WRINGING OUT YOUR ORCA

By Harley Michaelis, LSF 023

This assumes you have your ORCA balanced, deflections set for rapid response in pitch & turn, that it goes where you point it and that you've become comfortable doing such routine things as (1) climbing out, (2) diving downwind to turn and do fast fly-bys, (3) diving straight out into the lift to build speed and energy to do big loops, etc. and (5) general tearing back & forth along the slope.

Let's say it's comfortable, temperature-wise, blowing a steady 30-35 MPH into the slope, that you're able to stand okay and remembered your goggles. Let's try some things and then put them all together in a sequence that should inspire onlookers to "build an ORCA and get to fly like that!"

Launch hard, slightly nose down and head out to your left to get a chunk of altitude. Head back in to do a fast fly by to the right, but instead of turning horizontally to come back left, pull a tight half loop, roll level, head left, pull a half loop and head right inverted. Pull level, come left and head out again to grab some new altitude.

Do a few broad "pre-attack" 360's from the high position and then head to the slope and turn in at high speed. At the slope center bank steeply and in the lift, spiral up until the energy is dissipated. Head out and off to the right to again grab some altitude.

From way out and still in lift, and moving across it, left to right and right to left, do a series of winding turns while working back to the slope face. Roll to alternately fly upright and inverted. Head out again to gain altitude. Head to the slope and along its face, flying in a horizontal wave pattern, diving, climbing, diving, climbing, etc., etc.

Grab altitude and head in and across the slope. Pull up and do vertical waves until the energy has bled off. Pull up to stall, move the stick full left and rear as you nose over and go into a spin. Head out again. Come in at high speed and push full left to do consecutive rolls while traversing the slope. Head out to gain altitude.

Into the wind, push full left into consecutive rolls, head out into lift, gain altitude and move high above the slope edge. Dive straight out to gain speed and energy. Do a couple of large loops and then get into a rolling loop. At the top, head out into lift again.

Come toward your eyeballs, push full down and head out doing consecutive rolls. See how close to the slope face you can safely do so.

Cruise around inverted and swing behind the slope edge to sink for a landing.