



# Alan Chuculate

*Friend, Giver, Lover of Life, Lover of Flight*  
1955 - 2005



by Jeff Goin  
Nov 9, 2005

Alan Chuculate, 1955 - 2005



Alan was a great influence to me in my early days learning to fly. He knew everything, and everyone in the sport and always made me laugh with his flamboyant style, he was totally unique.

An unforgettable character who will be missed by us all.

Alex Dell





To those of you that know  
and have flown with him,  
I need not tell you what a  
great person and pilot he was.

Those of you out there in PPG/UL land  
that did not know Alan, "Mr Spandex"  
he did not "run" into the air, Alan danced  
off the ground. I have never seen a more  
graceful person launch into flight.

In the air he was also poetry in motion.

"Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-Hov'ring there,  
My eager craft through footless halls of air  
Put out my hand and touched the face of God."

*John Fetz, Lake Havasu City, Az*

Alan we will miss you...but never will you be forgotten!

As I read this I was in shock and disbelief.

I reflect on my relationship with Alan through the years as my trainer and friend. I was looking forward to seeing him again at Salton Sea.

I will truly miss him.

*Mike Rish*





I'm both shocked and crushed by this loss.

"Bubba" Bob Peters



Alan Chuculate, 1955 - 2005



His prescence will be missed. I and others were looking forward to seeing him at our next Arizona Flying Circus. He will always remain with me in memory.

*Mo Sheldon*

Alan was one of my paramotoring instructors. He helped me solo in AZ last year.  
His humor, patience, and incredible skill really helped me a lot.

Besides learning from him I enjoyed his company and Friendship.

His heart was full of so much care and genuine interest in his fellow pilots and novices. I will miss him very much.

*Ben Hecht, Santa Cruz, CA PG and PPG pilot*



Alan was inspiring.

In the beginning of my paragliding life, Alan and Mary took me under their collective wing. And I was just a friend of a friend (Nick Scholtes introduced us). A complete newbie with a desire to fly and learn. They all made me feel so completely welcome.

Whenever we went out to fly it was an education. A chance to learn what was possible. He put wing to wind and demonstrated what *real* control was; what finesse was.

While kiting at the Torrey Pines ledge one time, barely able to keep my wing aloft in the light breeze, he would sometimes admonish me: "either launch or get out of the way!" Strangely, he could get away with that. What's worse is that after suckering me out onto flying the ridge in that too-light air, I'd have to endure watching him soar as I hiked back up. "Next time," I said, "next time."

He headed up many, many great times, mostly in Mexico but many in the San Diego area. I'm honored to have had my life so enriched with both Alan and his wife Mary.

The times he led groups on Mexico trips were truly amazing. So many people excelled at his hand. I watched on the sidelines, always marvelling at his willingness to help. And taking in his techniques, watching, trying, being corrected, and finally earning his praise on occasion "OK, that was tolerable."

Alan's absence is a now a hole in my life and so many other lives as well. He was unique and didn't care. He was just Alan, a phrase that somehow explained so much. People understood.

I will miss him. I will miss the anticipation of being with him. Thanks for everything Alan.

Jeff Goin



Dearest Alan,

You were my mentor, you were my guide. You were the older brother I never had. I looked up to you. I wanted to be you, sometimes. I worried about you. I tried to protect you. You were my friend.

And you shared everything you had with me. You never held back... knowledge, equipment, your family, cliff bars.

I will try to fly the way you taught me to fly. I will share the gifts you gave me with others. I will miss you.

Love always,

Phil





photos by Jim Eskildsen



Alan called Jim Eskildsen his Best Friend—quite an honor. They met in 1975 and shared the beginnings of flight together on a Standard Rogallo.

Jim shared this:

If you measure a man's wealth by the number of people whose lives he touched in a positive and meaningful way, then Alan was one of the richest men in the world because he so enriched all of our lives.

We are all so blessed to have known him.

I will not say "goodbye," but "until we meet again"—Aloha.