

Quixada 2013 Interview

Tomas Soudek and **Karel Vejchodsky** come back from Quixada – Brazil. They had great flights there. 434 km and 432 km are two of the longest flights flown there in 2013 and we didn't find longer flight on EN C category glider at all. So Tomas has unofficial EN C World Record.

Because we are very proud they were flying Aspen4 we would like to know:

What do you like the most on Gradient gliders?

K: Very high level of professionalism and continuity in development, I know what I can expect with new models. Ideal rate in performance and behaviour.

T: In my eyes, Gradient makes wings I can trust without any questions or worries. This can be achieved only with well structured and continuous development. So at the end, it comes down to professionalism.

There were many pilots in Quixada flying gliders with higher performance or higher category than Aspen4 and they did not succeed to do such big flights. How it is possible?

K: I think that lots of pilots fly high performance gliders but they don't use their full potential. Some of them don't know (or don't want to know) what they can expect in case of serious troubles. With Aspen I can use full range of its performance without any stress no matter if conditions are strong or uncomfortable.

T: Performance surely helps but is not everything. There are many other conditions which have to be met to make such a long flight.

You mentioned that it was not the best weather this season in Quixada and you made 2 flight over 400 km. How many kilometres will you fly with Aspen5 in better weather conditions?

K: 500km is the goal with new Aspen. This is not a joke :-)

T: Well, now I see that with good tactics and a bit of luck 500 is possible. However, I will leave it for Charlie :-). I will be more than happy with any 434 plus.

Low saves are the must for flying in Quixada. Are there any other special tricks or techniques for flying record flights there?

K: To be ready every day and very soon in the morning at the take-off. The day progression is different every day and you must play every day new game. This is very tiring. And you need to be lucky in critical moments which usually comes. We will work on better mental preparation next time.

T: Joint flight with your flying buddy gives you more effective thermal search and thermalling. As a result you don't waste time with weak lift or bubbles and what is the most important you have MORE FUN!

What about your paragliding plans in the future? Will you go to Quixada next season again?

K: It would be great to be back in Brazil next year. Probably I will not go to Quixada again, there are other interesting areas in northeast Brazil which are waiting to be explored as new record places.

T: North-east Brazil is an amazing place with great flying conditions and great people. There are many items on my ToDo list for next year so let's see.

We think that the answer on the last question will be most interesting for every pilot. How to be as good a pilot as you are? Is there any special drink or special food to eat?

K: Well, a day without wine is like a day without sunshine. And in Czech we have not only high quality gliders and famous beer but also outstanding white wines. You can be sure, dry Riesling from Palava hills is very inspiring :-)

T: No special drink or food :-). I would say huge dose of patience, dedication and concentration.

Thanks for your answers and one more congratulation from Gradient!



pilot: Tomas Soudek 
 [soudekt]

date: 19.11.2013 09:46

launch: Quixadá BR 

route: 434.33 km  434.33 p.

glider: GRADIENT Aspen 4

flight duration: 10:51 h  43.50 km/h

[IGC file](#) [Google Earth](#)

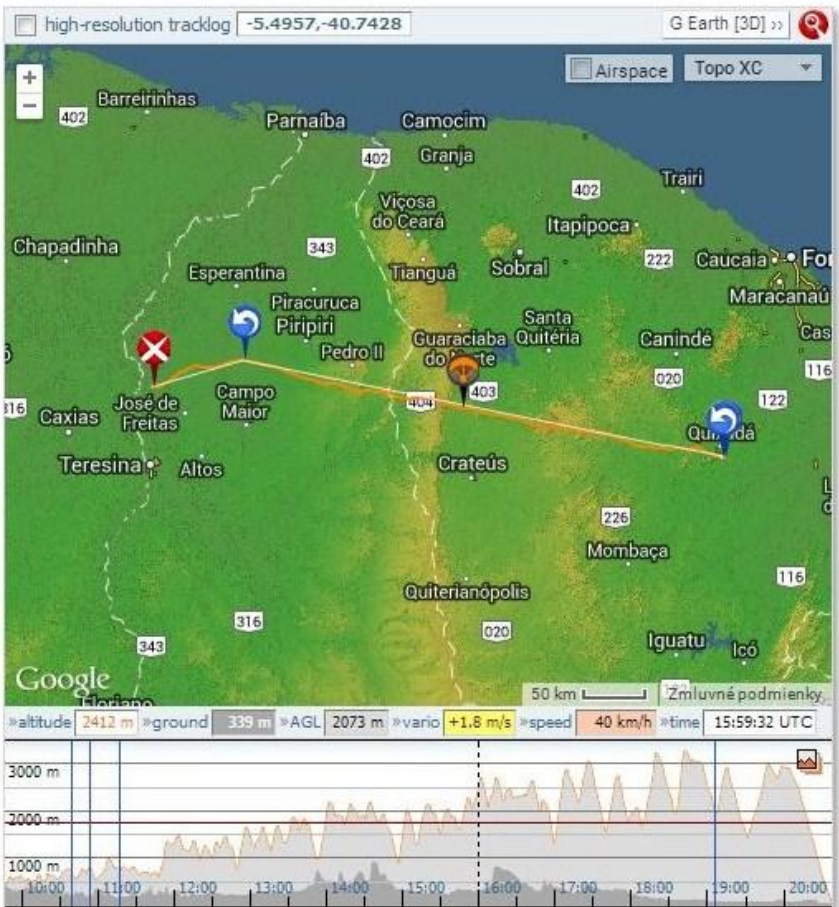
[Desc](#) [Flight](#) [Route](#) [Start](#) [Land](#)

After two hours of ridge soaring at the take off it didn't really look like an epic day.

Thanks to Charlie for cooperation - it was an awesome day.

Thanks to Gradient for such a superb wing - I can't wait for Aspen 5.

Rodinko, ten je pro vas :)



Flights: [Tomas](#), [Karel](#)

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