

## *X-Ceara 2005*



*It so happened that I went to Brazil, the X-Ceara (10th Jubileum) competition alone! Sixty pilots arrived, fifty from Europe.*

*The competition started after two days rest. Out of five days, the three longest distances counted. The zero day was the usual 34-km goal distance, with food and opening ceremony. On this occasion Chico, the leader of the competition tells the rules, dangers and previous records every year. (Frank Brown, paraglider: 338 km; hang-glider: 432 km).*

*Two Brazilian pilots got injured already on the first day! As usual, the wind was brutal, many failed at the start. Four or five kids were holding the paraglide and in the 5-second weak wind we could catapult. The strength of the wind was between 25 and 50 km/hour on the take off site, if someone did not step on the accelerator in one or two seconds, he or she could have been blown backwards.*

*There were accidents at the accelerating, turbulent landings as well.*

*- First day: I started at 9:15 am, drifting in the weak thermals in strong wind, with 1300-meter cloud base and after 78 km at 11:15 I gave up. I thought this meant the end of my competition, as many flew over 200 km. A Portugal pilot flew 278 km. The early start is quite interesting, as before competitors launched at about 10 am. The real surprise struck me at the end of the competition, when the time of the launch went back till about 8 am!*

*- Second day: Shoe was on the other foot! In brutal wind, launching at 9:15 I landed after 240 km at 3:50 pm. I could have flown two more hours! Still, I won the day because the second made 51 km. Best hang glider: 217 km. So I became first after the second day.*

<http://www.goup.com.br/noticias.asp?CodNoticia=115>



***- Third day: I screwed up everything !!! The wind was strong in the morning and nobody launched due to the blue sky. I wasn't pressing either, as I was the first. At noon I went to the accommodation with some other pilots, thinking there wouldn't be anything anyway. As I was getting out of the pool at 12:30, I saw the others launching in the already cloudy sky! Thomas Brauner, Czech Republic: 265 km. According to him, he landed in dark. Several pilots flew over 200 km.***

***- Fourth day: A local pilot launched at 7:49 in the morning! Nobody would have believed, but he got away and flew 150 km that day. There was strong wind on the take off site and nobody could launch. I really missed this day so I thought the next day I would start earlier too.***

***<http://www.goup.com.br/noticias.asp?CodNoticia=117>***

*Every night we drank with the Italian pilots on Piripiri, a town 316 km away, and said we would celebrate there the next evening. Just before the last day of the competition one of the Italians said: „ Let’s drink on Madalena - 60 km away – maybe then we’ll get to Piripiri.” He was right, he was the one to land in Piripiri!*



*- Last day: I started at 8:20 in the morning. I was rising with weak thermal to 1200 m high. Now or never, I moved off with two other pilots. The first two hours were extremely difficult. Strong wind, low base, weak bubble thermals! Sometimes we had to slope on bigger hills till we could go on. One could find oneself on the ground quite soon. If somebody landed within 20 km, could start again. I saw a Frenchman after launch, drifting behind a hill and landing, later I got to know that he got seriously injured. At around 11 the weather got better. Cloud base at about 1700 m and the thermals became stronger as well. However, I was many times near the ground all on the way to the goal. When we reached 100 km, we had to fly over a mountain (1400 m), which I managed quite heavily. I reached the ridge soaring low and couldn't get higher. With a glider we somehow got through the turbulent peaks, till he turned upside down and deployed a reserved parachute. We discussed on the radio that he was all right so I could go on. Luckily getting over the mountain, I could get higher again, this time over 2000 m. Later, I met Petra (Czech Republic), and a guy from Tirol, and we flew together about 120 km. It was a good feeling leaving behind my 240-km record, here the base was at about 2800 m.*

*At 3:40 pm I got to Pedro II (286 km) and could admire the place of the distance-goal world record of Szilárd Forgó and Péter Simonics. Flying on, at 3:57 pm my GPS stepped over 300 km! It was a wonderful feeling, I wish everyone could feel it once! With the next thermal I rose to 3011 m. After flying for 8 hours I started long calculations, as listening to radio reports I knew that everyone had landed behind me. (Petra 302 km world record, the guy from Tirol 316 km, a Brazilian pilot 284 km.) Hm! I should win the race! At 4:45 pm, after 338 km, at 700 m height I could have used the smoke of a huge fire to get higher (there was even a cloud on the top of it), but being tired and winning the race with a serial glider, with a South-American record in my pocket, avoiding the smoke I landed in a courtyard after 8 hours 31 minutes flying. There were woods all around me, till I could see, which also influenced my decision. Two hours later, in the car taking me back, I got to know that the Portugal guy's radio wasn't working and he flew 380 km that day.*

**Final result:**

- |                       |       |                   |               |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Diego Pires        | Port. | Gin Boomerang 3   |               |
| 2. Tasi Péter         | Hun.  | UP Trango 2       | Serial 1!     |
| 3. Jan Habermann      | Czech | JoJo Wings Topper |               |
| 4. Tomas Brauner      | Czech | Mac Para Magus 4  |               |
| ...13. Petra Krausova | Czech | Mac Para Magus 4  | World record! |
| ...31. Filip Jagia    | Pol.  | UP Targa 2        |               |
| ...41. Rafael Luckos  | Pol.  | UP Targa 2        |               |