

Twenty-Nine Palms Wild West Winchfest

Two Back to Back Weekends!
Memorial Day 5/26-28 and 6/1-3
At the Historic 29 Palms Airport



- ✓ Sponsored by 29 Palms Soaring Club, Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California (AGCSC), and Orange County Soaring Association (OCSA)
- ✓ Space Limited, Reservations Required

Overall Area

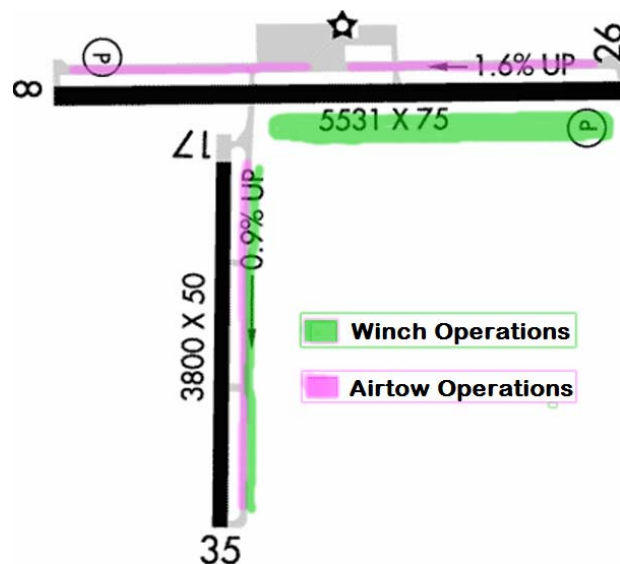
- Location central to visitors from SoCal locations
- Soaring dominates recently upgraded runway and ramp
- Airfield has current experience with winch operations
- Enthusiastic organized local volunteers



Event Organization

- Event Description:
 - "29 Palms Wild West Winchfest"
 - Two adjacent 3 day weekends including Memorial Day
 - Sat-Mon 5/26-28
 - Fri-Sun 6/1-3
 - Main Contacts:
 - Don and Donna Renfro, 29 Palms Soaring
 - 760-366-7832 home
 - 760-902-2655 cell
 - Donnarenfro63@verizon.net
 - Larry Tuohino, OCSA
 - 714-319-9988 cell
 - larswan@aol.com
 - Rolf Schulze, AGCSC
 - 619-838-3855 cell
 - 619-286-3855 home
 - Sky prof@aol.com
 - Bill Daniels, Winch Consultant
 - 303-638-4534
 - bildan@comcast.net

Airfield



- "Quietest airport in San Bern County"
- Glider operations dominate activity, conflicts with power traffic minimal
- Great soaring conditions/interesting WWII soaring history
- No active FBOs or businesses located on field
- County has substantially improved ramps and runways in last two years
- Sporadically used acrobatic box near south end of 17-35
- AWOS service on site
- Vehicle towing of gliders to grid is acceptable
 - Use commonsense on taxiways and announce intentions on 122.8 before crossing runways

Aircraft/Trailer Tiedowns

- Very large and sufficient area is lightly used
 - County has recently blacktopped
 - Marked with paint lines
 - Park glider trailers around perimeter
- Tiedown area adjacent to aerotow glider runway(8-26 taxiway)
- Winch grid area approximately 1500 yards from tiedowns

Runways

- All adequate length and width. Very good condition.

- 8-26 5531 x 75 ft asphalt, lights
- 17-35 3800 x 50 asphalt
- Sailplane aerotow ops generally use the taxiways for takeoff and landings
- Winch field is in dirt south of 8-26
- Runway lights generally not a factor for <15 meter ships
 - For Unlimited ships, main 8-26 runway is 75 ft wide with low lights
- Adequate relight capability
 - Aerotow operations begin in center of 8-26 taxiway, easy 180 degree return onto main 8-26 runway
 - Winch tow uses dirt strip adjacent to 2/3's of 8-26 length, so approx 1500 ft emergency area forward and to right on 8-26.
- Towplane landing and taxi capability
 - Aerotow operation area is in center of 8-26 taxiway with landing area to either side
 - Main 8-26 runway additionally available
- Minimal room for vehicles near winch grid
 - Vehicles should be kept in tiedown area
 - Use a "taxi" service to minimize vehicular traffic
- Crosswind runway available
 - 17-35 is 50X3800 ft with parallel taxiway
- Adequate rope break options
 - No issue in all aerotow directions due to length of runways and adjacent main runways
 - West winch launch very adequate
 - Low winch release to east adequate

