

Lift Ticket to Norway
Video review for R/C Soaring Digest
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"Lift Ticket to Norway," is a video which documents a three-week slope soaring trip in Norway, covering many miles over the road by van, and over the waves by ship. The video demonstrates, and documents in a visually spectacular way, slope soaring locations that make the imagination soar.

The main characters are Dave Reese, Bob and Darcy Bingham from California, and Espen Torp from Norway. Other flyers from around Norway make appearances as well. The trip is well documented by three videographers and two still photographers.

Whoa...before I go any further let me declare that I am not a slope soarer, just the wife of a slope soarer and although I am not a slope soarer, by being married to one for decades I am amazed at how much I actually know about slope soaring.

My husband (the slope soarer) is a personal friend with Dave Reese. Dave Garwood has flown with Dave Reese in Utah and in California. My husband Dave admires Dave Reese and finds him to be a talented, cheerful and energetic fellow.

On this three week trip that you get to enjoy vicariously by watching the video, they fly 17 model airplanes, including sailplanes, electrics, and a helicopter. Approximately 19 flying locations are shown, including epic locations like the 1100 meter Troll Wall - the tallest rock face in Europe, flying over fjords with cruise ships below, and slope soaring ABOVE the clouds.

The flying is absolutely spectacular. They include dynamic soaring, fabulous hand catching and a 2300 foot Drop Shot (when the wind wasn't right). Really exciting stuff and fun to watch. In all the slope videos that I've seen, the pilot is just standing there, that part looks the same, but in this video you have the SCENERY. Norway is positively gorgeous. The scenic views and landscapes are overwhelmingly breath taking. A wife/partner could watch and enjoy this fully with their pilot. I kept saying "Look at that, that's beautiful".

I don't want to minimize the role of the pilots here either. They would walk out onto these rock ledges or cliffs, hundreds of feet high and LEAN OVER the edge (holy crap!) to test the wind and hand launch their planes. I personally like the purity of hand launch, so these guys impressed the hell out of me.

There is dialogue. These guys are clever and articulate and had fun ribbing each other while deciding where to fly, what to fly and how to fly it. I particularly fell in love with Espen's endearing way of continuously helping helping his friends, and his cool accent.

The music was perfect. I will say it again, the music was perfect. The selections went with the flow of the video and the flying. The music was relaxing and melded smoothly within the driving, talking, flying sequences. The actual sound was crisp and clean and just a total pleasure.

I want to go to Norway now, just to walk around and look at all the awesome topography. Its striking, like nothing I've ever seen (except in "Lord of the Rings" movies).

What a trip! Three weeks, 17 planes, 19 flying locations, flying above the clouds, dynamic soaring, hand launching, hand catching, a Drop Shots more. A totally cool trip, cool video, expertly executed.

Get it, watch it, you will be glad you did.