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A recent trip to Southern California proved fruitful when several of our children (and wife) got to experience the thrill of hang gliding for the very first time. The place is Dockweiler Beach, located on the southern pacific coast adjacent to the Los Angeles International Airport. The company, Windsports, runs an awesome training facility and boasts good training weather 350 days a year. Well, they didn't let us down. The smooth coastal air, along with the huge 330 square foot training gliders made by Wills Wing, made easy work of getting our children airborne for their first time. Below is a pictorial of the kids and their first flights ever, with the exception of Phillip, who has been there once before. How cool is this?!!



My wife, Shelly, giving it a go.



Last, but not least, my son Mason. At 11 years old, he was our youngest pilot.



Buddy, Mike Hunter's son, receiving instruction and during flight..

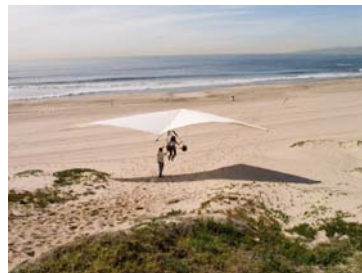


Matt Sergent and one of his 7 flights down to the beach.



A little hang waiting and the anxious "newbies."

As you can probably tell from the photos, the instructor really earns his money. He runs alongside, holding the side wire to make sure things don't get out of control. Our instructor for the day was Lynden and he ran up and down this hill over twenty times! We all pitched in to give him a decent tip. The lessons were introductory, costing \$75.00 each and consisting of four flights (plus a few extras). For more information, you can call Windsports at 1-800-Hang Glide.



Kyla, Matt's girlfriend, did exceptionally well.



Phillip Sergent and one of his flights.

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Springtime is just around the corner. As you already know, we are working closely with the Forest Service to replace the current porta-potty at Hat Creek Rim's main launch with a newer, ADA approved (Americans with Disabilities Act) porta-potty. This newer porta-potty will accommodate wheelchairs and persons with other disabilities. The current porta-potty will most likely be relocated to the #2 LZ where we have no facilities at all. When will this all happen?? Historically, we meet in the springtime over the Memorial Day Weekend to make improvements to the site and conduct regular site maintenance. Everyone is encouraged to come out and pitch in. With a little help from everyone, it won't take very long, and then it's BBQ and flying time as usual.

- editor'