

A Trip to Hell

FOR THE FUN OF IT



Pilot Mike Mellor soars his CR Climax just below a rainbow at the top of Mt. Howard.

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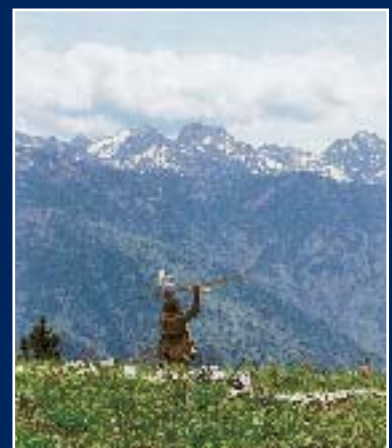
Where do you go in the U.S. to find alpine soaring as good as in the Alps? To Hell! Hell's Canyon that is.

Hell's Canyon is home to the snake river and all its rugged grandeur. It also defines the borderline between northeastern Oregon and the state of Idaho. At more than 4,000 feet deep, it is the deepest canyon in North America. But, Hell's Canyon is certainly not from Hell! It is a superb and majestic vacation spot for the whole family, and an unequalled soaring site for the R/C sailplane enthusiast.

Check it out! Study your aeronautical section chart and find the town of Imnaha, Oregon. Next, look just east of Imnaha for an airstrip marked Memaloose. Memaloose is shown on my chart as having an elevation of 6,982 feet ASL. If you have a road atlas you can find it there too, however, it will probably be marked as Hat Point. Notice that Hat Point is located at the end of 24 miles of unimproved gravel road that climbs quite steeply from Imnaha's elevation of less than 3,000 feet to 7,000 plus.

TOP RIGHT: Rory's readied for launch at Memaloose by Hal Mason.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A Robbe ASW-24 being readied for launch by Hal Mason.





Mike Mellor gives Art Boysen's big Nimbus 4 a beautiful push into skies filled with an abundance of lift.

What lies at the top of this climb to Hell is breath-taking model soaring, over a canyon of unequalled beauty. It is lift that sucks models up at a near frightening rates. It is a Memaloose airstrip maintained by the United States Forestry Service (USFS) with a grass runway 3,300 feet long. It is a wilderness of mammoth proportions with a ridgeline literally a hundred miles long. How could Europe even compare to this kind of majesty? It can't! Memaloose is soaring like one has never seen. A place where spoilers don't always bring a model down from cloud base. And, the landing zone – besides being 3,300 feet of grass – also generates thermals not for the timid of heart.

The photos tell the story. See for yourself. Visit Memaloose in the summer or early fall. The stop at the Imnaha general

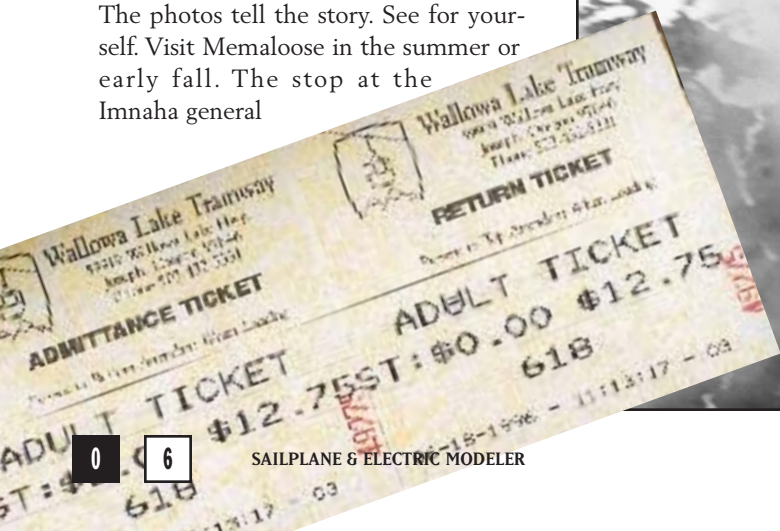
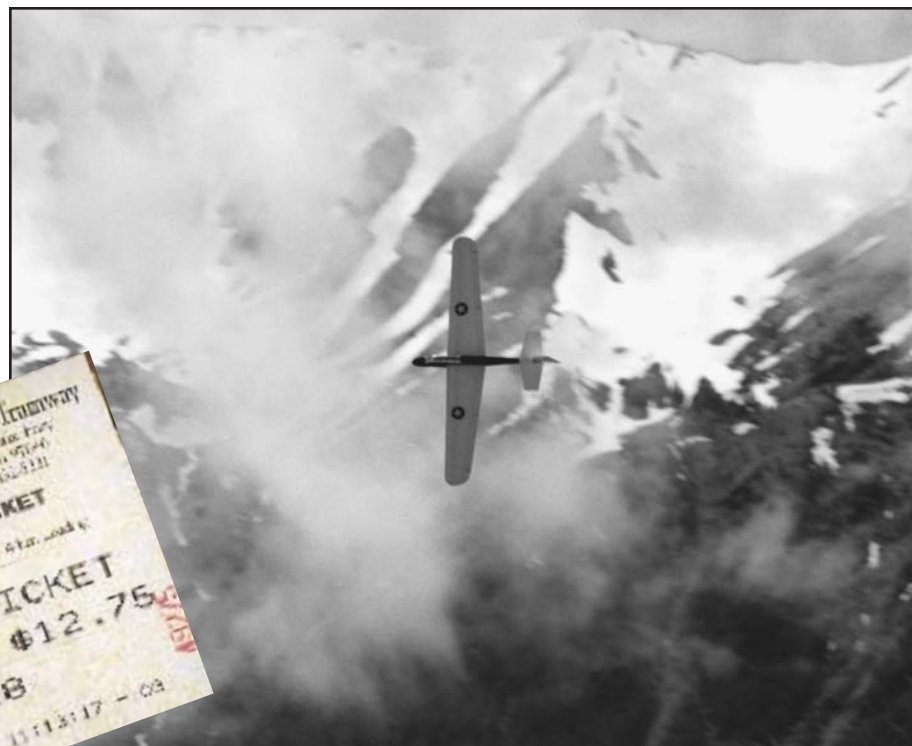
store/cafe/bar, built in 1904, is worth the trip alone. By the way, don't forget to mail home a post card from Imnaha's post office. It is the oldest post office in Oregon. A real part of western history.

