

## **Video Review – Lift Ticket.**

I have just finished an article on Dynamic soaring, for Airborne magazine, when I received a terrific video titled Lift Ticket. This digitally mastered video is produced by Dave Reese, and is filmed in various locations around the U.S.A. It is around 1 hour 50 mins of exciting footage, which will open the eyes of many pilots who have never flown slope soarers or other types of glider.

When I paid a short visit to the U.S.A. in 1999, I visited a tourist location next to the Golden Gate Bridge, in San Francisco. It was the site of an old fort, located at - Fort Point naturally, and I remember telling my friend that it would have been an awesome place to fly. We figured that it would be illegal to fly there, because of the near proximity to the bridge.

Imagine my surprise, when the opening scenes of Lift Ticket, show a Higgins F20 slope soarer, being flown at that very location, and fitted with a smoke canister. An amazing introduction to the diversity of slope soaring, to go with an extraordinary backdrop. Here is a screen shot of that opening scene.



***Higgins F20 trailing smoke, with the Golden Gate Bridge as a backdrop. Wonder how many near accidents it caused on the bridge.***

This video immediately captured my imagination, and kept me rapt, for more than two hours of viewing. Dave Reese has done an excellent job of editing, and laid down a nice soundtrack to boot. His style is reminiscent of Bruce Brown, in that timeless surf classic, *The Endless Summer*.

Without giving a blow by blow account of the film, I will tell you what the various segments contain, and that should whet your appetite.

The first segment shows slope soaring with some of the high performance gliders, such as the previously mentioned Higgins F20, amongst others.

The next portion shows some fantastic scale models, soaring off the slope at Los Banos reservoir. The below screen shot shows the size of some of the scale models which are flown off slopes. Many of our Club members, would not even be aware of the potential of slope soaring. Lift Ticket can change that. Spectacular footage, of spectacular models.



***ASK 13 being hand launched off the slope at Los Banos, California.***

How many of you have seen the vast variety of warbirds, which can be successfully flown off the slopes? PSS (Power Scale Soaring) is covered next, at Cajon Point, where you will see ME109, Jets, Mustangs, Zeros, Civilian Scale models etc, being flown in formation across the face of the slopes. I bet many power fliers, would have no idea that these models perform so efficiently, as gliders.

With the advent of EPP foam construction, many of these examples can also be flown to the extreme, or engage in combat, with little fear of sustaining damage severe enough to stop flying.

The last 50 minutes or so of this video, deals with the 'new' form of slope soaring, which is, Dynamic Soaring. If you have never seen this done, or even heard of it, then be prepared to be astounded. Dave Reese has recorded the sounds of speed associated with DS, to give viewers some appreciation of this phenomenon. It is difficult to imagine the potential and speed associated with Dynamic Soaring, without seeing it for yourselves. All this activity occurs behind the face of the slope - a region previously associated with rotors and dead air. A place to steer clear of? Not so!!

With a wind blowing onto the face of the slope, and a model flying speed runs on the conventional side, speeds of around 25kph can be expected. When the model is then flown into the 'dead air' on the back of the slope, and commences banked circles, which increase in speed with each circuit flown, speeds of 117kph are reached. You have to see it to believe it. The technique and description, can be seen in my DS article, whilst the visual depiction can be seen in Dave's video. As they say, "a picture is worth a thousand words" and I'm sure you would rather watch it than read about it.

Lift Ticket is available from Reese Productions, P.O. Box 3607 Santa Cruz CA – 95063.

For those of you with internet facilities, you can email direct to

[dave@reeseproductions.com](mailto:dave@reeseproductions.com) or visit the web site at [www.ReeseProductions.com](http://www.ReeseProductions.com)

If several of you want to buy a copy, contact me, and I will see if there can be any savings made on freight etc. This video is highly recommended, and is the best quality I have seen to date. Really gets you going, and itching to fly. I reckon Power guys owe it to themselves to see what can be done with slope models, as do a lot of us flat fielders.

Klaus Weiss.