



[Press release, May 2007]

From the World Record to the record of La Palma:

Urban Valic flies the longest distance in the island

The Valic brothers (Mac Para Magus), holders of the present paraglider world record of distance (426km), spent 3 days doing distance flights in the island to obtain good scores for the 2nd Challenge Island of La Palma, and they soon broke a couple of records. Urban managed to do the longest flight ever done in La Palma: 39.67 km in straight line (for an island only 45 km long) between Fuencaliente (South) and Puntagorda, in a flight of great technical complexity due to the strong winds that prevail on the ends of the island. The South zone was specially hard as it was on the lee side, and the pilot said that he had to manage strong turbulences and face wind to return, losing nearly a thousand meters of height in only a couple of km. This time, Aljaz remained behind his younger brother, with 35.5 km, the second best flight of this edition of the Challenge.

The Valic travelled to the island of La Palma during the first week of May with the intention to obtain the best possible classifications in the 1st Phase of the Challenge (open until November 10th), and as soon as they got down from the airplane they asked to be taken directly to the takeoff. Both pilots started from Puerto Naos at noon and spent 5 hours flying, to complete two good flights each. This is how the pair debuted in the Challenge. On the following day, they crossed the island again a couple of times, beating the record of distance of this 2nd Challenge and the island of La Palma, showing why they are on the highest level of our sport. Both pilots flew more than 200km altogether in just three days and with conditions that were not the best for distance flights. The previous distance mark, 38.7 km, was set by French pilot Charles Cazaux, during the first edition of the Challenge, in 2005.

Specialized Press in the Challenge

At the time of the Valic brothers' visit to La Palma we also had a group of eight journalists specialized in paragliding, flying and taking hundreds of pictures in the 'pretty island' to show it to their readers. Correspondents of the magazines Cross Country, Paraglider Magazine, USHGA, Aerial, FFVL, Parapente Mag and Ojovolador.com had the chance to fly from different sites in the western region of La Palma and score for the ranking of this Challenge. They all expect to be able to come again for the Final in December, not only to cover the event as press members but also to compete in it for any of the prizes. The journalists was pleasingly impressed by the conditions for paragliding and the landscapes of the island, after visiting the Caldera de Taburiente National Park, the Viewpoint of El Time and the volcanoes of Fuencaliente, among others.