Sailplane Operating Considerations

- Water availability
 - ALL WATER IS NON-POTABLE – DO NOT DRINK
 - Spigots near petrol pump and tiedown area
 - Pilots should bring drinking water
- No Oxygen charging facility currently on site
 - High altitudes are possible
 - Organizers looking for extra O2
- Battery charging outlets available in pilot lounge and outside areas
- Three areas of Pilot Meeting space
 - Pilot Lounge has A/C and room for approx 30
 - Club hanger rented from County
 - Shaded BBQ area
 - Encourage guests to bring chairs and tables
- No outside phone land lines available
 - Cellphone works on airport

Winch Ops

- Communications systems/procedures
 - Standard aircraft radios, club has base antenna
 - Both radio and standard SSA winch signals used
 - 122.8 Unicom monitored by winch
 - 123.3 Winch-glider communications
 - 123.5 Off winch glider
- Winch grid is accessible without driving on taxiway/runway
 - Perimeter dirt road to east end of 8-26
- Length and width of winch field
 - 100 X 4000ft dirt parallel to 8-26
- Alternative arrangements established for wind shifts
 - Move winch to opposite end
 - Move winch to 17-35 taxi way
- Landing area for cable break very adequate except for winch launch to east where adequate
- Winch-glider line of sight is clear for 8-26
- Winch-glider line of sight is obstructed on 17-35 by hump in center
- All winches will be using plastic/Spectra rope
- Clubs will bring own CFGs – need ground launch sign-off
 - 29 Palms Soaring may have space to train non-members

Towplanes

- 180 hp C175 w/constant speed prop flies in from Chino
- Winch redundancy is sufficient, expecting three to participate
- Towplane fuel available at airport via automated pumps
- Aero retrieve arrangements TBD

Task Area

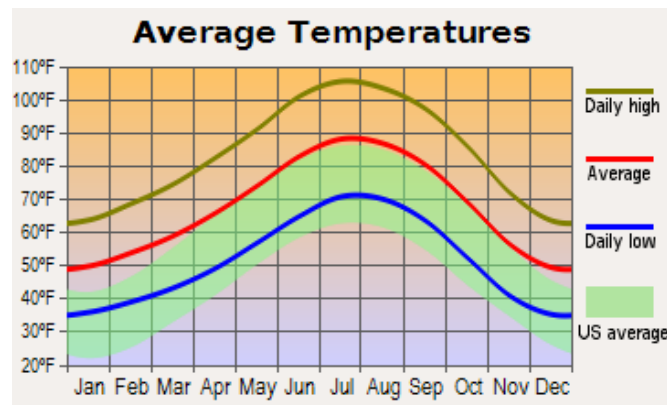
- Many small local airfields on chart
- Per locals, many small “scratches in the sand”
- Airspace restrictions not excessive or confusing
- MOA/Restricted area to the north
- Trailer retrieves
 - East-west not a problem
 - North OK
 - South minimal except thru Joshua Tree Nat Park
- Cellular phone coverage spotty
 - Minimal south in National Park
 - OK East-West
 - North???

Camping Facilities on Airport

- Camping allowed, plenty of space, very limited shade, no grass
- No showers available on site
- Pool available on site
- Two toilets, men and women, in pilot lounge
- No available RV hookups
- Closest RV dump capability at 29 Palms RV Park in 29 Palms, 760-367-3320

Local Area Facilities

- Check: www.29chamber.com
- Sufficient motel availability at reasonable cost
 - Motel 6, 760-367-2833, pool, corporate
 - El Dorado Delores, 760-367-3528, pool, local recommendation
 - 29 Palms Inn, 760-367-3505, pool, New Age Zen
- Many chain and local restaurants available in 29 Palms at reasonable cost
 - The Rib Company – local BBQ lunch/dinner
 - Carousel Cafe – local break/lunch/dinner coffee shop
 - Edchada's (has banquet room) – Group meal?
- Recreational options
 - See: www.29chamber.com
 - Joshua Tree National Park, rock climbing, hiking
 - Palm Springs, shopping
 - 29 Palms Visitor Center 760-367-5529
- 29 Palms airport is 6 miles east of City of 29 Palms
- No commercial airline connections (nearest is Palm Springs, 37 miles)
- Off airport campgrounds available, check chamber website



Medical Facilities

- Emergency medical procedure
 - Dial 911
 - National Park Dispatch 909-383-5651
- Local Hospitals
 - High Desert Hospital in Joshua Tree/16 miles
 - Military Hospital on 29 Palms Base