52 shirts and ended the weekend with only 20 left!! I can see another batch will be needed to make it through the entire summer. You can see and order the shirts by going to www.hatcreek.info.

All in all it was another awesome time at the Rim.

Just when I thought the beautiful new Hat Creek Rim T-shirt was the icing on the cake this year at Hat Creek, there's more.....

My trip up to Hat Creek Rim this Memorial Day was by far more rewarding than any previous trip (and there have been many, many rewarding trips to Hat Creek Rim in my life.) The shirts were perfect, the scheduled maintenance went off without a hitch, the company around the campfire was fantastic, and those who wanted to get airborne, could.

What really set this trip apart from all the rest though, was the plaque I received from the hang gliding members of the Hat Creek Committee. It recognized my years of involvement at the site! It was such a surprise that I nearly choked on something I was drinking, which gave the appearance that I was emotional about the whole deal (this was not the case and any video footage showing this “near choking” should be burned!)

I'm sure most of you reading this know how honored I feel to have been around and involved when Hat Creek Rim was pioneered—the memories of those early days of flying and seeing the 30-year journey of Hat Creek Rim are very heart-warming. Hat Creek Rim has provided me a lifetime of outstanding rewards and pleasures.

To the members of the Hat Creek Committee, whom I respect very much as individuals, friends, pilots, and volunteers, let my say thank you for the honor.

Hat Creek Rim is, and always will be, a team effort. It's through the unselfish involvement of a lot of caring individuals that Hat Creek Rim survives and thrives today! It continues to be an honor to be involved at the Rim and to work along side all of the outstanding volunteers of Hat Creek Rim.

—Phil Sergent