

Hawks in High Places

Fly the Arizona Craters with Kevin Kennedy (Torrey Hawk #40)



Kevin Kennedy shows off his Torrey Hawks T-Shirt near the Craters flying site east of Flagstaff

I first met Kevin Kennedy about a year ago when traveling through Flagstaff Arizona looking for flying sites with another fellow Hawk, Ken Bryenton. Kevin started flying hang gliders in 1974 and spent about 4 years (from 1976 through 1979) flying at the Torrey Pines Gliderport almost daily. Kevin visits Torrey less frequently now, but still gets out here when he can.

Kevin now lives about 1.5 miles from “the Craters” flying site located just north of Interstate 40 between Flagstaff and Winslow (yes, the same Winslow Arizona made famous by the Eagles in “Take it Easy”). Kevin owns a 20 acre parcel where he offers private camping for pilots who fly the Craters and other local sites. Kevin also offers driving services and may even have a glider available - if you're lucky.

Kevin is a one-man welcoming committee for the Craters, and he was able to give us great information about all of the local flying sites (including Mingus and Mt. Elden). The LZ elevation (for both Craters sites) is about 5400 feet, and the two peaks (Merriam and Sheeba) offer rounded launch sites at about 700', 1000' and 1400' above the LZ. The sites are suitable for both hang gliding and paragliding at all levels during favorable conditions, but they can be treacherous in the summer and at other times. Be sure to check in with Kevin to get current information before flying.

If you ever find yourself in Northern Arizona, be sure to stop by for a visit. Meeting Kevin is a treat, and you'll find yourself reminded of an earlier time when hang gliding was the sport of free spirits and yes, even hippies. Kevin can be reached by phone at 928-863-0035, and by email at winddummie@yahoo.com.