On your way to Memaloose you may just want to visit Wallowa Lake. Wallowa Lake is a 7 miles long with a state maintained campground. It is quiet and beautiful. It is also a tremendous place for the R/C soaring family to vacation. Why? Well, besides all the fun things for the family to do like horseback riding, boating, fishing, hiking, antique shopping, visiting the beautiful bronze museums and factories, it is also a soaring site. A very big soaring site! In fact, Wallowa Lake's soaring site is so big you have to ride a gondola up the mountain, more than 4,000 feet, to get to the launch point.

Once on top of Mt. Howard, you discover a soaring area like no other. The launch point is a mere 8,300 feet above sea level. The landing zone is grass; albeit it is not 3,300 feet long. Rather the landing zone is only about 300 yards long, but very airplane friendly. Mt. Howard offers not one soaring site, but at least three separate sites. All are within an easy 5-minute walk of the gondola house. Also, the mountain top sports a great cafe with a view that will take your breath away.

Think of this, the gondola operations

DAW TG-3 flying in the mist.





ABOVE: Mt. Howards' views are spectacular and these two ships add to the view.

LEFT: Mike Mellor's LaSoar uses its 136 inches of span, Aveox S27, 18 cells of 1700 SCRC and 132 ounces to range WAY out over the canyon.



Cafe and gondola house at the top of Mt. Howard. The ride to the top provides spectacular panoramic views.

manager, Cace Sidoti, has offered the services of their flat car to all R/C soaring enthusiasts. The flat car can carry any size model to the top of Mt. Howard, provided it is packed in some kind of box. In other words, you and your model ride to the top of the mountain, each in comfort and safety.

Start planning next year's vacation now. This is R/C soaring you will want to

experience at least once in your lifetime.

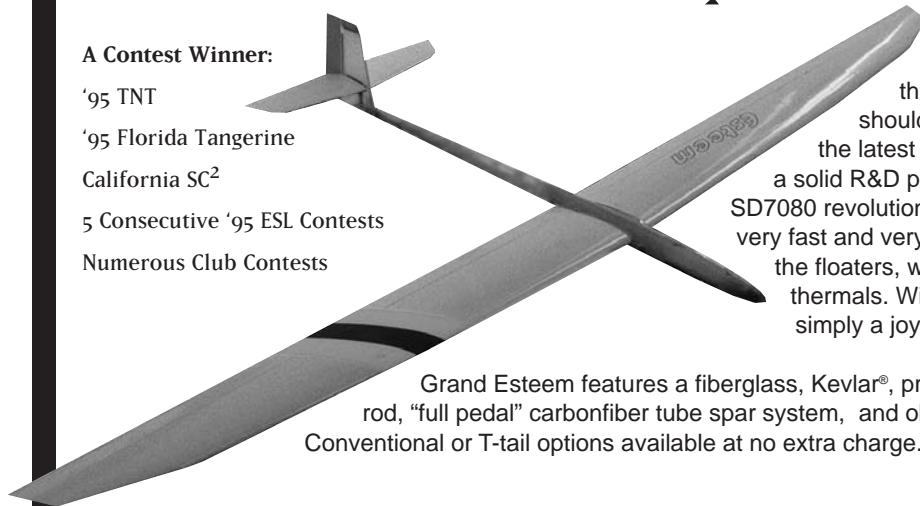
Note: If you plan to travel to Memaloose, it is best to have some kind of utility vehicle. The road could be very hard on anything less.

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