

Two Men, One Sky.
FARTHER IN FLIGHT

The Silent Realization of a Purer Form of Flight



Dustin Martin, 32, gliding above the desert in the vicinity of Maricopa, Ariz., in late November, months after his record 425-mile flight. As a teenager fascinated by the idea of flying, he got his first job working at an airport, but even in the cockpit of a sailplane, he longed for something that was, as he put it, "more birdlike."

Around the globe, Zapata stood out for its hot desert air, which was enough moisture from the Gulf of Mexico to feed cumulus clouds — that belatedly formed overhead for hundreds of miles at a rate of a giant furnace.

In 1990, Ochoa started what he called the World Record Encouragement, who drove some of the best hang glider pilots each summer to chase various distance records. There was an entry the — so just for the special plane used in the World Record Encouragement, who drove some of the best hang glider pilots each summer to chase various distance records. There was an entry the — so just for the special plane used in the World Record Encouragement, who drove some of the best hang glider pilots each summer to chase various distance records.

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The two men, both 32, had met more than a decade earlier at a hang gliding competition in Australia, when both were being described as promising rather than accomplished. Since then,

The Pilots Gather

Dustin Martin was at his home in Scottsdale, Ariz., on the night of June 29 when his cellphone rang. Having the name on the screen, he guessed what was about to happen.

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Getting a Lift

Hang gliders lose altitude at about 200 feet per minute, so to fly long distances, they rely on a series of thermals or "updrafts."

Columns of rising warm air that are heated when the sun's surface is heated unevenly by the sun.

The hang glider pilot reads cloud formations to hunt for these invisible columns.

Thermal in light clouds

Hang glider

Cloud layer

Ground

Wing span is approximately 23 feet

Record Ride on the Texas Wind

On June 29, 2012, hang glider pilot Dustin Martin set a new world record for a single person's solo flight, covering 425 miles in 20 hours and 15 minutes.

The flight was a triumph of endurance and skill, as Martin glided across the Texas Panhandle, taking advantage of a series of powerful thermals.

Martin's flight was a testament to the art of hang gliding, a sport that has evolved from a simple hobby to a high-stakes, high-altitude pursuit.

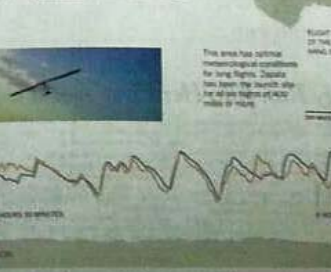
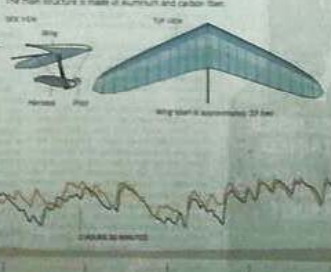
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Comparing the Distance

All right, any distance from two major cities that are equivalent to the distance Dorand and Martin flew.

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From Page 50

Continued on Following Page